

Madam Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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 Asia-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 dispatches its staff to universities to deliver lectures on space policy and law to students.

Madam Chair,

In May 2021, during the 60th session of the Legal Subcommittee of the UNCOPUOS, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) announced their cooperation on UNOOSA’s “Space Law for New Space Actors” project. Through this cooperation with UNOOSA, Japan supports capacity-building of emerging spacefaring nations in the Asia-Pacific region to draft national space laws and regulations in line with international space law.

Other international initiatives that Japan supports are conducted under the activities of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). One of them is the “National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI)” which aims to enhance each country’s drafting capacities and implementation of national space legislation in accordance with international norms through joint development of a report on the status of national space legislation among space policy and law practitioners from Asia-Pacific countries. Another example is the establishment of a Space Policy and Law Working Group with the aim to enhance the capacity in the space policy and law in the Asia-Pacific region. The first meeting of this newly established WG was held online during the APRSAF-27 last year. As the host country of APRSAF, Japan will actively promote these activities to further enhance the capacity in space law in the Asia-Pacific region.

Furthermore, 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.

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 JFY2021, the Center held more than ten study meetings and public seminars online on the latest legal topics such as “Legal Norms for Space Activities,” which addressed a variety of topics including rule of on-orbit servicing, and space resources, as well as “Legal Challenges for Advanced Space Activities,” which focused on legal issues for commercialization and privatization of the International Space Station. In February 2022, the Center held the 13th Space Law Symposium where the results of study meetings in JFY2021 were confirmed and legal experts made presentations and participated in panel discussion on the norm-building and rule-making in the new era of space law. 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 April 2021 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) provides a human capacity development program using advanced knowledge of the humanities and social sciences, which aims to train human resources in the space field, such as the leading space law policy makers.

Thank you for your kind attention.