



Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space
63rd Session of
Legal Subcommittee
15 to 26 April 2024

Agenda Item 4 General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global, the international educational NGO,

I am pleased and honored to make a short statement about our recent activities. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla, newly appointed Chairperson of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC), for giving me an opportunity like this and to Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), for their well-prepared arrangements.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

I want to illustrate a few examples of our activities in 2023. At first, we organized the annual in-person hands-on training course of the CubeSat/CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP) in Japan in August. The program uses HEPTA-Sat kits, a training tool, to provide necessary skills and knowledge to the participants who will be expected to play a leading role in space engineering in their countries. It was the 12th program with 17 participants from 13 countries. Since CLTP's commencement in 2011, we have produced 134 graduates from 54 countries/regions. Most of them are from non-spacefaring countries.

As a follow-on project, we organized a short HEPTA-Sat training

course outside Japan—in South Africa and the Philippines. The CLTP graduates, in cooperation with the instructors from Japan, organized the training for the local students and researchers. This is an example of our extended capacity building.

Secondly, we had the 9th UNISEC-Global Meeting in Tokyo last November with 90 participants from 19 countries/regions. At the meeting, we discussed how to use nano-satellite technology to benefit humankind, such as for mitigating and preventing natural disasters like global warming and earthquakes involving tsunamis. The next UNISEC-Global Meeting will be held in South Africa in November 2024.

The last example is the Mission Idea Contest for nano-satellite utilization. Contestants compete with each other for their ideas of satellite missions. The next Contest's theme is "Lunar Mission." We set up two categories: the Lunar Orbit CubeSat Mission (LOCM) and the Lunar Surface Rover Mission (LSRM). From the point of protecting the lunar environment, it is requested that both mission designers consider the impact of the decommissioning and disposal method of a planned CubeSat and Rover.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

Due to rapid increases in the number of satellites in low earth orbit, there are growing concerns over their impacts on space activities such as space traffic, astronomical observation, and the upper atmosphere. These concerns are shared with members of this subcommittee. Some mechanisms are offered to ensure effective governance of small satellite activities.

We understand that it is essential to ensure an orderly and harmonized development of space activities through regulations. Still,

it is also widely recognized that space is a common property for all humankind and should be accessed equally by all countries/regions, including non-spacefaring countries. As a space educational NGO, we prioritize capacity building for non-spacefaring countries through our programs, including the CanSat/CubeSat Leader Training Program. The existing and new regulations should not hinder academic and non-commercial activities and access to space from non-spacefaring countries.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

I want to close my statement by emphasizing that space is a common property for all humankind, and no one should be left behind in space activities. I would appreciate it if rules and regulations would help us to attain such a goal.

Thank you for your kind attention.

By Rei Kawashima,
Secretary General of UNISEC-Global