Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 9–20 April 2018
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

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Note by the Secretariat

At its fifty-sixth session, in 2017, the Legal Subcommittee recommended States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-seventh session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1122, para.136).

The present conference room paper contains reply received from Japan.

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* A/AC.105/C.2/L.303.
Inputs by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

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 supported the winning team of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition continuously.

To the winning team of the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, JAXA 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, we supported the winning team of the Asia-Pacific round from National Law School of India and the team also won the World Finals. 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 IAC.

Furthermore, Research Center for Space Law, Keio University was established in April 2011 with the 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 27 February 2018, Research Center for Space Law held the 9th Space Law Symposium, and Prof. Phillipe Achilleas, Director of the Institute of Space and Telecommunications Law (IDEST) and of the Master’s Degree in Law of Space Activities and Telecommunications at the University Paris-Sud 11, made special presentation.

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

Finally, JAXA 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 with people in JAXA on related themes are provided as appropriate. In addition, JAXA Legal and Compliance Division accepts to dispatch staffs to university and lecture space law to students temporarily.