

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
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Author: Mr. Scott Schneider
Australia, scott.schneider@community.isunet.edu

Ms. Aniela Barug
International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands,
anielabarug@hotmail.com

Mr. Wataru Inagaki
International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands,
wataru.inagaki1224@gmail.com

Ms. Dimitra Stefoudi
Leiden University, The Netherlands, d.stefoudi@law.leidenuniv.nl

Ms. Tanja Masson-Zwaan
International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands,
t.l.masson@law.leidenuniv.nl

LEIDEN LL.M. STUDENTS AND THE LEGAL AND POLICY ASPECTS OF SPACE RESOURCE
UTILIZATION

Abstract

The International Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL) at Leiden University in The Netherlands has offered its Master of advanced studies in air and space law since 2000. Each year, students from all over the world join this program and engage in an intense year of studies as a highly diverse group in terms of geography, gender, age and background. Since a few years, the topic of legal and policy aspects of space resource utilization (SRU) forms a prominent part of the teaching program and is run during several consecutive days of teaching activities. After an introductory overview of scientific aspects of SRU is given by an expert in this field, an in-depth overview of relevant provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1979 Moon Agreement is given. This is followed by an introduction to the work of the Hague International Space Resource Governance Working Group and the set of 20 'Building Blocks' it adopted in November 2019. Finally, an interactive class exercise is held, whereby three groups of students debate several questions from different perspectives and report back to the full class. Because students are encouraged to get into the skin of various stakeholders, they come up with interesting and original views that can form a useful contribution to the international debate on this topic. In this paper, the staff and students of the IIASL will explain and assess the interactive and multi-faceted educational method that was used, and present the students' views on the questions they discussed and what the outcome of their discussions was.