1. Background and Objectives

This is a newly established working group dedicated to space policy and law under the APRSAF. APRSAF has initiated new efforts on space policy community building from 2017 in responding to a growing need for space policy and law in the region. It has been providing various opportunities for information sharing and networking among space policy and law experts and practitioners in the region, such as Space Policy Plenary Session, Inter-regional Space Policy Dialogue between Asia-Pacific and Europe (co-organized APRSAF and European Space Policy Institute), and Space Policy Practitioners Workshop. Furthermore, the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI), the first APRSAF initiative in the field of space policy and law, was launched in 2019 to provide joint work opportunities among space policy practitioners in the region. Building on the experience of NSLI, this space policy and law working group was established in 2021 according to the recommendation from the NSLI Study Group.

This working group aims to enhance the capacity in space policy and law of each country, acknowledging that space technology and space policy and law are inseparable pairs in respect to space related activities. This working group covers information sharing and mutual learning on the practice of policy and law in each country and the policy options toward common regional issues. This working group also discusses global issues as a contribution from the region, such as ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities and the stable use of outer space. (from the WG Charter)

2. SPLWG Program Structure and Concept

This is the first meeting of the SPLWG. The SPLWG is organized and held by the Organizing Committee led by the lead session organizer in Japan, JAXA, together with the lead local host organizer, VNSC for APRSAF-27 (Currently, APRSAF-27 Organizing Committee are formed among representatives from JAXA, VNSC, CAO/Japan, The University of Tokyo, MEXT/Japan, and VAST/Vietnam).

The SPLWG program consists mainly of sessions contributed by host country (Japan and local host organizations, i.e., ministries, space agencies, academia) and sessions and presentations selected from open call. For the SPLWG meeting at APRSAF-27, five sessions will be organized by host country organizations. Draft Concept and session organizer of the SPLWG for APRSAF-27 is given below. Regarding the open call sessions and presentations, the Organizing Committee called for proposal to be submitted by August 20 and received two session proposals and two presentation proposals. All proposals are accepted and are subject to coordination by the Committee to incorporate them into the WG program.

Tentative session concept contributed by host country organizations:

- **Recent Developments in Space Policy and Law in the Asia-Pacific (JAXA)**
  
  **Concept:** In this session, a couple of presentations on newly established national space policies and laws in the Asia-Pacific countries are introduced by policy and law practitioners in the region. There will be a short Q&A slot for each presentation.

- **Experience of NSLI and the Way Forward (JAXA)**
  
  **Concept:** This will be a panel session participated by the two Co-Chairs and representatives of 9 NSLI participating states. Following the introduction of NSLI and its results by Vietnam Co-chair, and comments
from the Japan Co-Chair regarding UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee (LSC) perspectives, panelists will discuss the main findings of the NSLI report followed by Q&A from the floor.

- **Policy logics in Asia-Pacific (The University of Tokyo)**

  **Concept:** The goal of this session is to describe the current space policy landscape in Asia-Pacific and reflect on the main characteristics of an “Asian approach to space policy,” dominated by a logic of technology. After a keynote introducing the “policy logics” framework and the historical evolution of selected space powers, there will be a panel discussion among space policy scholars from Asia-Pacific region to discuss and analyse the current and prospective trajectory of selected Asian space powers based on the “policy logics” framework and consider solutions to overcome the excessive focus on technology development.

- **The role of universities in regional space capacity development (The University of Tokyo)**

  **Concept:** This session discusses the role of universities in regional space capacity development and the contribution of academic cooperation to foster or strengthen diplomatic and industrial relations. After an introduction of the session theme and related research conducted at The University of Tokyo, a panel attended by space policy scholars from Asia-Pacific will investigate the role of universities in the development and sustainability of selected Asian space powers, with emphasis on academic collaborations between advanced and emerging space powers.

- **Space Sustainability (Cabinet Office of Japan)**

  **Concept:** This session aims to share and exchange views on the challenges facing Asia-Pacific countries to ensure the sustainability of outer space activity, acknowledging the expanding space activities of emerging space faring nations in this region. This session will be opened by a couple of presentations made by experts from international organization, industry, and academia in addition to representatives from governments and/or space agencies of this region, followed by a roundtable discussion among the presenters, and then open the floor to questions and answers. The topics may cover broad range of aspects, from legal, political, scientific, economic, and any other point of views, regardless of any orbital settings of LEO, GEO, or deep space.

  Note: The above session concepts are tentative. Session title, topics and structure may change subject to future consideration and coordination.

**Tentative agenda for the first meeting of the SPLWG**

**Date:** November 30 - December 1, 2021, 10:00 - 15:00 (Vietnam Time)

- **Opening session:**
  Remarks from WG Co-chairs and Organizing Committee Chair

- **Sessions contributed by host country:**
  - Recent Developments in Space Policy and Law in the Asia-Pacific
  - Experience of NSLI and the Way Forward
  - Policy logics in Asia-Pacific
  - The role of universities in regional space capacity development
  - Space Sustainability

- **Open call sessions and/or individual presentation session (depending on confirmation of participation and coordination)**
Closing Session:
- Summary report of WG including Session Summary report from Session Chairs,
- Remarks from the Co-Chairs, Planning for the next meeting.