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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MAJOR SPACE LAW INSTITUTES : DRIVING FORCE OF NEXT
AGE SPACE LAW RESEARCH

Abstract

As outer space activities become much more active and diversified in recent years, the expectation to space law researchers becomes gradually higher than ever before, so that the international norms and governance to resolve the current issues arising out from outer space activities should be promptly developed. In these circumstances, the role of space law institutes established under universities and/or law school, etc. in major countries is getting more and more important as a platform of advanced space law research as well as cultivating new generation of space law researchers. It also functions as the central role of networking of space law researchers, practitioners of industries, government and/or space agencies. In Japan, Institute of Space Law, Keio University was established almost 7 years ago, in 2012. This Institute has achieved a certain result in collaborative research with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and so on. It has been serving as the foundation of space law research in Japan, enlarging the space law community. However, there remains some tasks for this Institute to come up with in the mid and long terms, such as the networking with domestic stakeholders, comparing with other space law institutes. This paper aims to describe the characteristics of major space law institutes (mainly in Europe and Japan) from the aspect of, for example, education, training, networking with domestic stakeholders (government, space agencies, researchers and practitioners), followed by the comparative analysis. This analysis will provide a foundation for considering the key role of space law institutes for next age space law research. Furthermore, it will be a reference for considering the involvement of domestic stakeholders (government, space agencies, etc.) in the activities of the space law institutes.