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National space legislation : future perspectives for Malaysian Space Law

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The burgeoning of various space activities in outer space necessitates the emergence of national space laws. Having the international space rules alone is inadequate to govern and monitor the space activities, particularly considering the tremendous efforts accomplished by the private sector. As one of the state concerned, Malaysia demonstrated her interest when she successfully utilized the freedom of uses and exploration of outer space with various applications and activities. Such activities have a bright prospect of expanding further in the future. However, despite this involvement, Malaysia has no specific outer space legislation to govern the activities in accordance with the United Nations outer space legal rules.

This research studies the future perspectives for Malaysian space law. It demonstrates the development of Malaysian outer space activities inclusive of her status with respect to United Nations space conventions and her membership of international and regional space-related organizations. On the basis of assisting Malaysia to develop her national space legislation, this study analyses the legal frameworks of selected national outer space legislations. It discusses some major aspects that Malaysia should consider while drafting the content of her space legislation and explains why the legislation is necessary. It proposes a number of significant clauses that need to be incorporated in the Malaysian Outer Space Act. The study concludes with proposing a feasible draft specimen of a Malaysian Outer Space Act with an expectation that it can become a guideline to rationalize the actual Malaysian Outer Space Act and will positively influence the Malaysian law makers. It ends with outlining various legal impacts on Malaysia, ASEAN and world space activities should the enactment of the Act become a reality.

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