

PROGRESS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH OF OUTER SPACE LAW IN CHINA

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Abstract: With the rapid development of Chinese space activities in recent years, China's space law teaching and research has also developed very quickly. It can be observed from the following facts: many universities pay increasing attention to space law teaching and research, and a number of Law Schools have made space law their leading discipline and major research direction; specialized research institutions of space law have been substantially increased, and the number of teaching and research staff is increasing too; the international cooperation in the field is unprecedentedly developed, and the China's space law teaching and research staff have gradually joined the international space law mainstream; both the quantity and quality of Chinese space law studies have increased and improved. And the results have also been widely recognized by the colleagues of other branches of law. Specialized Journals on space law have been created, and space law library construction has also achieved remarkable results. In the future, Chinese space law teaching and research should pay more attention to some major space issues, such as legal issues of national and international space exploration and application, in order to combine with domestic practice better, to provide academic support for national space legislation and policy-making, and work hard with international colleagues together to contribute to the development of space law capacity-building in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Key words: space law teaching; space law research; space law capacity building; research institutions; international cooperation

INTRODUCTION

My paper published in 2006 titled "The Current Status and Future of the Teaching and Research of Outer Space Law in China"¹, was a

relatively comprehensive review of China's space law teaching and research, and I provided in that paper seven recommendations for the future development of the teaching and research of Outer Space Law in China.² Since then due to

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¹ That article was first published in May 2006, China International Law Annual Congress Proceedings, The

Congress was held in Beijing, the author also has given a speech to present his views of that paper during the Congress.

² The seven measures are: 1. to increase space law teaching and research staff in order to strengthen the relevant teaching and research work; 2. to establish international outer space law documentation centers; 3. to create space law Journal; 4. to set up Master of Outer Space Law program; 5. to strengthen international cooperation and exchange; 6. the Chinese Institute of Space Law and the Chinese Society of International Law should fully play their coordinating and guiding roles; 7. space law research should serve the practice.

the efforts of all parties, the researchers and teaching staff in China have made significant progress in space law capacity building, after only four or five years, most of the recommendations in that paper have come true.

Outer space law teaching, training and research have great significance, that can not only train space lawyers to adapt to Chinese aerospace industry's growing need, but also have a significant impact on China to fulfill its international obligations better, elaborating and implementing of Chinese space law, better participating and promoting the making of international space regulations, and promoting the further development of space law in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The COPUOS has made national capacity-building in space law as a new item in its agenda to be discussed every year since 2008, which fully demonstrates the attention and importance of this issue. The paper will discuss the new development of Chinese outer space law teaching and research; meanwhile, it will give a number of recommendations on this topic.

I. SPACE LAW TEACHING

In the past, Chinese universities fail to place enough emphasis on space law teaching, its curriculum covered very few universities, with very few teaching staff specializing in this field. However, in recent years the situation has improved significantly. More and more colleges and universities create specialized courses for the Outer Space Law in the undergraduate or postgraduate teaching programs.

At present, a number of universities have made space law as an undergraduate compulsory or elective course, such as Schools of Law of the following Universities: Harbin Institute of Technology (H.I.T.), Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (BUAA), Shenzhen University and Beijing Institute of Technology (B.I.T.). China University of

Political Sciences and Law (CUPSL) School of International Law set up an International Space Law Moot Court course. In 2005, 2006, and 2007, School of Law at H.I.T. invited Prof. Dr. Marco Pedrazzi from Italy to open a course totaling 24 hours — *Elements of International Space Law*, and the teaching content has been translated into Chinese and published as a book in both English and Chinese.³ In 2008 and 2009, H.I.T. invited some eminent Space Law professors to give lectures.⁴ At the same time, a formal curriculum — Outer Space Law --started to open in the undergraduate program.

In the Master of Law Program, some schools of law make outer space law as a research direction of public international law, and make space law a degree course, such as the H.I.T., Shenzhen University, BUAA and B.I.T.. Foreign Affairs Colleges and a large number of other schools also put space law course⁵ as a section (chapter) of public international law or as special lectures to teach. In space law teaching, especially in post-graduate teaching, innovative teaching method is very important. The author uses “research and discuss teaching method”(Seminar) for several years in post-graduate teaching. In addition to teaching the content of space law course, the author also directs students to make research in forefront and new topics of space law, and has obtained satisfactory results.⁶

³ Authored by Marco Pedrazzi & Haifeng Zhao, translated by Wu Xiaodan, *Textbook of International Space Law*, Heilongjiang People's Press, 2006.

⁴ Such as the space law professors from Germany, the United States, Japan, Korea, France, Canada, etc.

⁵ See N. Jasentuliyana, *International Space Law and the United Nations*, Kluwer Law International, 1999, p.17.

⁶ The articles of students under the supervision of the professor in the framework of space law course have been one after another published on the journals, the number has reached eight; in addition, the reports on the class have laid a good foundation for preparing master's degree thesis, for example in 2008 class, there were 8 in 10 postgraduate students wrote their thesis on the topics of space law, in which the majority were based on their research reports of space law course.

It can be seen from the “*Education Opportunities in Space Law, a Directory*”(2006), edited by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre, from which we can see that there are three space law teaching institutions in mainland China: one is Chinese Institute of Space Law; the second, School of International Law of East China University of Political Sciences and Law; and the third, School of International Law of China University of Political Sciences and Law. The international outer space law courses provided by the latter two are set in the undergraduate, master and doctorate program as a section of public international law course, and this situation is the same in most other countries.⁷ In the 2008 and 2009 editions of the Directory, only one institute, School of International Law of China University of Political Sciences and Law, reported their space law education.

Recently, more and more graduate thesis of Master’s Program chose Space Law issues as topics of studies.⁸ This happened also in the Doctoral dissertations.⁹

Although the number of universities which set up space law course is increasing, generally speaking, Chinese space law teaching only regards it as a course or a chapter of public international law course, it has not yet developed to the scale of major part of a Master degree

program, like the program in International Air and Space Law Institute of the University of McGill, Canada (three courses); Telecommunication and Space Law Institute in the 11th University of Paris, France (more than ten courses) and other space law centers, every program possesses several or even more than ten courses of space law.¹⁰ To some extent, no Master program in space law limits the development of space law teaching and research in China. At the same time, it is far from enough that only a few universities set up the course of outer space law, which is an important branch of public international law.

