

# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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## **Annual Report of the International Institute of Space Law relating to Space Law**

### 1. International Institute of Space Law

The IISL was founded in 1960 as an independent non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering the development of space law in partnership with various international and national institutions. It celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. It is the only global professional association for space law with members from 50 countries on all continents, all of whom have been elected on the basis of their contributions to the field of space law or other social sciences related to space activities. Many of our members play important roles in the development of international and national space law.

The purposes and objectives of the IISL include the promotion of further development of space law and expansion of the rule of law in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, the holding of meetings, colloquia and competitions on juridical and social science aspects of space activities, the preparation or commissioning of studies and reports, the publication of books, proceedings, reports and position papers, and the cooperation with appropriate international organizations and national institutions in the field of space law.

The IISL will continue to be the platform for a globally inclusive exchange, promoting deeper and broader understanding of space law. In this spirit, our president has represented the IISL on numerous occasions in places such as Kenya and Uruguay, or through his recent video address in Russia, and by numerous written addresses, as for example in China. The first Board of Directors meeting in the U.S. took place in April 2018 in the United States instead of in Europe or at International Astronautical Congresses, as in years past.

The IISL holds an annual Colloquium at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). During this Colloquium, the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture takes place, as well as a special session for Young Scholars. The IISL strives to address topics that are of interest to all space actors and invites all IAC attendees to attend and participate in its sessions. The IISL also co-organises annual Scientific-Legal Roundtables with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and joint sessions with the IAF.

In addition, the IISL is working to set up a regular event in the Asian region, complementing the three event flagships of the Institute; the Colloquia at IAC, the Vienna UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee Symposium and the Washington D.C. Eilene Galloway Symposium. This shall further demonstrate the key role of IISL to be the prime forum for exchanges on the understanding of space law in all world regions. It will also bring the IISL events in line with the global scope of the Institute's outstanding Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition.

The IISL is available to assist in the further development and promotion and understanding of space law, be it for the public sector or the private sector. Particular attention will be given in the near future to investigate key issues of space law. While space resources were recently the main issue of communication by IISL, the focus will now be on strategic issues as Space Traffic Management, the relationship between space law and cyber law, and the legal status of the area between air space and outer space. The IISL Directorate of Studies will play, and is in fact already playing the key role in this, as shown by the paper on space law and cyber law included in our current Proceedings. The IISL publishes an annual volume of its Proceedings with papers and reports of all activities during the year.

The IISL is an officially recognized observer at sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its Scientific & Technical and Legal Subcommittees and has consultative status with UN ECOSOC.

The Board of Directors of the IISL is currently composed of the following officers - President: Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Germany), Vice-Presidents: Setsuko Aoki (Japan), and K.R. Sridhara Murthi (India); Executive Secretary: Diane Howard (Canada/United States), Treasurer: Dennis J. Burnett (United States), and members - PJ Blount (United States), Frans G. von der Dunk (Netherlands), Marco Ferrazzani (Italy), Steven Freeland (Australia), Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz (United States), Stephan Hobe (Germany), Mahulena Hofmann (Czech Republic), Corinne Jorgenson (United States), Sergio Marchisio (Italy), Martha Mejia-Kaiser (Mexico); Elina Morozova (Russia); Lesley-Jane Smith (United Kingdom), Milton 'Skip' Smith (United States), Maureen Williams (UK/Argentina) and Zhenjun Zhang (China). The Institute has about 450 elected members from 50 countries. Membership categories include individual, prospective and institutional membership. See <http://www.iislweb.org/members.html>.

## 2. Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition

Since 1992, the IISL organizes the annual Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. The competition is based on a hypothetical space law case, written by IISL members, in which around sixty student teams from universities in Africa, the Asia Pacific, Europe and North America, participate. The competition is an important part of the organisation's outreach programme, and its principal mechanism for engaging future generations of space law experts. The regional champions compete in the World Finals, which take place at the International Astronautical Congress

(IAC) and are judged each year by judges of the International Court of Justice. This unique feature makes the Manfred Lachs Moot Court one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the world.

The 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Competition will be held in 2018 in Bremen Germany in the Landgericht Chamber. This year we are again honored by the participation of ICJ Judges. The Honorable Peter Tomka, the Honorable Hanqin Xue, and the Honorable Kirill Gevorgian will preside.

