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

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THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF APSCO AND ESA IN THE RULES AND PRACTICE
—ANALYSIS FROM POLITICIES, GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL TOOLS

Abstract

As the world's second regional international organization with legal personality status, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) obviously has learnt a lot from the world's first regional international cooperation organization - ESA in the rules and the organizational operation. For example, the legal personality of the organization, fair return rules, institutional structures and so on. But at the same time, as it is mainly composed of third world countries, and since its officially established in 2008 it is spending its infancy stage and is progressive displaying its characters, the organization will certainly demonstrate its extraordinary features, for instance, APSCO makes decisions usually upon consensus through consultation. This paper bases from the six years practice of APSCO, compares APSCO and ESA from policies, governance and legal tools (ESA and APSCO conventions), and provides a number of recommendations in terms of the above three respects for the APSCO organizational future development, such as the level of success of the projects, and the progress of the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Space Law, in order to promote APSCO to get faster, more transparent and more democratic development.