Chinese space law textbooks are also facing some problems. First, the quantity is not very large, and besides, they are relatively old. So far, there are only three or four space law textbooks¹¹ written by Chinese experts, and there are rarely textbooks that are specifically compiled for undergraduate or postgraduate students, having clear targets, appropriate in depth, with good system and totally up-to-date. So elaborating new textbooks is an urgent need. We envisage solution to this problem through the following ways: or publishing separate textbooks for post-graduate and undergraduate students, or put the two parts in one textbook. First part will be a basic knowledge of space law, taking the undergraduates as its target, and the second part some issues concerning the new developments of space law, theoretical discussion or in-depth exploration of fundamental legal issues, taking the postgraduates as its target. Second, among the existing textbooks, some are not comprehensive or timely enough in keeping with the space law development. There is no adequate research and discussion on issues related to

⁷ For the national space law teaching situation, the above information is certainly not exhaustive, and to be added in future. For the schools which have established related courses while the article did not mention, the author apologize for it.

⁸ Such as the Harbin Institute of Technology School of Law, among graduate students of 2007 class of Master of International Law Program, there is only one student wrote dissertation on outer space law; and in 2008 class, the number of the postgraduate students writes dissertations on the topics of outer space law has reached to 8.

⁹ Such as Zhou Liying, *On the Legal Aspects of Space Commercialization*(in Chinese《空间商业化的法律问题》), doctoral dissertation of the Chinese University of Political Sciences and Law, March 2006, directed by Prof. Zhou Zhonghai.

¹⁰ See Haifeng Zhao, Teaching and Research on International Space Law in Foreign Countries, *Aerospace China*, No.7, July 2006.pp.15-18.

¹¹ Two *Outer Space Law* Written by He Qizhi (1992), and He Qizhi and Huang Huikang (eds.) (2000), Yin Yuhai, *International Space Law* (2006), Yun Zhao , *Space Commercialization and the New Development of Space Law* (2008).

commercialization and privatization of space activities, contracts of outer space activities, the protection of intellectual property rights, new instruments in space debris and registration etc. And it basically does not involve any national space legislation. Third, there is too little focus on private outer space law. In existing textbooks, there is no corresponding reflection for the privatization trend of space law caused by the commercialization of space activities, or the tendency to develop both public and private space law. In addition, the international cooperation in space law education has not developed in large scale.

In the case of training, the APSCO secretariat (Preparatory group) organized a training seminar in 2005, which is open for Asian Governmental space managers, space scientists and teaching staff, and its curriculum has included the content of space law. Chinese astronauts training program also includes outer space law.¹²

II. SPACE LAW RESEARCH

Chinese space law research has an early start, but for a long time efforts committed to it were relatively weak, the scope and depth of research were lagging far behind some European and the American countries so that it could not match very well with Chinese growing outer space activities. However, in recent years, this situation has changed significantly. In the following part, we will introduce the history of space law research, review the importance of space law in Universities, researchers, funding, research projects, research results, publications and academic exchanges on the new development of Chinese space law research.

(A) The history of space law research

Chinese earlier involvement in research of international outer space law starts with a

¹² There is a specially prepared textbook for this, Chen Shan-Guang (ed.), *Summary of Space Law*, China Aerospace Press, April 2007.

well-known publicist—Prof. Zhou Gengsheng. And as early as 1960s, he had proposed that national sovereignty should cover the space over national territory to the infinite height.¹³ But later, as a result of the “Cultural Revolution” and other reasons, the research in this field was stagnant. From the early 1980s to the early 1990s, outer space law research in China had made some developments. In 1981, Wang Tieya, eminent publicist and former judge of ICTY, editor of the well-known textbook *International Law*, put “Air Space and Outer Space Law” into the textbook as its Chapter 6. After that, most international law textbooks in China chose this model. In addition, in this age, Prof. He Qizhi¹⁴ made some outstanding research on legal issues of outer space for a number of years. From 1982 to 1992, he published papers, commentaries in the *Chinese Yearbook of International Law* every year, totaling about 22, more than 10 of which are academic articles. Meanwhile, he also published a considerable number of papers in English in the international journals of space law.

¹³ See Zhou Gengsheng, *International Law*, The Commercial Press, 1981, p. 413. Cited from Wang Huhua (ed.), *Public International Law*, Beijing University Press, Shanghai People's Press, August 2005, p. 291.

¹⁴ Mr. He Qizhi served as Legal Adviser of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and served as Professor of International Law at Foreign Affairs College, Professor of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Graduate School. Mr. He has received Master degree and PhD of International Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and University of Liverpool. Since 1980, he served as Chinese representative of the COPUOS of the United Nations, the head of the Chinese delegation of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN COPUOS, the member of United Nations International Law Commission. He was a former advisor of Chinese Society of International Law, vice president of Chinese Institute of Space Law. He was elected as member of the Sixth Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). In 1982 he was elected a member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), In 1984, as member of board of directors of the IISL. In 1986, he was elected as member of International Academy of Astronautics. He received the Certificate of Merit from IISL in 1989 and Special Certificate in 1996. For more information about He Qizhi, see Li Yongsheng, *In memory of Prof. Dr. He Qizhi*, in Haifeng Zhao (ed.), *Space Law Review*, Vol. 1, Harbin Institute of Technology Press, 2006, pp. 1-9.

In 2000, Chinese Institute of Space Law (CISL) published his selected international space law and international law papers both in Chinese and English with a book.¹⁵ Mr. He Qizhi could be called the father of Chinese space law.

After 1992, Chinese space law research has further developed. In 1992, Liu Haishang, the editor of the textbook *International Law*, took the lead of putting “International Space Law” into the book as a separate Chapter 8.¹⁶ In 1995, Wang Tieya, the editor of the new version of the textbook *International Law*, also dedicated a chapter 11 for “Outer Space Law.” Since then, the majority of textbooks or monographs of international law take the Outer Space Law as a separate chapter. It is worth noting that the book *Outer Space Law* written by Mr. He Qizhi, published by Law Press, China in 1992, made a comprehensive study of the space law issues. It is an authoritative work on international space law, which is not only regarded as a research work, but also has been widely selected as the textbook of space law, and which has also built the status of a well-known outer space lawyer for Mr. He Qizhi. The book is divided into 18 chapters, after the preamble, the first chapter reviews the development of space activities. The remaining contents of the chapters are as follows: the formation and development of space activities, the definition and delimitation of outer space; the basic principles of outer space, such as rescue, responsibility and registration regimes, the Moon Agreement, the principle of International Direct Television Broadcasting Satellite, the principle of remote sensing satellite of the Earth, the legal system of using nuclear power sources in outer space, the impact of outer space activities on space environment and the international protection, the legal issues of the geostationary orbit, the legal status of the space

station, the legal issues of commercialization of space activities, international space cooperation mechanisms, the bilateral space cooperation agreements, the militarization of outer space and its regulation. In addition, the appendix of the book also includes the international treaties on outer space and other relevant legal documents, and the bilateral agreements that China concluded.¹⁷ Mr. He Qizhi and Mr. Huang Huikang also edited the book *Outer Space Law* together in 2000, which is also of great value, the book was published by Qingdao Press.¹⁸ The book based on the framework of the version in 1992, included some of the new development of outer space law in theory and practice during those eight years, and added a chapter about Chinese space policy and law.¹⁹

