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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 24 March-4 April 2014
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law**

Building capacity in space law: actions and initiatives

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, in 2013, the Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, of any actions taken or planned on a national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1045, para. 133).
2. The present document contains the reply received from Japan.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.292.



I. Information received from member States

Japan

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 at its Legal Affairs Division. The most notable contribution during the past year was hosting the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition in Japan.

On June 1 and 2, 2013, the Asia-Pacific Regional Round was hosted by and took place at Keio University. Twenty-six teams from six countries participated in the competition. Every team made strenuous efforts, and eventually, the National Law University of India team won the round. JAXA, with other concerned parties, contributed to the organization of the competition by finding sponsors for the event. In that respect, we appreciate the great support made by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), professors, and all other international colleagues who kindly supported this round.

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

While support is not exclusively limited to law students, financial support for travel has also been provided to a limited number of selected students to participate in the biennial International Symposium on Space Technology and Science (ISTS), which includes a session on space law and policy. The author of the best paper among those submitted by students to the ISTS is provided with additional support to participate in the IAC. Furthermore, JAXA continues to provide training opportunities for all Japanese university and graduate students through its Space Education Center, by funding their participation in the IAC.

Furthermore, the Institute of Space Law was established in April 2012 through a collaboration between Keio University and JAXA to study various aspects of space related issues. One of the Institute's objectives is to offer Asian countries support in capacity-building, especially in the area of space law. Thus, as part of a contribution by the Institute of Space Law, Keio University hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition mentioned above.

The JAXA Legal Affairs Division has dedicated a web page on the website (<http://stage.tksc.jaxa.jp/spacelaw/index.html>) containing international space treaties and domestic space laws both in their original language and in Japanese when appropriate, since the end of 2008. Furthermore, together with the Institute of Space Law and Keio University, JAXA has published a "Space Law Handbook" containing a wide range of well-referenced international and national space law documents in Japanese.

Finally, the JAXA Legal Affairs Division, General Affairs Department provides internship opportunities to law students at the undergraduate and graduate level.

During their internship, the students write reports and make presentations based on themes related to international and/or domestic space law, as well as gain practical experience in assisting JAXA's work. Opportunities to interview with JAXA personnel on related themes are provided to interns as appropriate. The interns are usually Japanese students, but in 2009 a French law student was accepted for three months to work on a comparison of the French and Japanese space law system.
