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International Cooperation - a cornerstone of 50 years UN Space Law and space diplomacy (1)

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ASSESSMENT OF SPACE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE  
ASIA PACIFIC REGION

**Abstract**

International space cooperation in the Asia Pacific region have entered a new stage. Today a lot of nations in this region have actively developed space capabilities, and have come to use them for a variety of purposes. In addition to the long-experienced spacefaring nations such as Japan, India, and China, many emerging nations like Malaysia, Philippine, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, etc., have made active efforts to develop space technology and applications and to undertake their space programs. Such space applications as earth observation, satellite communication, and positioning emerged in this region have tremendous potentials as a driving force for peaceful development and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region in many facets: disaster management, climate change study, national and regional security, environment management, agriculture, urban planning, geospatial program, land management, as well as the advancement of science and technology. Against this backdrop, many nations also seek to establish national space policy with an aim to set out the vision and goals of nation's space programs.

The University of Tokyo and National Institute of Advanced Studies have created an expert research network – Space Policy and Law Network in Asia Pacific (SPLANAP) among space research experts in the Asia Pacific region. As part of this research network, a study has been taken up to examine space policy and program directions in the region and how potential opportunities for future regional space cooperation, based on mutual benefits and regional common interests, can be stepped in to a concrete cooperative framework. In particular, based on our previous works analyzing the details in space programs and policies of Japan and India, this study has extended the scope of the cooperative analysis by including several other nations, such as Malaysia, Philippine, and Singapore. This study examines the space programs and policy perspectives of these nations and identifies regional commons that help bring out potentials for cooperation.