

Agenda item 8 “Capacity-building in space law”

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Japan attaches great importance to providing education and training opportunities and facilitating the exchange of information for enhancing capacity building in space law.

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 of the General Affairs Department. JAXA has also continuously supported the winning team of the Asia Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) to participate in the competition’s World Finals that take place during the IAC. In the past years, JAXA has supported a number of successful teams from Australia, India, New Zealand and Singapore. We believe that JAXA’s financial support has contributed to raising the overall level of the Asian Pacific region’s university programs relating to space law.

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, JAXA has been accepting students and legal apprentices as interns. During their stay, the interns write reports and make presentations based on themes related to international and domestic space law. We believe these opportunities could serve to train students who will one day become space law experts. In addition, JAXA dispatches its staff to universities to deliver lectures on space policy and law to students.

Madam Chair,

We are pleased to introduce a couple of notable activities undertaken at the University of Tokyo and Keio University.

Under the activities of the University of Tokyo, the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) and the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) have organized a series of space policy and law events to consider the latest issues in space activities. Recent major themes include space governance and comparative studies on national space policy and law. Recognizing the importance of international partnership for capacity-building, IFI has a joint research program with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in India since 2013.

Since the establishment of the Center for Space Law at the Keio University in 2012, a series of space law workshops and seminars have been held with the participation of space law experts from abroad. In JFY2020, the Center held more than ten study meetings

and public seminars on the latest legal topics such as “Legal Norms for Space Activities,” which addressed a variety of topics including space resources, planetary protection, and the nationality of space objects, as well as “Legal Challenges for Advanced Space Activities,” which focused on human activities in space and addressed legal aspects of human spaceflight. In March of this year, the Center held the 12th Space Law Symposium where the results of study meetings in JFY2020 were confirmed and legal experts made presentations and participated in panel discussion on the issues faced by the space law community cooperating with space policy research. In addition, the Center for Space Law has created and maintained an online database containing the international space treaties and domestic space laws both in their original language and in Japanese when appropriate. Keio University’s Graduate School of Law has a two-year space law master’s course.

Furthermore, Japan is promoting human capacity building not only in the field of space but in the field of science and technology as a whole. The Science and Technology Basic Law was enacted in 1995, which aims to achieve a higher standard of science and technology to contribute to the development of the economy and society of Japan. The law has been renewed and enforced since this April to further promote science and technology by including the humanities in its scope.

Based on the renewed Law, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) began a human capacity development program this year, which aims to support human resources who will lead the rulemaking aspects of space such as space law using advanced knowledge of the humanities and social science.

Madam Chair,

Japan will continue contributing to capacity building in the field of space law and policy. Thank you for your kind attention.