

57th IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
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BUILDING BLOCKS FOR MALAYSIAN OUTER SPACE ACT. ARE WE THERE YET?

Abstract

Malaysia has recently launched another satellite into orbit and has plans to send another two more astronauts in the year 2016. It is in the process of developing its space policy, so that it can be explicitly incorporated into the Draft Malaysian Outer Space Act 2005 thus conforming to the best characteristic of national space legislation that requires national space legislation to clearly identify its space policy objectives which conform to international obligations. The Malaysian government considers the Draft Malaysian Outer Space Act 2005 with a view to ensuring proper implementation of the powers available to it. This is because having legislation is one thing while implementing it is another. There is no point in having legislation if it cannot be properly implemented. Thus, in order for any space-related activities to be effectively conducted, the Malaysian Space Agency (Angkasa) must be fully effective in order to oversee that the activities are conducted as prescribed or intended by the Government of Malaysia. Thus, as per the recommendation made by Julian Hermida, Malaysia should ensure that it is equipped with suitable manpower and human resources who are knowledgeable in the area of outer space law. In this regard the government of Malaysia should encourage more nationals to pursue study in this field.