

Space Law Across Borders: Comparative Frameworks in the United States, India, Japan, and South Korea

Date: Thursday 4 September 2025 – 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM

Venue: George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs and The GW Law School
Lindner Commons, 6th Floor
1957 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Description

This event explores how India, Japan, and South Korea are shaping their national space laws in comparison with the United States. Rather than implying a unified "Asian approach," the discussion will highlight the distinct legal traditions, strategic priorities, and international obligations that influence each country's framework. The session will examine how these regimes align with the global space treaties and other international agreements.

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 AM	Registration
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Welcome remarks Prof. Henry Hertzfeld , GW/ESIA Space Policy Institute Prof. Rosa Celorio , Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies, GW Law School
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Introductory remarks by Stefan Samse , Director of KAS RLPA
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	Panel discussion — Presentations & comparative commentary by Dr. Ranjana Kaul , Dr. Nayoung Yoon , and Mr. Shimpei Ishido , followed by audience Q&A
10 minute break to walk to Law School	Adjourn to Lunch Venue: GW Law School, 5 th Floor, Burns Hall Faculty Conference Center
12:10 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch and Keynote by Mr. Gabriel Swiney

Speakers

Dr. Ranjana Kaul



Partner, Dua Associates, New Delhi, India

Dr. Ranjana Kaul is a leading space law expert and Partner at Dua Associates, New Delhi. She specializes in the UN space treaties regime, national implementation of international obligations, and the Intersection of space law with national security, commercial ventures, and sustainable development. Dr. Kaul was elected as Vice-President on the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) in Paris, is a National Advisory Committee member of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), and is the Founding Secretary-General of Spaceport Sarabhai (S2), India's only independent space-focused think tank. She is also the Chair of the Space Law and Policy Committee Satellite Industries Association (SIA INDIA). She holds an LLM from McGillUniversity's Institute of Air & Space Law and actively advises emerging space companies on policy, IPR, technology transfer, and dispute resolution.

Mr. Shimpei Ishido



Partner, Nishimura & Asahi, Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Shimpei Ishido is a partner at Nishimura & Asahi with extensive expertise in international investment law and public international law, including space law. He serves as a member of Japan's delegation to UNCITRAL Working Group III and is the Chairperson of the Space Law Study Group at the Dai-Ichi Tokyo Bar Association. Shimpei's practice spans investor-state dispute settlement, international trade remedies, economic sanctions, and advising governments and corporations on legal issues related to space resources exploration. He lectures at Kobe University Graduate School of Law and has published widely on investment arbitration and the legal frameworks for space business.

Dr. Nayoung Youn

Senior Researcher, Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), Republic of Korea



Dr. Nayoung Youn is a senior researcher at KARI's Strategy and Planning Directorate, where she analyzes international space legal and political issues including the LTS guidelines, space resources, Space Traffic Management, and GNSS policy. She actively contributes to South Korea's multilateral and bilateral space dialogues and has experience with the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), UNOOSA, and international technical negotiations. Nayoung holds Doctor degree in space law from the University of Cologne, obtain advanced LL.M. from Leiden University's International Institute of Air & Space Law, and another LL.M. from Keio University.

Mr. Gabriel Swiney

Director, Policy, Advocacy, and International Division, Office of Space Commerce NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce



Mr. Gabriel Swiney is the Director of the Office of Space Commerce's Policy, Advocacy, and International Division. He comes to OSC from NASA, where he was a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy. While at NASA, he worked on norms of behavior, legal policy, and the interagency authorization and supervision effort. Prior to NASA, Mr. Swiney was an Attorney Adviser in the State Department's legal bureau. He led the international space law portfolio at State and the U.S. delegation to the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee. Mr. Swiney was one of the creators of the Artemis Accords and has participated in the negotiation of dozens of space cooperation arrangements. Before focusing on space issues, Mr. Swiney worked on the use of force, sanctions, and Africa legal issues at State. He holds law degrees from Harvard and Oxford, has taught space policy and law at Harvard Law School, and has published on a range of issues.