

**Workshop on  
“International Law and Peaceful Use of Outer Space”**

**hosted by the Space Law Institute, Harbin Institute of Technology**

**supported by China-Europa Forum**

**Background**

Given the menace to the peaceful use of outer space brought by military and para-military character of space activities, the international law shall pay a more essential role in safeguard the peace order of outer space and in promote the cooperation in space activities. Each year, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolutions on international cooperation in outer space activities has reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including relevant norms of space law, and has urged States that have not yet become parties to the treaties governing the use of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to them, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation. The need for the ratification and effective implementation of the five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space as well as the elaboration of national space laws and policies has become a priority for the increasing number of States participating in space activities. European states are for a long time stake holder in assuring the peaceful use of outer space and in the promotion of rule of law in outer space. With its significant and accelerating progress of outer space activities, China is becoming an important space faring nation while firmly adhere to the principle of peaceful use of outer space. The common objective shared by European States and China in maintaining peace and cooperation in outer space make the establishment of workshop on “international law and peaceful use of outer space” an event that marks the furthering of the collaboration between China and Europe in promoting the common interest of mankind in the high frontier of the human society. The support of China-Europa Forum will enhance the openness of the workshop by participation of legal professionals, scientists, practitioners and waste citizens in realizing common good in outer space exploration and exploitation.

**Objectives of the workshop**

The main objectives of the Workshop are:

- (a) to understand the connotation of common good in outer space exploration and exploitation in regard of the common challenges presented by those negative aspects of outer space activities, such as military purpose, privatization and environment risk, etc.
- (b) to conceive possible solutions to the common challenges in outer space activities on making emphasis on dialogue, collaboration and mutual assistance.
- (c) to promote understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space;
- (d) to promote exchange of information on national space laws and policies, for the benefit of professionals involved in the development and implementation of those policies;
- (e) to consider development of university level studies and programmes in space law, with a view to promoting national expertise and capability in this field.

## **Preliminary Programme of the Workshop**

The Space Law Institute of Harbin Institute of Technology will invite the most eminent scholars and practitioners in Europe and in China to constitute a high level workshop of long term existence.

A site web of the Workshop will be constructed and enriched in content. This web site will be a platform for dialogue of distance and sharing of information, ideas and experiences among the participants.

The Space Law Institute of Harbin Institute of Technology will graciously preside over the group session of Workshop to be held on 19 and 20 July 2009.

The Workshop, consisting of presentations and discussions, will consider the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space; national space laws, policies and institutions; other space-related legal issues, in view of deepening reflections on the common response to the common challenge of human kind.

## **Language of the Workshop**

Applicants must have a good knowledge of English and/or French, which will be the working language of the Workshop.

## **Prime mover**

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