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Global Space Governance from a Regional Perspective

--Growth of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organizations and Global Space Governance

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A. International Space Cooperation Principle

- Since the UN General Assembly passed the first resolution on space issue in 1958, international space cooperation has become a main line through all space conventions, resolutions and other documents adopted by the United Nations, and has become a basic principle to guide national space activities.
- Outer Space Treaty clearly states that international cooperation is a fundamental principle for the exploration and use of outer space, and highlights this point in its preamble and a number of provisions. Thus it lays a solid legal foundation for international space cooperation.



A. Important Role of Space Cooperation

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- So far, many legal scholars believe that international space cooperation is not just a principle of the Treaty, in fact, it has become an important international custom of space law.



B. Building a Harmonious World and Global Governance

1. Building a harmonious world is a Chinese global governance theory.

- It is a new idea on a new international political and economic order timely proposed by Chinese leader in the context that international situation is undergoing profound changes, reflects the essential requirements of international relations and the universal desire of the international community for peaceful development, and accords with the evolution direction of the future international community. It's an important public product provided to international community by a responsible country following after peaceful development.



E. Building a Harmonious World and Global Governance

- 2. As a conference with world influence, Chinese 18th National Congress successfully closed in November 2012.**
 - This conference had a remarkable feature, that was Chinese Communist passed its road confidence, theory confidence, and institutional confidence to the whole China and the world, which contained the confidence “to build a harmonious world.”



C. A Harmonious Asia Pacific Region, a Harmonious Space and Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)

1. A harmonious Asia Pacific region

- Compared with a harmonious world and a national harmonious society, the concept of "harmonious region" belongs to the middle level, and its basic starting point is to create a prosperous and stable external environment in Chinese surrounding areas.



C. A Harmonious Asia Pacific Region, a Harmonious Space and Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)

2. To build a harmonious outer space and achieve inclusive development

- China is trying to build a harmonious outer space and achieve inclusive development. China adheres to the idea of a harmonious outer space, abides by the basic principles identified from the five space treaties, carries out space cooperation on the base of the principle of "equality and mutual benefit, peaceful use and common development", and is willing to share the results of exploring and using outer space with the world.



C. A Harmonious Asia Pacific Region, a Harmonious Space and Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)

3. Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)

- APSCO is composed of Asia-Pacific countries (shall be United Nations member states), and it is neutral, sets space technology and space application in one inter-governmental regional international organization, is a non-profit independent institutions with full international legal status, is the second integrated regional space cooperation organization in the world after the ESA. Headquarter locates at Beijing, China.



C. A Harmonious Asia Pacific Region, a Harmonious Space and Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization(APSCO)

3. Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization

- After the establishment of APSCO, it has successfully passed start-up period and has made significant progress: Member States is increased from 7 to 9, the organizational structure is basically completed, staff are in place and operation is stable, legal documents and status are established, rules and regulations are basically ready, it works out related development plans, a number of collaborative projects are moving forward and making progress, the Secretariat constituted by the member states initially forms a organizational culture of respect, tolerance, harmony and practicability.

- China provided remote-sensing satellite data to (APSCO) member states starting on July 5, 2013.



D. The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF)

- The APRSAF was hosted by Japan and was established in 1993, its main activities is to hold annual meeting each year, to provide a platform for the Asia-Pacific countries to exchange views and discuss the space development and cooperation, and to improve regional space capacity and discuss future cooperation. Its feature is the open framework.

- Its main purpose is to provide a more flexible form for Asia-Pacific regional space agencies and international organizations to have communication opportunities, to discuss mutual concerned issues, and to cooperate on space matters. Its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, is open to regional and international organizations, and members are voluntary to participate in joint projects.
- It should be said that such resource and flexible framework is conducive to discuss sensitive issues.



D. The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum

- At present, APRSAF is divided into four working groups: Earth Observation (EO), Communication Satellite Applications (CSA), Space Education and Awareness (SEA), and Space Environment Utilization (SEU), to share information about the space activities and the future plans of each country and region.
- In addition, APRSAF also hosted a number of international projects in order to have complementary advantages and promote cooperation, such as in the area of disaster and environmental protection, the Asia Sentinel Project, is very practical to use.



Conclusion

- APSCO should enhance cooperation with APRSAF. For example, APSCO delegate attended APRSAF-19 in Malaysia
- This will strengthen Asian countries` capability to defeat natural disaster and develop national economy through space technology and this will enhance peace and safety in Asia.
- On the present foundation of cooperation under UN and other frameworks, it is necessary to conform the two existing regional platforms. These two organization could participate in each other` activities, and cooperate in the future.



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Thank you!