In addition, many scholars and experts also published a small number of relevant papers on outer space law, such as Prof. Zhao Lihai, eminent lawyer of the law of the sea and former judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, published a series of (six) articles on space law in the different issues of the Law Journal in 1993 and 1994. Most of other scholars’ papers were published on a professional aerospace journal—*Aerospace China*. The topics authors discussed include: the status and the future of outer space law,²⁰ the possibility to adopt a unified and comprehensive

¹⁵ He Qizhi, *Essays on International Law and Space Law*, Chinese Institute of Space Law, 2000.

¹⁶ See Wang Huhua(ed.), *International law*, Beijing University Press, Shanghai People's Press, 2005, p. 292.

¹⁷ See Wang Kongxiang, *The Outer Space Law Meets with International Level—Review of He Qizhi's Outer Space Law*, *Space Law Review*, Vol. I, pp. 205-210.

¹⁸ The authors are Liu Xiaohong, Sun Guoshun, He Qizhi, Xu Jie, Huang Huikang, Huang Jiefang.

¹⁹ See Zhang Yanli, Haifeng Zhao, *Review the book of He Qizhi, Huang Huikang (eds.) Outer Space Law*, *Space Law Review*, Vol. II & III, Harbin Institute of Technology Press, 2009, pp. 247-254.

²⁰ Huang Huikang, *Review and Outlook of Space Law in the Turn of the Century (part I and II)*, *Aerospace China*, No. 9, 10, 2000; Li Wei, *The Status and Development of International Outer Space Law*, *Defense Technology Industries*, No. 4, 2000; Xu Donggen, *From the Successful Launch of Shenzhou V to See the Development Trend of Outer Space Law*, *Law*, No. 11, 2003. Haifeng Zhao, *Teaching and Research of Space Law in Foreign Countries*, *Aerospace Chinese*, No. 7, 2006.

outer space treaty,²¹ the delimitation of outer space,²² the commercialization of space activities,²³ the legal issues of space debris,²⁴ the damages caused by outer space activities and its responsibility,²⁵ the militarization of outer space,²⁶ as well as legal issues of aerospace

objects, etc.²⁷

In addition to the above research results, Chinese experts also translated a number of foreign space law works, including Manfred Laches *Outer Space Law*, translated by Zheng Yanshao, Qin Jing, and Xu Zhisen, published by Shanghai Social Sciences Press, in 1990, the book was the authority for the early space law literature; Gijsbertha CM Reijnen, *The Use of Outer Space and International Law* translated by Tan Shiqiu, Shanghai Translation Press, in 1985; Delbert D. Smith, *The International Law and Policy of Space Station*, translated by Lian Maolin, Aerospace Press, in 1985. There are still some other translations relatively easy to be found, such as C. Wilfred Jenks, *Space Law*, translated by Lei Songsheng, Taiwan Commercial Press, in 1968.

Chinese Institute of Space Law (CISL) was established in 1998. After its establishment, it actively carries out various academic exchange activities and publicizes space law, and provides academic support to the research of relevant national legislation. CISL organized the research projects like "The Comparative Study of the World's Major National Space Law" and "The Legislative Framework of National Space Law," and had obtained some important results.²⁸ It also organizes the exchanges and contacts with the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), and co-organized the 2004 Beijing International Symposium on the Outer Space Law with IISL,²⁹ CISL organizes Chinese universities to take part in Manfred Laches International Space

²¹ Yin Yuhai, Developing Unified Space Treaty is the Objective Requirement of Modern Space Activities, *Journal of Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 1, 2004.

²² Dong Zhixian, *The delimitation of Outer Space*, No. 6, *Legal Science*, 1994; Ke Lingjuan, *The Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space*, No. 4, *Graduate Student Law*, 2001.

²³ There mainly are: Liu Xiaohong, Commercialization and Standardization of Space Activities in China, *Aerospace China*, No. 4, 2001; Jiao Yong, Launch Services and Space Law, *Aerospace China*, No. 7, 1993; Qin Xiaocheng, International Law Issues of the Commercialization of Outer Space Activities, *Chinese Yearbook of International Law*, 1993; Yin Yuhai, Some Issues Faced by Space Business Travel Development, *Aerospace China*, No. 11, 2001; Development of International Space Insurance Market and Relevant International Legal Issues, *Aerospace China*, No. 10, 2001; Zhou Wei, International Space Law and Policies and Regulations on Chinese International Commercial Satellite Launching Services, *Aerospace China*, No. 6, 2004.

²⁴ Yin Yuhai, The Legal Regulation of Space Debris and Pollution near-Earth Orbit, No. 7, *Aerospace China*, 2001.

²⁵ Tao Dehai, The Liability for Damages caused by the Outer Space Activities, *The Forum of Political Sciences and Law*, No.5, 6, 1987; Yang Ruiying, The New Thinking on Outer Space Liability for Damage Claim Mechanisms in Environmental Issues - from the Point of View of the Subjects of Responsibility and Claim, available at http://www.law-lib.com/lw/lw_view.asp?no=3761 (last visited Feb.9, 2010); Zhu Wenyu, International Responsibility to Protect Outer Space, *Academic Exchange*, No. 10, 2003.

²⁶ There are a large number research in this field, such as: Zhang Ming, Li Suoku, Space Information Warfare and International Space Law, *Journal of Equipment Command and Technical College*, April 2003; Liu Weidong, From the U.S. Missile Defense System to See the Shortcomings of *Outer Space Treaty* in the Related Fields, *Journal of International Relations*, No. 4, 2001; Liang Zhaoxian, Chen Shilu, From the International Space Law to See Space Confrontation Between Offensive and Defensive, *Journal of Equipment Command and Technical College*, No. 2, 2004; Wang Kongxiang, The Challenge of Outer Space Law by Arms Race in Space, *Wuhan University Journal (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, in No. 3, 2005; Lu Hongxing, The Basic Requirements of Developing International Law in the New Military Revolution, *Journal of Xi'an Political College*, No. 6, 2004; Jia Jing, Regarding the Legal Consideration of the

Demilitarization in Outer Space, *Journal of Shanxi Politics and Law Management College*, No.4 1991.

