Pioneer of Air and Space Law Education in Indonesia, Prof.Dr. Priyatna Abdurrasyid passed away in Jakarta-Indonesia on Friday, May 22nd of 2015 at the age of 85 years old. It is a big loss for Indonesia as he passed away when the Asia Pacific Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) was still underway in Bandung in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Padjadjaran University where Prof Priyatna introduced Air and Space Law in 1963.

As an archipelagic and disaster prone country, the contribution of Air and Space Law for the achievement of Indonesian national interest is substantial. Nowadays, Air and Space Law in Indonesia are taught not only at universities, but also at governmental civil and military institutions.

As appreciation for Professor Priyatna’s contribution to the country, both during the revolution era and afterwards, the State Funeral was held at Kalibata Heroes Cemetery in Jakarta.

Professor Priyatna held key governmental as well as non-governmental positions during his life, among others: Vice Attorney General; Assistant for Foreign Policy at the Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security; Chief of the Indonesian Military Law Academy; Director at the International Institute of Air and Space Law; Panel of Legal Experts at the ICC, ICSID; and Chairman of the Indonesian Arbitration Center (BANI). He was Board Member of the IISL and served as its Secretary from 1979-1985. Hewas elected Honorary Director for life in 1993. He received a Testimonial Certificate of IISL in 1979, and the IISL Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993.

Professor Priyatna holds a Law Degree from the University of Indonesia in Jakarta and continued his study among others at Mc Gill University in Canada and obtained a Ph.D in the USA with the dissertation “Air Tickets as Affected by International Law”. He holds Doctor of Law Degree at the University of Padjadjaran in Bandung with the Dissertation “State Sovereignty in Air Space”. He wrote more than 40 books in various fields.

His legacy to the current development of Air and Space Law in Indonesia as well as in the regions and worldwide is always remembered by his colleagues, students and last but not least his beloved family.

May he rest in peace.

I B R Supancana (Professor Priyatna’s student and staff, currently Professor of Air and Space Law)