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SPACE GOVERNANCE IN JAPAN

Abstract

The governance of space activities in Japan is now at a major turning point. The Basic Space Law enacted in 2008 defined the new objectives of Japan's space activities such as promoting of space utilization for social and administrative needs including national security, promoting space diplomacy to contribute to the international community, and encouraging the space industry, as well as sophisticating the science and technology. In order to achieve these policy objectives, the governance of space activities in Japan has entered into new phase. Based on the Basic Space Law in 2008, the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy chaired by the Prime Minister was established to make a comprehensive space strategy as a whole nation. Moreover, the space governance was further strengthened with the creation of the Office of National Space Policy in the Cabinet Office and the amendment of JAXA Law in 2012. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also created the Space Policy Division in the Foreign Policy Bureau. However, while the space policy and the political organizations have rapidly changed, the concrete decision-making and policy coordination process in the new framework has remained unclear.

The purpose of this study is to present the research result of the Study Group on Space Governance at the University of Tokyo, which has worked on a research on the space policy and governance in Japan for three years. Specifically, this study will analyze two cases. First, we will examine the decision-making process of Quasi-Zenith Satellite System project in order to point out the challenges for Japan's space policy and governance toward promoting the utilization of outer space. Second, we will review the development of international space cooperation in Asia-Pacific region of the past decades, and find a better way to promote the strategic space diplomacy. Based on these analyses, this study will recommend desirable space governance to effectively achieve current policy objectives.