²⁷ Gao Guozhu, The Concept and Nature of Aerospace Objects, *Journal of Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Social Sciences Edition)*, No. 3, 2006; Management System of Aerospace Objects, *Aerospace China*, No. 10, 2005.

²⁸ See the report of soft science research project of National Industry of Sciences and Technology for Defence: The Comparative Study of World's Major National Space Law, 2003.

²⁹ See China Institute of Space Law, 2004 Space Law Conference, Paper Assemble, Beijing, China, 25-27 April 2004.

Law Moot Court Competitions and other activities held by IISL. From 2001, it also published "Space Law Newsletter" from time to time. The work of Chinese CISL promotes the popularization of space law and the development of space law teaching and research in China.³⁰

About the Chinese space legislation, China National Space Administration (CNSA) and other departments of the government also organize some research, and work in the field of collecting and translating foreign and international space law documents, as well as carrying out comparative research and designing legislative framework and drafting provisions. It has made progress in all the areas mentioned.

(B) Recent developments

In this paper, we comment on the recent development of space research starts from 2005, mainly because School of Law and Institute of Space Law, Harbin Institute of Technology were established in 2005. After that the H.I.T. and a number of universities began to take space law as a feature of legal research for their law schools, which made remarkable positive results.

1. Universities emphasis on strengthening space law teaching and research

I have suggested that as a space-faring country, China should encourage sufficient number of experts to study outer space law in all the aspects, in order to protect the space rights and interests through legal means, and be positive in the development of international space rules. Therefore, it is urgent to train and attract more scholars to do the research of outer space law.³¹ In order to get support from institutions, China also needs to establish more outer space law research centers with distinct

³⁰ When developing the above activities, Qi Yongliang, the secretary-general of the CISL, made a great deal of work and efforts. The comprehensive summary of the work of the Chinese Institute of Space Law, see Qi Yongliang, *An Review of the first 10 years work of Chinese Institute of Space Law*, Space Law Review, Vol. II & III, p. 233.

³¹ Haifeng Zhao, *Status and Prospect of Chinese Space Law Teaching and Research*, Aerospace China, No. 7, 2007, pp. 11-13.

features and different specialty.

This idea is gradually recognized in recent years, as the number of Chinese law schools continues to increase (more than 600 in total till 2009). In particular some universities including Science and Engineering Colleges have started to establish law schools, which have caused us to think over the development strategy of the newly established law school. For the Law Schools established in the Universities of Science and Engineering, they are often at a disadvantage compared with the traditionally well-known Law Schools. However, they can find their advantages by combining their unique characteristics to find an unusual direction of research. Therefore, besides "joining into the mainstream", "being unique" and "building characteristics" in disciplines, capacity-building has become a pressing issue.³² In 2004, Law school of H.I.T. strengthened the construction with the strong support from the university, and then put forward a clear stand, which is with the excellent space industry in China and specialized aerospace technology in H.I.T. its law school should be based on space law and space law should be considered as one of its feature disciplines. Several other similar universities, such as Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Beijing Institute of Technology have also proposed the similar idea after H.I.T..

These ideas have received the support from universities. Therefore, under the framework of projects 211 and/or 985³³, the above universities

³² For the discussion of the Strategies for developing law teaching and research in Universities of Science and Technology, see Haifeng Zhao, *Find Homology and Keep Different - Review and Consideration of Law Discipline Construction at Harbin Institute of Technology*, in Xu Weidong & Haifeng Zhao (eds), *Training Model Analysis of Law Professional in Universities of Sciences and Technology*, Harbin Institute of Technology Press, 2009.

³³ Project 211 is a constructive project of nearly 100 universities and disciplines in the 21st century conducted by the government of China; The project 211 was initiated from 1995. Project 985 is a constructive project for founding world-class universities in the 21st century conducted by the

have received strong support in budget and personnel, so as to promote rapid development of the space law research. In addition, some scholars of Shenzhen University and the China University of Political Sciences and Law also pay more attention to the space law research, and the Northwest University of Political Science is strengthening the space law research, too.

2. Rapid increase in the number of space law research centers

At present, China's space law research centers are as many as 5-6, which are mainly based on the Law Schools of the Universities. And this number is rather competitive to other countries. The situations of various centers are as follows:

(1) Institute of Space Law at Harbin Institute of Technology

With university's strong space technology, Institute of Space Law at Harbin Institute of Technology(H.I.T.) was established in 2005. Its main research staff are Director—Professor Haifeng Zhao, Deputy Directors — Professor Li Bin, Associate Professors Fabio Tronchetti, Rong Jiping, and Dr. Hou Ruixue. Other researchers are Prof. Ge Yongping (for air law), Prof. Gao Lizhong, Ms. Wu Xiaodan, Ms. Li Jingzhu and several part-time staff. Professor Haifeng Zhao is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Space Law.

Since its establishment, the Institute has done a series of research projects on legal issues of space activities, published a textbook named *International Space Law*, published a series of papers, founded the first Chinese academic journal of space law—"Space Law Review" in 2006, till 2009, three volumes of which has been published. Under the direction of Professor Haifeng Zhao, the institute has completed a CNSA's research project —"The Legislative Study on China Administrative Regulations of

government of China, the project 985 was initiated since 1998.

Space Activities", and a Heilongjiang Provincial Social Sciences Fund research project — "The Comparative Study between International Law and National Law on Space Activities". And it has got some important projects from the Ministry of Justice and other institutions, on the topics such as space weaponizations, space debris and the protection of space environment, legal issues of lunar exploitation, legal issues of manned flights, and dispute settlement of space activities.

The Institute is making intensive exchanges and cooperation with space law centers of foreign countries. From August 31 to September 1, 2006, in Harbin, School of Law and of Space Law Institute of H.I.T., together with Chinese Society of International Law, held a conference on "The Status quo and the Future of Outer Space Law". The participants are experts and scholars from more than 20 universities and research institutions, CNSA, and Chinese Institute of Space Law. The meeting achieved remarkable academic results, as well as provided a valuable platform for outer space law experts and scholars to exchange their expertise and views. Space Law Institute at H.I.T. is active in the field of international cooperation, and it often invites International well-known Space Law Professors to come to give lectures, and keeping on participating in academic activities on space law of international authoritative institutions.

