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LEGAL EDUCATION IN SPACE LAW: CHINA AS A CASE STUDY

Abstract

Space law education has an essential role in the space capacity building of a country because of its importance for human resources development in space law. Moreover, the teaching of space law has a key role in enhancing awareness of the younger generation on the space situation and encouraging them to participate in the development of space law in their country. While space law is integrated into part of public international law as one section of the course in Chinese textbooks for bachelor education, not enough importance is attached to the development of human resources in the areas of space law and policy, which can be demonstrated by a fact that few education institutions have established space law programs for postgraduate students. Besides, the teaching of national space law is lacking in China due to the absence of Chinese national space law. Comparisons between Canada and China, the EU and China, and the USA and China in space law education content and approach, as well as pedagogical theory, are provided in an attempt to review some issues existing within the Chinese space law education system and to seek a better choice for China's space law education reform. Space commercialization has commenced in China, leading to an increasing need for cultivating legal researchers and lawyers to address commercial disputes in the space industry. Hence, in the end, this article proposes that a systematic national space law education program along with an international cooperation regime should be established to promote national expertise and capacity in space law in China.