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LEGAL ISSUES CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS - A STUDY OF JAXA'S
PRACTICES AND FUTURE CHALLENGE -

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to identify the questions of national and international legal issues concerning registration of outer space objects by studying JAXA's practices and comparison with other states' practices, especially about the object and information to register according to the Registration Convention. Though Japan has abided by the international legal framework, firstly, the national legal mechanism to implement the UN space treaties and the compliance evaluation with the Registration Convention in Japan will be described. Secondly, this paper will introduce some JAXA's practices in order to raise some question about legal issues concerning registration of space objects. For example, space objects which were failed to launch or inject into an orbit, which were separated from another space object, including the second stage engine, or which were launched as international cooperation program will be the samples to analyze this issue (question). Furthermore this paper will describe the JAXA's practices on registering Japanese experiment module (JEM) and JAXA's resent plan to carries small satellites into the ISS as payloads and inject them into the orbit aboard JEM. This practice will provide an example to analyze what information have to be registered. Although these studies do not contribute to the current problem notably in the case of transfer of space activities or space objects in orbit, but it is possible to indicate the legal problem in the near future when states establish the platform in orbit or the station on the celestial bodies to explore other planets in human space flight program. Therefore the final object of this paper is to specify the purpose and legal effect of registration and legal perspective to solve some problems in the near future through the analysis of JAXA's practices.