(2) Institute of Space Law of Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics

As a matter of fact, BUAA established its institute of space law rather early. In 2002, BUAA established the Institute of Space Law. At present, the Institute has stepped up staffing, and its main researchers are Deputy Director Associate Professor Gao Guozhu, Dr. Li Bin, and Dr. Bo Shouxing. Dr. Gao Guozhu has made a series of research on space law issues, and has published more than 10 papers. In the last couple of years, the Institute has achieved some results

in the projects research and holding academic conferences. In the framework of 211 it has set up a project on the development of Air and Space Law disciplines and has obtained budget support. The Institute held a multi-disciplinary seminar — “The Space legislation and Inter-National Politics” in early 2008, and published a series of papers. On February 27, 2009, BUAA Institute of Space Law and Chinese Institute of Space Law joint organized a “Technological and Legal Issues Forum on the Collision of the US-Russian Satellites.” As can be seen from the above, BUAA School of Law, its Institute of Space Law in particular, has become a very dynamic force in the research of the space law.

(3) Institute of Space Law of Beijing Institute of Technology

The Institute was established in 2007, and its Director is Professor Li Shouping. Deputy Directors are Dr. Wang Guoyu, Associate Professors Luo Li, and Gong Xiangqian. Professor Li Shouping directed of a series of space law research projects from the National Social Sciences Fund, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education. And he has published about 10 space law papers. He guided the Manfred Laches Moot Court Competition team of his university to achieve good rankings both in the country and in Asia-Pacific region. The Institute also establishes a very good space law documentation center. Its space law research team has been formed. Professor Li Shouping is a member of International Institute of Space Law.

(4) Air and Space Law Center of China University of Political Sciences and Law

Established in 2007, the Center’s staff on space law are two Deputy Directors—Professor Ling Yan and Associate Professor Li Juqian. Professor Ling has worked on space law for a long time, and has got fruitful research results. In addition to the publication of papers on space law, she is also the editor of the book “New

Theory of International Space Law Issues” (2006, People Court Press). She also has rich experience in guiding students in Manfred Laches Moot Court Competition. Professor Ling is a member of International Institute of Space Law. Prof. Li Juqian also has done space law research for a rather long period of time. Their Air and Space Law Center has held international academic forum twice since its establishment,³⁴ which is a good platform for domestic and foreign experts and scholars to exchange academic thinking on Air and Space Law. The University also actively organizes students to take part in Manfred Laches Moot Court competition, and has achieved good results in Asia-Pacific Region.

(5) Space Policy and Space Law Center of Shenzhen University

The Center was established in 2007, the director of the Center is Professor Yin Yuhai. Prof. Yin engaged in space law research early, served as director of the BUAA Institute of Space Law, and finished a series of space law research projects, including the projects from the National Social Sciences Fund, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education. He has published more than 20 papers on space law, and published a book titled “International Legal Responsibility of Space Exploitation” (2004, Law Press, China),³⁵ which may be the first monograph of studying specific space law issues in-depth. He is the editor or author of the following books: *An Overview of International Space Legislation* (international space legislation documents and their introduction) (2005, Chinese Democratic Development Press)³⁶, *New Commentary on International Space Law* (textbook) (2006, China Democracy and the Rule of Law Press), *Some Legal Issues on Space Launch Activities* (2007, China

³⁴ See Li Yuan’s report, *Space Law Review*, Vol. II & III, pp. 255 and 272.

³⁵ By Yin Yuhai, Law Press, China, 2004.

³⁶ Yin Yuhai (ed.), *China Democracy and the Rule of Law Press*, 2005.

Democracy and the Rule of Law Press) and *American Space Legal Issues* (2007, China Democracy and the Rule of Law Press).

In addition, some scholars from following universities are also carrying out space law research: the East China University of Political Sciences and Law, Northwest University of Political Sciences and Law, Hunan Normal University, etc.

It is worth noting that the excellent contribution of Prof. Yun Zhao of University of Hong Kong. Graduated from a famous space law research center Institute of Air and Space Law at University of Leiden, he has made a comprehensive research in the field of space law, and published a series of valuable papers in English, and published a monograph on space law in English and Chinese.³⁷ In particular, he frequently participates in academic activities of International Institute of Space Law and other international institutions.

3. Space law research projects increases significantly

Research projects play an important role in the promotion of space law research. In the past, few space law projects could be granted by the national mainstream institutions; therefore, they are very competitive and difficult to have. While at present more and more projects were granted to the space lawyers by these mainstream institutions. For example, Prof. Yin Yuhai and Li Shouping respectively got 2008 and 2009 National Social Sciences Fund Projects; Prof. Haifeng Zhao is the head of sub-project of a major project of National Social Sciences Fund (2008); Prof. Haifeng Zhao, Yin Yuhai and Li

³⁷ Yun Zhao, *Space commercialization and the development of space law* (in Chinese), Press of Intellectual Property, 2008; Yun Zhao, *Space commercialization and the development of space law from a Chinese legal perspective*, New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2009. The Main Content of the second book are as follows: The Introduction, Property rights and outer space, Development of space registration and liability regime, Satellite launching services and space tourism, Liberalization of telecommunications services, National space legislation, International space cooperation.

Shouping got projects of Ministry of Justice respectively, and Prof. Yin Yuhai and Li Shouping got projects of the Ministry of Education. The topics of the projects relates to the militarization of outer space, the commercialization of outer space activities, the latest development of space legislation, Chinese national space legislation and the legal aspects of lunar exploration, and space debris etc. This shows that the space law research projects are attracting more and more attention of the scholars of law, and there is a space law research team with more persons and better quality.

4. Increased quantity of research results and improved quality

In recent years, due to the emphasis of Universities, the quantity of space law researchers and research results are increasing, and the level has significantly been improved.

(1) Publications are increasing

In recent years, the publication of Space Law has increased a lot. In the area of teaching materials, there are "Textbook of International Space Law" (2006) by Marco Pedarzzi and Haifeng Zhao, and translated by Wu Xiaodan; "New Commentary of International Space Law" (2006) by Prof. Yin Yuhai; "Summary of Space Law" (2007) edited by Chen Shanguang. In the area of monographs, the publications are "New Theory of International Space Law Issues" (2007) edited by Prof. Ling Yan; "Space Commercialization and New Development in Space Law" (2008) by Prof. Yun Zhao; "Some Legal Issues on Space Launch Activities" (2007, Chinese Democracy and Law Press), and "American Space Legal Issues" (2007, Chinese Democracy and Law Press), both edited by Yin Yuhai.

