

Air and Space Law Academy 2019 inaugurated at GNLU

Gandhinagar, Sep 04, 2019: The Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) inaugurated the 4th Edition of GNLU Air and Space Law Academy (GASLA). 4th Edition is organised in collaboration with the Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany from 4th – 10th September 2019.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Distinguished Guest of Honour – Mr Tapan Misra (Distinguished Scientist, Senior Advisor to Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation); Prof. (Dr.) Stephan Hobe, Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany and Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar (Director, GNLU).

Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar (Director, GNLU) highlighted the significance of Air and space law in the contemporary world. He pointed towards the fact that while we have seen recent instances of missing aircraft we have mission aimed at moon and mars. He felt that business competition is a contributory factor for recent crashes and there is a need for good laws to regulate the same.

Prof. (Dr.) Stephan Hobe, Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany highlighted the need to ensure continuous research in the field of Air and Space Law and continued collaboration between the two institutions.

Mr Tapan Misra (Distinguished Scientist, Senior Advisor to Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation) emphasized that technology is dangerous and require regulations to avoid its misuse. He said that India was first to use space technology for the benefit of the masses and credited Dr Vikram Sarabhai to envision the role of satellite communication in education through which proximity between teachers and taught is done away with. He pointed towards prevalence of use of terminology of shipping in aviation sector. He highlighted the existing and futuristic problems like weaponisation, the recent crime reported in the space, asteroid mining, debris creation through launch of small satellites and robotisation which require resolution through space law. He said that there is a need to look at space law from the perspective of human responsibility, which goes beyond law. He said, “I am personally against small satellites being launched by private enterprizes, students, etc. They are worsening the issue of debris piling up in the space and it will make space travel more dangerous in future.”

Spanned over seven days, GASLA aims to – acquaint participants with various aspects relating to safety and security of aviation and space activities; enhance understanding amongst the participants of the various principles enshrined in the international instruments meant for regulating air and space law; create awareness amongst participants about recent trends in civil aviation and the militarization and commercialization of outer space; enable the participants to understand the various dispute redressal mechanisms in air and space law and their efficacy; facilitate discourse amongst stakeholders within the industry about practical challenges and the feasibility of implementing regulations and policies in the air space and outer space.



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

The expert resource persons for the academy include - Prof. (Dr.) Stephan Hobe (Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, University of Cologne, Germany); Prof. WianErlank (Associate Professor, Law Faculty, North-West University, Potchefstroom); Prof. (Dr.) V. Balakista Reddy (Registrar, NALSAR, Hyderabad); Dr. V. Gopalakrishnan (Policy Analyst, Indian Space Research Organisation); Dr. RanjanaKaul (Partner, Dua Associates); Prof. SandeepaBhat (Professor of Law, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata); WC KK Nair (Rtd.); Mr. Kumar Abhijeet (Assistant Professor of Law, NLSIU, Bangalore); Dr. DivyaTyagi (Assistant Professor of Law, GNLU); Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda (Dispute Resolution Counsel & Aviation Attorney, Supreme Court of India).

The participants in the Academy include officials from Indian Air Force, Indian Space Research Organisation, faculty members, Research Scholars and students from various Universities across India. Academy will provide a platform for various stakeholders to understand the intricacies of contemporary issues and to share different perspectives.

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