

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)
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SPACE DIPLOMACY AS A MECHANISM IN ESTABLISHING ASEAN SPACE AGENCY IN THE
REGION

Abstract

In those early days, there was no need for global participation in order to create international rules governing human space activities, such as, communications, transportation, remote sensing, navigation and space mining. Some of scholars argued that international cooperation was play vital role in achieving and guaranteeing peaceful uses of outer space. The principle of international cooperation is a crucial element in the exploration and utilization of outer space and is enshrined not merely in all outer space treaties and the five sets of legal principles but also in those United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerned with outer space activities. If we throwback into the history of space law, interestingly, the conflict and confrontation between the states (especially the United States and the Soviet Union) only happened below stratosphere and it did not brought into the exosphere (outer space). Biomedical research, Cosmos 936, Cosmos 1129 and Cosmos 1514 were witnessing from the mutual relations between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning space activities. This cooperation might be happened under a consensus agreement in the form of international cooperation which initiated through diplomatic manner. This study argues there was inter-relation between space law and diplomacy, in which, space law can be used as the subject of diplomacy and also space law as driving diplomacy. ASEAN as one of the intergovernmental organizations has a potential in developing its space activities and space technologies. However, until today the cooperation between ASEAN Countries in developing space activities is not massive and the lack of institution or agency which dealing with space issue in ASEAN make it more difficult to enhance the space activities in ASEAN region. On the other hand, considering the involvement of seven ASEAN's member states in UNCOPUOUS and also the strategic locations of ASEAN's in equatorial line make it necessary to establish the agency which able to accommodate and facilitate the space activities. Therefore, the establishment of ASEAN Space Agency shall be considered by the all of ASEAN's member states. This study, then, propose the concept of Space Diplomacy as a mechanism in bringing the issue of establishment of ASEAN Space Agency. Bringing the space issue as the interest of ASEAN's member states can be as the beginning of formulating the Regional Space Cooperation in ASEAN region.