

The WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata

Presents

International Conference on Future Developments in Space Law

10 May 2016

Background

Ever since the entry of Sputnik into outer space, international community is in search of legal regime to regulate the ever-increasing space activities. The developments at the international level to have binding norms halted after the failure of the Moon Agreement 1979. Though the development of soft laws at the international level continued with the positive efforts at the UN General Assembly, it has been found ineffective in the proper regulation of space activities. Shift in the nature of space activities, especially from state oriented to private space activities, has posed several challenges to law in the twenty first century. National space legislation, which are found necessary to fill-in the gaps and to regulate the private space activities, have not developed in different parts of the world at the expected level. Meanwhile, emerging issues like space financing, space insurance, dealing with space inventions, space tourism, resource exploitation, environmental protection etc have not been addressed either at the international level or at the national levels in comprehensive manner.

It is pertinent to recall here that there are several pending proposals at the international level to address some of these recently emerged issues. Space environmental protection, for example, has been an area under consideration to be brought under binding treaty norms since a considerable period of time. On the area of space financing, UNIDROIT has already made an effort in the form of Cape Town Convention and Space Protocol to build the confidence of creditors in space financing. However, the failure of these efforts has created dilemma in our minds as to the possible future efforts at the international level. Thus one of the preliminary questions, in the absence of international consensus on treaty making, is whether the efforts should be continued at the international level or is this the time for us to intensify efforts at national levels to regulate emerging issues in space activities?

India, being one of the space-faring nations, is presently in search of a comprehensive national space legislation. Though efforts have started with the initiative of Indian Space Research Organisation since the beginning of last year, nothing concrete is achieved in this direction. In light of this, the Society for Studies in Outer Space Law at NUJS has taken a voluntary initiative to study all the existing national space laws of different countries as well as the ILA Model Law on national space legislation with a view to prepare a comprehensive draft of national space legislation for India. Draft, once prepared, would be submitted to the Department of Space for consideration.

In the wake of above concerns, the WB National University of Juridical Sciences, being a pioneer legal institution in India, finds it timely to have an international conference to deliberate on the future of space law developments in the national and international levels. We are certain that the outcome of this deliberation would help in throwing light on the steps to be taken for breaking the deadlock in space law-making. It is expected to lead the way for finding long-lasting solutions to the emerging complications in the field of space activities.

Major Themes of the Conference

- Reforms in space financing regime
- Space insurance
- Regulating space tourism
- Norms on space inventions
- Liability for space environmental damage: Feasibility study
- Resource exploitation in outer space
- Space dispute settlement mechanism
- Establishing an International Space Organisation
- National space legislation for India

Call for Papers

Those who are interested in presenting a paper on any of the above themes must send an abstract of 600 words along with a brief biographical note (not more than 200 words) on or before 20 April 2016. The acceptance of the paper for presentation would be informed by 25 April 2016. A full length paper of 4,000 - 6,000 words must be sent by 07 May 2016. **If the full length paper is not submitted before the last date, authors will not be allowed to present the paper in the Conference.** Submission of the full paper would be presumed as unconditional consent of the author/s for a possible publication by the organisers.

<u>Last date for submission of Abstract:</u>	20 April 2016
<u>Last date for submission of Full Paper:</u>	07 May 2016
<u>E-mail id for Submissions:</u>	sandeep@nujs.edu
<u>Contact Number:</u>	+9133-23357379 / 0765 (extn 1180) +91 9903854794
<u>Secretarial Assistance:</u>	Ms. Amrisha Tripathi, Research Assistant Mob: +91 8334059941 E-mail: amrishat@nujs.edu
<u>Conference Date:</u>	10 May 2016
<u>Conference Venue:</u>	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences 12, LB Block, Sec III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700098

Due to the financial constraints, organisers are not in a position to provide any support regarding transportation or accommodation of participants. However, no registration fee shall be charged to the participants. All the participants must register their name by email communication to the Conference Secretariat by 07 May 2016.

* Note: Certificate would be issued to only those participants who attend all sessions.

Conference Coordinator

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