

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)
Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (1) (1)

Author: Dr. Jie Long
Shenzhen University, China, jacky8817@163.com

LEGAL ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE OPERATION OF CHINA'S SPACE
STATION

Abstract

China's Space Station (CSS) will be established in 2022, making China the third country to be able to build and operate the space station independently. The international cooperation of the CSS has begun to prepare. International cooperation in the operation of the CSS is an effective way to promote the long-term sustainability of space activities and the realization of a community with a shared future for humankind. As China has not yet promulgated its national space law, international cooperation in the operation of the CSS will inevitably encounter some legal problems. In the context of lack of relevant legislative basis and practical experience in China, it is the key to carry out international cooperation and maintain the long-term sustainable operation of the CSS to study related legal issues and make corresponding institutional arrangements. This paper first summarizes the legal system of space station operation. In the whole system of international legal rules related to the operation of space station, there are not only general applicable international treaties, but also special laws and regulations for space activities; there are not only directional principles of space activities, but also specific policy guidance for space activities; there are not only treaty system between countries, but also institutional arrangements within countries. The second part of this paper analyzes the theoretical basis and practical experience of 12 legal issues involved in the operation of the CSS: registration, jurisdiction control and application of law, rescue of space station objects and personnel, state responsibility and liability for compensation, dispute settlement, intellectual property protection, equipment import and export control, etc. The last part put forward suggestions on the operation of the CSS in terms of laws and regulations. Through the above summary of the existing legal system, combing the specific rule construction in the operation practice of the former Soviet Union, Russia, the United States and the ISS, combined with the particular situation of the building and operation of the CSS, this paper finally concludes several reasonable suggestions. These proposals are to safeguard and protect the space interests of all countries in the process of international cooperation to the maximum extent, based on ensuring the safety of space assets and abiding by international legal rules, so as to realize the smooth and sustainable development of the CSS.