

Law Issues and Public Awareness Related to Space Exploration (11)

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OUTER SPACE ETHICS: STATUS QUO, URGENCY AND RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Abstract

Space exploration activities bring human beings unprecedented opportunities and risks as well. The outer space development should make the risk prevention and management in the first and only then the other interests. The outer space issues will make sense only under the premise that the security of human beings and their descendants as well as the environment can be maximally ensured.

There are a lot of problems which have already emerged or will emerge to leave risks for human beings and the earth. It is urgent and necessary to come up with solutions. Some of the risks are most serious because they will deteriorate the existed ecological problems. The development of science and technology should keep up with the legal and ethical constraints, and make the constraints enter the awareness and behaviors of decision-makers, researchers and developers. From the ethical perspective, the ethics of responsibility should be regarded as the most important issue. The materialization of the ethics should be considered as the most useful thinking method.

The Status Quo of Outer space Ethics: Firstly, the theoretical research of outer space ethics falls behind of the development of science and technology of outer space as well as the development of ethical research of science and technology. The outer space ethics inadequately considers the risk brought by the development of science and technology, and does not contain enough advanced achievements of ethical research of science and technology; Secondly, the influence scope of outer space ethics is small, which basically is limited at the theoretical research level, and has little influence on decision-makers and scientific and technical personnel; Thirdly, it lacks the combination of theory and practice, and there's no special organization to push it.

Therefore, the theoretical research of outer space ethics needs to be on the basis of absorbing the research achievements of ethics of science, technology and engineering, to combine the reality of human astronavigation and outer space engineering, to propose clear concepts and makes them fundamental points for the theoretical construction; to find the main theoretical basis, and to clearly put forward the theoretical proposition of outer space ethics; to form a normative system to guide the practice, give supported cases, and form a promotion model; to carry on education and promotion, and make the norms known, accepted by general outer space workers, and make the norms enter their awareness, become their behavior, and shown in the products.