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

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POLICY ANALYSIS - SPACE PROGRAMMES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Abstract

Today, increasing number of countries in the Asia Pacific region is using outer space with various purposes. Many countries are also aspiring to acquire indigenous capability for space activities. Moreover, increasing private/commercial activities are seen in this region, which is creating competition in the market for technology, applications and services. Security needs are also major drivers of space activity in many countries.

Under the SPLANAP, University of Tokyo (Japan) and National Institute of Advanced Studies (India) have taken up a joint study to research and prepare a report on space policies of the Asia Pacific region, especially including Japan, India and many other space faring nations in this region. As the first step of this joint project, the team has undertaken a comparative analysis of space policies in Japan and India.

Japan and India are leading space faring countries in this region. In Japan, promoting space utilization, as well as industrialization of space, is major space policy objectives since the enactment of Basic Space Law in 2008. In this regard, Japan has faced policy challenges regarding how to promote space utilization and industrialization and how to coordinate policies and goals of various stakeholders. There is a compelling need for a new thinking for space strategy based on the recent changes in Japan's space policy. On the other hand, India has long history in "space for national development" and has actively used space systems like communication satellite and remote sensing satellite to meet various social needs, which include disaster monitoring, natural resources management, tele-education, tele-medicine, national communication, navigation services and so on. India has also developed some mechanism for policy co-ordinating between space agency and user organization. In recent years, India has also actively pursued space exploration program, including ambition for human space flight. In a recent study by NIAS, a clear need for a comprehensive national space policy in India has been established.

In this context, this paper will present the results of the comparison of space policies and governances in Japan and India and examine commonalities/differences, characteristic, relative strengths/challenges. This comparative analysis contributes to clearly identifying policy challenges faced by the both nations and getting clue to resolving those challenges.