The competition is based on a hypothetical space law dispute before the International Court of Justice. The Problem is written by a Member of the IISL upon invitation by the Organizing Committee of the Competition, alternating between the different regions. The 2018 hypothetical Problem is entitled the "THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEAPILIA (APPLICANT) v. THE REPUBLIC OF KALVION (RESPONDENT)." The Moot Problem presents issues relating to conflicts in Outer Space, planetary protection and space security and is published on the IISL website.

### 3. Conferences

IISL organized the following events in 2017:

The 2018 IISL/ECSL annual Symposium was organized for delegates on 9 April 2018 at the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN COPUOS and presented "The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rescue and Return Agreement: Relevance and Challenges."

The 60<sup>th</sup> IISL Colloquium was held from 25-29 September 2017, in conjunction with the 66<sup>th</sup> IAC. The IISL hosted five legal sessions, as well as two joint sessions with IAA and IAF respectively. During these sessions, 74 papers were presented and 16 of those were by Young Scholars. Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch delivered the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture on Tuesday 26 September, followed by the 9<sup>th</sup> Young Scholars Session. Further sessions analysed the following subjects: "NewSpace", New Laws; Refugees and the role of space communications and the status and practice regarding the Charter for Man-made Disasters; Space law developments in the Asia Pacific; Current developments in space law. The 32<sup>nd</sup> IAA-IISL Scientific/Legal Roundtable addressed the topic "Technology and legal challenges for on-orbit servicing" and the joint session IISL/IAF focused upon "Legal Framework for Collaborative Space Activities."

The 12<sup>th</sup> Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC on 13 December 2017 to standing room only with 125 attendees. The topic was "Implementation of the Outer Space Treaty: Issues for the new U.S. Space Council". The symposium featured keynote speakers from both Congress and the Executive Branch and five provocative panels including international academics and practitioners.

## 4. Publications

Eleven International Publishing continues to publish the annual IISL Proceedings. Members are entitled to a 40%. The content of the Proceedings since 1992 is also available via a subscription, which is fully searchable on keywords, authors name, etc. Access to the contributions is on the basis of a username and password. Volumes of three years and older are available via Heinonline.

Eleven International Publishing has also published the book celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lachs Moot Court Competition.

The IISL's new website is now live and can be accessed at <http://iislweb.org/>. In addition, the Secretariat publishes a monthly newsletter providing continuous information about the space law community. Back issues of the newsletter can be accessed via the website.

The IISL announces the formation of its new Working Group on Cyber Law. Information can be found here: <http://iislweb.org/iisl-working-group-on-cyber-law/>

## 5. Awards

The Institute gives several awards and certificates annually to those who have shown outstanding achievement in the field of space law. In the course of the 60<sup>th</sup> IISL Colloquium in Adelaide, Australia, the IISL conferred

A Lifetime Achievement Award to *Andrei Terekhov*:

“In recognition of his scholarly writings, long time productive work for the development of space law in the UN system and constant help to the International Institute of Space Law.”

A Distinguished Service Award to *Ranjana Kaul* (Dua & Associates):

“In recognition of her seminal role in increasing the membership of IISL as chair of Membership committee, support for Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court competitions particularly in the Asia Pacific region; roles for IISL *colloquia*, IAA/IISL conferences in India and championing national space law awareness in India.”

A Distinguished Service Award to *Niklas Hedman* (United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs):

“In recognition of his outstanding contributions as Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna; Initiative for ‘Committee of Educators’ within the LSC.; distinguished service to COPUOS, and capacity building across the globe in space law development; regional workshop contributions.”

An Award of Appreciation to *Michael Davis* (Space Industry Association of Australia):

“Outstanding space law educator and multifaceted role at the ISU; role in development of Southern Hemisphere ISU Summer Space Program, and Chair of the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the Adelaide IAC.”

A joint Certificate of Gratitude to *European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) & European Space Agency (ESA)*

“Recognizing their long standing support continuing efforts to organize the European Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition and many other activities related to space law and policy.”

The 2017 Prof. I.H. Ph. Diederiks-Verschoor Award was conferred to Claudiu Mihai Taiatu (Romania) for his paper "*Space Traffic Management: Top Priority for Safety Operations*". The IISL Young Scholars Fund awarded prizes to the participants in the regional rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. This year's award will be conferred in Bremen.

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## 6. Further information

1. Website: <http://www.iislweb.org>
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spacelaw>
3. Twitter: [https://twitter.com/iisl\\_space](https://twitter.com/iisl_space).