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THE IMPACT OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEGAL REGIME IN PROTECTING IP
RIGHTS GENERATED IN OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

Abstract

In view of several activities in the outer space, national and international (multilateral and bilateral) there is a need to review the regulation of such activities in outer space especially in the field of intellectual property regulation. While the UN played a dominant role in the regulation of these activities, however, these efforts are no longer adequate to deal with present issues largely for their failure to keep abreast with the rapid technological advances. These technological advances raise issues affecting the protection of intellectual creations and inventions. The present material reviews and evaluates relevant international legal instruments that aim to protect intellectual property rights. It first gives a comprehensive overview of the legal and policy regime of outer space by discussing the historical evolution of international space law, the present law-making process, the sources of international space law, and the fundamental principles of outer space law. The article then discusses basic concepts of intellectual property rights and proceeds to review existing relevant intellectual property laws and how it is applied on outer space activities. The paper attempts to make a survey of the impact of these existing relevant intellectual property laws on outer space activities.