



Promoting Space Sustainability

[Title of activity]

APRSAF

[Submitting entity]

APRSAF Secretariat

[Date]

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Implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Operational Case Studies

[Operational case studies are drafted by the submitting entity in their own words using the following template. Please avoid using national jargon and spell out acronyms to assist readers from other jurisdictions. All case studies will be made publicly available to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, share experiences and raise awareness.]

I. Short description of the outer space activity [1000-word max.]

[Include any relevant background or technical information that may be helpful.]

At APRSAF, based on the adoption of the LTS Guidelines, the activities to make outer space available on a long-term basis have also been introduced, including the exchange of information on technical approaches to debris mitigation by participating organizations and the introduction of IADC activities.

At the APRSAF-26 held in Nagoya, Japan in 2019 we had a technical session on “Activities for a Sustainable Environment in Space” at Space Technology Working Group.

https://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf26/pdf/working_groups/Agenda_STWG.pdf

In addition to the above session, at the Plenary of APRSAF-26, we also organized the Practices for the Stable Use of Outer Space Session whose theme was “Sharing the Practices for Ensuring the Stable Use of Outer space”.

The concept note of this plenary session is available at:

https://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf26/pdf/program/ConceptNote_Practices_for_the_Stable_Use_of_Outer_Space.pdf

Since 2017, APRSAF has engaged in efforts to build space policy community in response to growing interest in space policy and law in the region and has been providing various opportunities for information sharing and networking among space policy and law experts and practitioners in the region such as Space Policy Plenary Session, Inter-regional Space Policy Dialogue between Asia-Pacific and Europe (co-organized APRSAF and European Space Policy Institute), and Space Policy Practitioners Workshop. To advance these activities, APRSAF started National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI), at its 26th session held in Nagoya, Japan, to achieve these two objectives:

- Promoting information sharing and mutual learning on national space legislations and policies in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- Enhancing capacity to draft and implement national space legislations and policies in the Asia-Pacific countries in accordance with international norms.

To this end, space law practitioners from national governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific Countries formed the NSLI Study Group and held monthly teleconference to share the status of national space legislation in respective countries. As of June 2021, the Study Group has more than 40 members representing 17 organizations from 9 countries in the Asia-Pacific Countries.

Base on the outcome of NSLI Study Group's information sharing and joint analysis, the NSLI Participating States jointly submitted "Report on the status of the national space legislation of countries of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum National Space Legislation Initiative" to the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS at its 60th session in 2021 under the agenda item 7, National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/documents-and-resolutions/search.jsp?view=&match=A/AC.105/C.2/L.318>

The Report and the work of the NSI were based on the General Assembly resolution 68/74, entitled "Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space." It covers the wide range of topics of overview of space activities and actors, ratification status regarding the international regime, and national legal scheme relating to space activities including national registries, debris mitigation measures and supervision of space activities.

As stated in the Report, the Study Group hopes that the Report will contribute to tackling common regional issues and also contribute to global agendas such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the stable use of outer space by improving mutual understanding of national space legislation and promoting the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

II. Connection with the LTS Guidelines [500-word max.]

[Please indicate any relevant links between the activity above and the LTS Guidelines or portions of the preamble.]

At the Practices for the Stable Use of Outer Space Session organized at the APRSAF-26, the current status of international rules for stable use of space (LTS guideline and Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, etc.) and the initiatives to implement those by each country were introduced and discussed.

[NSLI, in its nature of information sharing on national space policy and legislation and enhancing the capacity of national space legislations and policy through mutual learning of members' diverse practices, contributes to the implementation of the LTS Guideline, in particular guidelines in Section A: Policy and regulatory framework for space activities and Section C: International cooperation, capacity-building and awareness.](#)

III. Lessons learned [500-word max.]

[Please share any information or observations that may assist others in their space activities.]

Through the Plenary session "the Practices for the Stable Use of Outer Space Session" organized at the APRSAF-26, the importance of integration for accessing space debris observation data held by major countries were pointed out.

[Through the joint analysis of NSLI Study Group, it is observed that the space activities and actors in the NSLI participating States have been expanding and this makes national space legislation more important. As a result, increasing number of national space legislations have been enacted in the NSLI States after the year 2000, though challenges remain. For example, registration of space objects is yet to be a common practice. Establishing proper national legal frameworks in line with the advancement of space activities is a common challenge for all NSLI States. It is also found that how non-legally binding instruments such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space \(A/62/20, annex\) and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities have been implemented in the NSLI participating States. Further consideration and discussion in the regional and international arenas would be helpful in implementing the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities nationally for each participating State.](#)

[In view of this situation, capacity building activities such as NSLI became significant more than ever in both regional and international perspectives. The Study Group concluded that NSLI provides one effective regional model for enhancing capacities in establishing and implementing national space legislation through its unique features. As mentioned above, the work of NSLI enhances the capacity of national space laws through mutual learning of diverse legal practices of members. With enhanced mutual understanding of respective national policies and laws, NSLI can also build a collaborative platform to tackle common regional issues. Furthermore, by contributing to UNCOPUOS/LSC agendas, establishing regional cooperative mechanism, and enhancing the implementation of the Outer Space Treaty, NSLI promotes national space policy and law in line with international regimes. Through these engagements, NSLI will contribute to the global agenda, such as the sustainability of space activities and the stable use of outer space.](#)