(2) The quality of research papers is improving

Because of space law teaching and research staff have been increasing, the number of related published papers is also on the rise. The papers have received a corresponding improvement too,

which is mainly reflected in the following: the papers have entered mainstream publications in English, and the main journals of international space law; and in China, the papers are also published by main domestic Law journals, which has dramatically changed the situation in which papers used to be published in space professional publications, such as *Aerospace China*.³⁸ Consequently, they are attracting more and more attention from academics of law now. In addition, the recently published articles cover more extensive issues, such as the basic theory of space law,³⁹ the basic legal regime of outer space,⁴⁰ space debris and the environment of outer space,⁴¹ security and militarization of outer

space,⁴² Chinese space legislation,⁴³ space administration and management regimes,⁴⁴ the liability of space activities,⁴⁵ the legal aspects of space tourism,⁴⁶ the legal regime for lunar exploitation,⁴⁷ the privatization and

³⁸ Unfortunately, one feature of the Journal is that the Journal does not publish the footnotes of paper, and that is normally an academic problem.

³⁹ Ge Yongping, The relations Between Common Heritage of Mankind Principle and the relevant Principles, the Hebei Law Review, No. 11, 2007, pp. 119-122; Ma Xinmin, The Status and Trend of Development of the International Outer Space Law, Space Law Review, Volume II & III, 2009, p. 1; Ma Xinmin, The New Development of International Legislation in Outer Space and Chinese Outer Space Policy and Legislation, Aerospace China, No. 2, 2008, pp. 11-13. Stephen Hobe wrote, Haifeng Zhao translated, The half Century of International Space Law, Global Law Review, No. 4, 2008, pp.30 -36; Wang Kongxiang, The Relationship between International Outer Space Law and National Law, Vol. 1, Space Law Review, p. 124.

⁴⁰ Gao Guozhu, The Registry State of Outer Space Objects, Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Science Edition), No. 1. 2007; Gao Guozhu, The Legal Issues in the Implementation of Registration Convention, Hebei Law Review, No. 7, 2007; Gao Guozhu, Voluntary Registration System of Space Object, Journal of China Civil Aviation Flying College, No. 2, 2008; Wang Jing, The Application of Registration Convention in China – Based on Space Objects Registration Management Rules, Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Management for Politics and Law Cadres, No. 1, 2008; Ling Yan, The Property Rights Issues on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Science Edition), No. 1. 2007; Ge Yongping, The State of Registry Concept and Related Legal Issues in Registration Convention; Wu Xiaodan, The Challenges of Outer Space Treaty, the latter two articles were published in the Space Law Review, Vol. I, p. 57.

⁴¹ Gao Guozhu, The Legal Issues of Space Debris, Hebei Law Review, No. 5, 2006; Li Shouping, The International Responsibility of Space Pollution Caused by Space Debris, Hebei Law Review, No. 12, 2006; Li Shouping, The International Liability for

Damage of the Space Environment, Modern Law, No. 1, 2007; Li Shouping, On the Construction of National Mechanisms for Space Debris Mitigation, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Social Sciences Edition), No. 4, 2008; Han Jianfeng, A Review of Legislation relating to Space Debris and Suggestions for Chinese Legislation, Rule of Law Review, No. 3, May 2008; Li Bin, Improvement of Chinese Legislative System on Space Debris Mitigation, Global Law Review, No. 4, 2008, p. 8; Zhang Wenxiang, To Speed Up Chinese Legislation Controlling Space Debris, Space Law Review, Vol. II & III, 2009, p. 87.

⁴² Li Shouping, The Military Use of Outer Space and its Legal Regulation, Law and Business Research, No. 3, 2007, p. 16.

⁴³ Qi Yongliang, "Strengthening the Studies on Chinese Space Activities Legislation, Space Law Review, Vol. I, 2006, p. 181; Gao Guozhu, The Evaluation and Future Prospects of Chinese Space Legislation, Journal of Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Social Sciences Edition), No. 1, 2007; Haifeng Zhao, Some Reflections about Chinese Space Legislation, Heilongjiang Social Sciences, No. 5, 2007, pp. 148-151; Haifeng Zhao, "The Status Quo and the Future of Chinese Space Legislation," ZLW (German Journal of Air and Space Law), No.1, 2009, p.94-122; Ling Yan, Comments on the Chinese Space Regulations, Chinese Journal of International Law, November 2008, p.689.

⁴⁴ Haifeng Zhao, Li Jingzhu, A Comparative Study of Space Management Systems, Global Law Review, No. 4 2008, pp. 15-21; Lin Weiran, Gao Lu, The U.S. Aerospace Industry Research Management Systems and their Reform Measures, Aerospace China, No. 6, 2007; Luo Kaiyuan, Shi Weiping, The Characteristics of Foreign Space Management regimes and their Inspiration to China, Aerospace China, No. 11, 2001; Gao Lu, Lin Weiran, The Research Management System of French Space Industry and its Adjustment, Aerospace China, No. 7, 2007; Shen Shiguang, He Liping, Zhang Yu, An Analysis of the Foreign Aerospace Industry System under the Market Economy, Aerospace China, No. 10, 2006, p. 18.

⁴⁵ Li Shouping, Legal System of Liability of the Damage Caused by Space Objects under the Framework of the United Nations, Legal Times, No. 2, 2009, p. 90; Gao Guozhu, The State Responsibility of the Outer Space Activities, Global Law Review, No. 4, 2008, p. 22.

⁴⁶ Yun Zhao, The Setting of Outer Space Tourism Rules, Space Law Review, Vol. II & III, p. 19; Cai Gaoqiang, On the Legal Development of Space Tourism, ibid. p. 37.

⁴⁷ Haifeng Zhao & Nie Mingyan: Some Reflections about the Legal Regime of Lunar Exploitation, Heilongjiang Social Sciences, No.2, 2010.

commercialization of outer space activities,⁴⁸ protection of intellectual property rights in outer space⁴⁹ and the legislation and law of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization,⁵⁰ etc..

