

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Recent Developments in Space Law with Particular Focus on Space Debris Remediation (7)

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THE STATUS OF NATIONAL SPACE LEGISLATIONS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC: INTRODUCTION
BASED ON THE NSLI 2ND REPORT

Abstract

This paper analyzes the twelve States' national space legislation with an emphasis on space debris mitigation and remediation within the framework of the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI). With the advancement of space activities and diversification of players in outer space, national space legislation has been developing in the Asia-Pacific Region. Upon the launch of NSLI under the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in 2019, regional experts and practitioners aim to cooperatively enhance the State's capacity to implement and develop national space laws in line with international norms through mutual learning and joint comparative analysis of respective space-related national laws and regulations. Based on the joint analysis, NSLI has developed a report on the status of national space legislation based on the UNGA Resolution "Recommendations on National Legislation relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space," which was submitted to the UNCOPUOS LSC in 2021. Thereafter the NSLI started its second phase with additional members from three States. As the primary mission of the second phase of NSLI, the new report on the status of national space legislation was successfully compiled for submission to the UNCOPUOS in 2023. The second report expanded the scope of the States from nine to twelve and added information on two topics: national implementation of LTS Guidelines and involvement of private entities in national rule-making, which would be key elements for national legislation to ensure safe and sustainable use of outer space. This paper introduces the status of national space legislation in the Asia-Pacific States based on the submitted NSLI report while providing the author's insight into the trends. The issues related to authorization and continuing supervision are given particular focus in the introduction. The paper also provides policy implications in terms of the region's further development of national space laws and regulations.