

24 March 2017

English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Legal Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-sixth session**  
Vienna, 27 March-4 April 2017  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Capacity-building in space law**

## **Capacity-Building in Space Law**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

At its fifty-fifth session, in 2016, the Legal Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law ([A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 137).

The present document contains a reply received from Austria, Japan, Thailand and Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

### **Austria**

[Original: English]

[Received on 17 February 2017]

At the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna the two space law courses “General Legal Framework of the Use of Outer Space Technologies” and “Special Legal Issues of the Use of Outer Space Technologies” were taught by Professor Irmgard Marboe in 2016. The aim of these courses was to give interested students an introduction to space law related issues and to provide insights into recent developments in the field of space law. Furthermore, the course “Commercial Aspects of Space Law” was taught by Professor Steven Freeland as guest professor at the University of Vienna. In the framework of these courses students had the opportunity to gain insights into the work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) during a visit to the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. In addition, a seminar in international law with a special focus on space law was taught by Professor Irmgard Marboe in 2016. During this seminar students gave presentations and wrote seminar papers on current space law-related topics.

Moreover, a team from the University of Vienna participated in the 2016 European Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition which is organized each year by the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) together with

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\* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.299](#).



the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). Furthermore, students from the University of Vienna participated in the 25th ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy as well as in the ECSL Young Lawyers' Symposium, which was organized for the first time in 2016. All of these activities enabled participating students to expand their knowledge in the field of space law.

In addition, the ECSL National Point of Contact for Space Law Austria organized together with the Institute of Space Law at the Beijing Institute of Technology and the George Washington University Space Policy Institute a symposium entitled "Looking to the Future: Changing International Relations and Legal Issues Facing Space Activities" on 11 June 2016 at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna. Three panels of renowned international experts discussed recent trends and developments regarding the relations between the Russian Federation, China, the United States of America and Europe in the space field as well as legal responses to space sustainability and to the growing importance of the private space sector. The symposium was organized at the margins of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). It was attended by COPUOS delegates, students, experts and practitioners in the space field.

Johannes Kepler University Linz offers a lecture on Air and Space Law for advanced students specializing in international law and also includes basic elements of space law in the compulsory Precourse and lecture on Public International Law (both in English).

During the past years, a number of Austrian universities have taken concrete steps with the aim to promote space law and draw the students' interest to this particular area of law.

## **Japan**

[Original: English]  
[Received on 6 March 2017]

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) contributes to capacity-building in space law in a number of ways. It has provided financial support to students of space policy and law, created a legal database on space law and accepts internships through its Legal and Compliance Division, General Affairs Department. Most notably, however, during the past years, JAXA has continuously supported the winning team of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court.

For the winning team of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court, JAXA's Legal and Compliance Division provides financial support to participate in the competition's World Finals taking place during the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). Last year, JAXA supported the winning team from Curtin University, Perth, Australia. To date, JAXA has supported the members of successful teams from Australia, India, New Zealand and Singapore.

In addition, JAXA continues to provide training opportunities for all Japanese universities and graduate students through its Space Education Center by funding their participation in the IAC.

Furthermore, the Research Center for Space Law, Keio University was established in April 2011 with support from JAXA to study various aspects of space-related issues. One of the Center's objectives is to offer Asian countries support in capacity-building, especially in the area of Space Law. In March 2016, the Research Center for Space Law held the 7th Space Law Symposium celebrating the Center's 5th anniversary, and Prof. Joanne I. Gabrynowicz, Professor Emerita of Space Law, Director Emerita of the National Center for Remote Sensing, Air, and Space Law, University of the Mississippi Law Center, made a special presentation.

Since 2008, JAXA's Legal and Compliance Division has maintained an online database (<http://stage.tksc.jaxa.jp/spacelaw/index.html>) containing international space treaties and domestic space laws, both in their original language(s) and in Japanese when appropriate.

Finally, JAXA's Legal and Compliance Division accepts students and prospective lawyers from universities and research institutes as interns. During their stay, the interns write reports and make presentations based on themes related to international and/or domestic space law, as well as gather experience while assisting JAXA's work. Opportunities to interview people at JAXA on related themes are also provided as appropriate. In addition, JAXA's Legal and Compliance Division dispatches JAXA officials to universities to temporarily provide lectures to students on space law.

## Thailand

[Original: English]

[Received on 11 February 2017]

With respect to the capacity-building and the exchange of knowledge in space law, Thailand is a member of both regional and international space organizations, for instance:

1. The Asia Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC);
2. The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO);
3. The Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA);
4. The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) etc.

As for the international cooperation, Thailand is a member of several organizations e.g.

1. The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO);
2. The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO);
3. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU); and
4. International Astronautical Federation (IAF) etc.

Regarding the academic capacity-building at the national level, it is found that space law has been taught in university education. Moreover, Thailand has granted a great deal of scholarships for both master's degree and doctorate as well as research fund in order to provide capacity-building for both space law and space technology experts.

## Space Generation Advisory Council

[Original: English]

[Received on 8 January 2017]

The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) works on the international, national and local level to link together university students and young professionals to think creatively about international space policy issues and inject the new generation point of view into international space policy. To help facilitate this SGAC has a network of more than 100 national points of contact (representing over 70 States and growing) along with 12 regional coordinators. Furthermore, SGAC's project groups are one of SGAC's key contributors to the space policy debate, and space education and outreach.

SGAC has one project group in particular that is focused on space law and policy, the aptly named, Space Law and Policy Project Group. The project group is, in itself, essentially an exercise in capacity-building. The Space Law and Policy Project Group provides a forum for students and young professionals to develop

their knowledge and understanding of space law and policy as well as an opportunity for them to engage in career development and networking.

SGAC also hosts a number of events which allows students and young professionals in the field of space law and policy to express their views on a regional and global scale. These include the Asia-Pacific Space Generation Workshop, most recently held in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines 12-13 November 2016; the South American Regional Space Generation Workshop 2016, most recently held in Lima, Peru 1-2 August 2016; European Space Generation Workshop 2017, most recently held in Paris, France, 24-25 March 2017, the Space Generation Fusion Forum held annually in Colorado Springs, United States in April and the Space Generation Congress held in conjunction with the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). In addition, SGAC has recently embarked on holding local events focused on topics of interest in national space law and policy as well. All these events usually feature elements relating to space law and policy and/or the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), and include interdisciplinary working or discussion groups which help share knowledge among people from different disciplines, and understand different perspectives in the space sector. SGAC also provides a number of scholarships to enable students and young professionals to attend both the IAC and Space Generation Congress.

Finally, thanks to SGAC's status as an Observer Member of UN COPUOS, SGAC is able to offer the opportunity for students and young professionals to see first-hand the work of COPUOS as part of the SGAC delegation.

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