5. The creation of specialized journals of space law

Specialized journals of space law, as a platform for research and publication, have obvious great value. The practice has proved that it is a good platform of international exchange. The "Space Law Review," directed by Prof. Haifeng Zhao, established by Space Law Institute and the Law School at H.I.T. in 2006, is the first academic journal in the field of space law in China, three volumes of the Journal has been published, and the fourth volume is being edited. The editorial board members of the journal are Chinese and other countries' eminent space lawyers. It not only publishes the domestic author's works, but also the translated papers from space law experts' works of other countries; not only publishes academic papers, but also the latest documents of international and national space law, book reviews and case studies, as well as events on space law. Its publication gave a strong impetus to the research of space law in China, and has received much attention and praise from international law community at home and abroad, especially the space law community.

⁴⁸ Yun Zhao, International Space Management Office: the Management Model of Commercialization of Space Systems; Cai Gaoqiang, The Legal rules Regulating on the Commercialization of Outer Space Activities, both in *Space Law Review*, Vol. I, p. 10.

⁴⁹ Zheng Youde, The Intellectual Property Rights with Respect to the Outer Space Activities, Law, No. 11, 2006, p. 75; Zhengyoude, The Patent Protection for Inventions Used in Outer Space in China, *Intellectual Property*, No. 6, 2007 p. 31.

⁵⁰ Haifeng Zhao, Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization Convention, Proceedings of the Fiftieth Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space, AIAA Publications, 2008, pp.3-13; Haifeng Zhao, "Current Legal Status and Recent Developments in APSCO and Its Relevance to Pacific Rim Space Law and Activities", *Space Law Journal*, vol.35, Number 2. Winter 2009.

From 2009, the second space law journal *Chinese Year book of Space Law* has been edited by Prof. Li Shouping, director of Institute of Space Law at B.I.T..

6. The establishment of space law documentation centers

The space law documentation center, which has rich content and comprehensive information, is essential for outer space law teaching and research. Space Law Institute at H.I.T. is establishing a documentation center to contain information as comprehensive as possible, including important space law monographs, conference proceedings, Journals, legal documents, and electronic resources like Westlaw and Chinalawinfo database. In this regard, the Space Law Institute of B.I.T. also took a big pace. It has purchased a considerable number of monographs, essays, and all issues of *Space Law Journal*, *Annul of Air and Space Law*, etc.. It should be said that, in universities like H.I.T., BUAA, B.I.T., the financial support from them to Institutes of Space Law within the framework of 985, 211 or other projects laid a good foundation for the completion of the task.

7. The coordinating role of Chinese Institute of Space Law is strengthened

I once suggested that the Chinese Institute of Space Law and the Chinese Society of International Law should give full play to its role of coordination and guidance and hold national or international seminars relating to space law issues annually to promote the full development of outer space law research. In view that China started space research later and the overall situation is relatively lagging, holding seminars to gather national and even international academics to make research on important topics of space law will have a multiplied effect. After Law School at H.I.T. held its first national outer space law conference from August 31 to September 1 2006, in recent years the Chinese Institute of Space Law further enhances the cooperation with relevant universities, and has

made contribution in co-promoting the development of space law in China. In recent years, it held national conference on space law with Shenzhen University in 2007, with the Beijing Institute of Technology in 2008, and joint seminars with China University of Political Sciences and Law in 2007 and 2008, and with BUAA in 2009. It plays a very good coordinating role.⁵¹ National conference mechanism of Space Law has taken shape.

8. International Exchange have reached a high level

The international exchange on space law is particularly important. This is mainly due to the fact that the space law as an independent subject has a short history, its content is new with a prominent international nature. The international exchanges on space law have recently achieved outstanding results in China, in which Institute of Space Law at H.I.T., Air and Space Law Center of CUPSL, and Space Law Institute of B.I.T. are very active.

(1) The frequent invitation of eminent space law professors

In order to follow the international academic development, to build a platform for further cooperation, Institute of Space Law at H.I.T. has invited international space lawyers to give lectures since its inception. Since 2005, it has invited international eminent scholars from Italy, Germany, the United States, Japan, Korea, France, Canada, the Netherlands and other countries to give lectures, in which the Italian scholar, Prof. Marco Pedrazzi has come to give lectures three times, each time 24 hours in total; American Space Law expert Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz has come to give lectures three times too. Four scholars were also invited as visiting professors of the School of Law at H.I.T. Air and Space Law Center of CUPSL and the Institute of Space law of B.I.T. have invited space lawyers from several countries, too.

⁵¹ Qi Yongliang, An Review of the first 10 years' work of Chinese Institute of Space Law, *Space Law Review*, Vol. II & III, pp. 233-240.

(2) Participate actively in International Conference of Space Law

Overall, the situation of Chinese scholars participating in space law activities cannot match with China's position as one of the major space faring countries. For four consecutive years, Prof. Haifeng Zhao of Law School at H.I.T. has participated in annual international space law colloquium organized by IISL, written papers and given speeches at the meeting. He and Prof. Li Shouping will attend the Space Law Conference to be held in Brague in September 2010. Chinese scholars and experts should be more widely involved in such international conferences organized by international outer space law institutions and presented papers, to exchange ideas and thinking about space law, and to keep up with the new trend in the field.

International Institute of Space Law (IISL) was established in 1960, it is an authoritative and non-governmental organization on space law research. The organization is an integral part of International Astronautic Federation (IAF), but recently it has been registered in the Netherlands, possessing therefore with an independent legal personality. The main activity of the organization is to organize annual colloquium on international space law, at the same time and in the same place with the Congress of IAF held in different countries. In addition, the organization also organizes Manfred Laches Moot Court Competition for worldwide university students, and participates in organizing regional space law seminars. Currently, IISL has about 400 members from more than 40 countries. Leading organ of the Institute is composed of one president and two vice presidents, and more than 10 members of board of directors. The current president is Ms. Tanja Masson-Zwann, the deputy director of Institute of Air and Space Law of the University of Leiden, the Netherlands; one of the vice presidents is from the United States (Prof. Jonathan Galloway) and the other from Czech Republic (Prof. Dr.Vladimir Kopal); a

secretary (Ms. Corinne Contant Jorgenson) and a Treasurer (Prof. Stephan Hobe). Prof. He Qizhi, Chinese late Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was a member of board of directors of the IISL. At present, the other members from China are Su Wei, Huang Jiefang, Huang Huikang, Qi Yongliang, Ling Yan, Haifeng Zhao, Li Shouping, Sun Guorui, Yun Zhao. CISL is an institutional member of the IISL. Prof. Haifeng Zhao was elected as member of board of directors of IISL in September 2009 in the Assembly Meeting held in Korea. IISL held an international seminar once in Beijing in 2004, but among the participants were more technical staff than lawyers. IISL president and several members have visited China, who participated in conferences and gave lectures in different universities in China.⁵²

(3) Carrying out cooperation projects in the areas of the teaching and research

Prof. Haifeng Zhao at H.I.T. and Prof. Marco Pedrazzi of the University of Milan jointly published the Textbook of International Space Law in 2006. Prof. Haifeng Zhao, and Prof. Ling Yan of China University of Political Sciences and Law, and Prof. Gabrynowicz, director of the National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi, United States are jointly developing the new course of the United States commercial space law. At the same time, Prof. Haifeng Zhao also participates in the writing of the vol.3 of *Cologne Commentary of Space Law* organized by the Air and Space Law Institute at the University of Cologne and other organizations. A Sino-European panel on space law led by Prof.

