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Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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CHALLENGES OF A SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL SPACE CONSORTIUM

Abstract

In recent years, the Southeast Asian region has been actively developing its space capabilities, particularly in remote sensing and satellite technology. Countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam have launched their own satellites for Earth observation and telecommunications. Indonesia is currently developing their indigenous launch capabilities. Other countries such as Philippines are currently looking into developing their own future space capabilities. In this paper, I will discuss the various cultural, economic and political challenges in developing a regional space consortium. I will focus mainly on the disparity levels of the various Southeast Asian nations and how regional collaborations are integrated into their respective national space policies. Finally, I will talk about how a regional space consortium would enhance the space capacity building especially in the context of the 2015 ASEAN Economic Integration.