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52nd COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E8)

Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture on Space Law & 1st Young Scholars Session (1)

Author: Ms. Megan Ansdell Space Policy Institute, George Washington University, United States, megan.ansdell@gmail.com

Mr. Curtis Iwata
International Space University (ISU), United States, gcukii@gmail.com
Ms. Timiebi Aganaba-Jeanty
Canada, aganaba@euroconsult-na.com
Mr. Axel Bergman
International Space University (ISU), France, Axel.Bergman@gmail.com

NON-LAWYERS' PERSPECTIVES ON SPACE LAW: RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROGRESS SPACE LAW EDUCATION

Abstract

The International Space University (ISU), with its 3I's approach of international, interdisciplinary and intercultural education in the field of space, brings together students from all parts of the globe and from disciplinary backgrounds as diverse as law, engineering, medicine and art. Sharing in common the international dimension of space activity, the IISL Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition also brings together students from all over the world. However, the fundamental difference is that the students participating in the Moot Competition are traditionally only international law students. This paper describes the journey of a team of non-traditional participants in the Manfred Lachs Moot Competition as they experience the world of international law for the first time. Coached by a resident law and policy teaching associate of the International Space University, the team consists of three students with backgrounds in astrophysics, aerospace engineering and chemistry. This paper recounts their experience of the 2009 Competition in order to provide a means for non-lawyers to gain insight into legal thinking and further their relations with professional lawyers. It concludes with recommendations and suggestions, which seek to provide food for thought for the future of space law, legal education and outreach.