⁵² Another important space law research institution is Space Law Committee of International Law Association. Most of the members of the Committee are composed of the eminent professors and experts from the members of the International Institute of Space Law, but very selective. The Committee is very active in the field of space law codification, it finished a number of scholars' proposed drafts of possible international legal instruments on the topics of manned flights, space debris, disputes settlement, etc, provided as reference of inter-governmental institutions, like UN COPUOS.

Stephon Hobe, director of Air and Space Law Institute of Cologne University and Prof. Haifeng Zhao was established in July 2009 in the framework of EU-China Social Forum, and this will make the annual exchange between the European and Chinese space lawyers possible. After the meeting of the heads of each side held in Paris in July 2009, the first exchange of the Sino-European panel of space law is scheduled in July 2010 in Harbin and then in Hong Kong. Because of the proposal and efforts of Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz, the students from H.I.T. and B.I.T. are going to attend a conference in Mississippi with students of the University of Mississippi in March 2010 for discussing the topics of space law.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER PROMOTION OF THE SPACE LAW TEACHING AND RESEARCH

As I have indicated above, Chinese space law teaching and research has made some achievements in recent years, and most of the ideas I raised for developing space law in China five years ago have been realized. However, there is still a need for greater attention on the following issues.

(A) Some Fundamental Research Work should be done

At present, several space law centers are taking research projects as the core of work, and gradually carrying out the space law research. However, the current research is still facing a series of problems, such as random selection of research projects and lack of systemic arrangements. When the time is mature, China should also organize the writing of high-level, systemic and complete space law textbooks, with maybe collective efforts from different centers of space law at different universities; publish more authoritative and comprehensive collections of international and national space laws and regulations; elaborate systemic and

authoritative interpretative works of space law instruments, like the Cologne Commentary of Space Law, so as to push the space law research to a more comprehensive and profound level.

(B) Working actively in setting up a Master of space law program

The comprehensive teaching and research of outer space law, especially the comprehensive research in the public and private aspects of space law are important measures to broadening the field of outer space law studies. China as a rapid developing space-faring country and the headquarter of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), starting a master's degree project on outer space law will be very necessary in the near future. The master's degree course can cover all areas of public and private outer space law, including all levels of international, regional and domestic law, and a combination of theory and practice. In this regard, the curriculum of the Master degree on Telecommunication and Space Law of the 11th University of Paris is very inspiring, and the training courses of the European Center of Space Law, particularly deserve to study and learn from. If for the reason of limits of discipline requirement, it cannot establish an independent master's degree for outer space law, it can also try to establish an air and space law master's degree (which is more commonly adopted), or establish a master degree of International Law program whose main direction of research is space law, to increase the proportion of space law courses.

(C) Space law research should connect more with space practice

It should be stressed that space law research must be for the legal aspects of major issues of national and international space technology and space applications, emphasizing its connection with Chinese diplomatic practice and the process of domestic legislation. And their results should provide reference for the decision-making or the elaboration of national

space legislation and international space regulations. Many countries attach great importance to this regard. The Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space holds annual meeting in March-April, government representatives discuss important issues and development of space law, and provide support to the international space legislation. In the annual meeting, many space law scholars attend the meeting with their national delegations, participate in the discussion of space law issues, and promote the development of space legislation. China should also attach great importance to this approach.⁵³ Meanwhile, in the process of drafting Chinese *Regulations on the Administration of Space Activities*, many scholars have been or are involved in research and discussion. However, to the space law research, it should stress further on this point, in order to achieve the contacts between theory with practice and academic research services for national development and world peace.

(D) Strengthen international cooperation in the field of space law

About the international cooperation of space law, it is necessary to continue to insist and develop extensive and regular cooperation with first-class foreign research institutions and first-class researchers, in order to strengthen space law capacity building. A few years ago I put forward that it is necessary to establish the Asia-Pacific Center for Space Law (APCSL) under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization.⁵⁴ Its functions and

⁵³ In April 2006, the director of Institute of Space Law at H.I.T., - Professor Haifeng Zhao, as a member of Chinese delegation, and the Legal Counsel, attended the annual meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN COPUOS.

⁵⁴ The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) is an intergovernmental cooperation organization, which is composed of Asia-Pacific regional countries (a State Party of APSCO must be a United Nations member state), has been formally established and started to operate since the end of 2008. The objectives of the Organization shall be to improve the capability of the Member States and

operation could base on the European Space Law Center and the International Institute of Space Law. It can take the form of summer course on space law and policy and practitioner's forum to carry out space law teaching and training for the teaching staff, legislators, judges, lawyers, the government officials, space agencies staff, as well as private sectors staff and students from Asia-Pacific Region, to promote the further development of regional space law teaching and research. At the same time, as the International Institute of Space Law, APCSL can play the role of legal adviser of APSCO, to promote the development of APSCO law, and even the national space law of member states.

CONCLUSION

In the development of Chinese space technology and space industry, with the efforts of people from the related institutions and agencies, we will soon see the flourish of space law teaching and research in China. Although there are still many difficulties ahead of us, we are confident on the bright future of Chinese space law teaching and research.

promote socio-economic sustainable development of each member state by developing multilateral cooperation among member states in the field of space science, space technology and its application, and by taking effective actions in assisting the member states in such areas as space technological research and development, space applications and training. APSCO's headquarter is located in Beijing. Its basic legal document is Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization Convention, the Chinese version of the Convention is published in *Space Law Review*, Vol. 1, pp. 254-265; English version is published in *Space Law Review*, Vol. 2-3 pp. 401-419. For the legal framework of the APSCO, see Haifeng Zhao, *Current Legal Status and Recent Developments of APSCO and Its Relevance to Pacific Rim Space Law and Activities*, *Journal of Space Law*, vol.35, Number 2. Winter 2009.