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International Cooperation in Asia and Europe

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International Cooperation in Asia and Europe

The Obama Administration put forward a new focus on international cooperation that is more multilateral, where the U.S. listens to friends and allies, but where friends and allies are expected to bear their fair share of the burden. Panelists in this session identified four factors important to foster space cooperation: (1) cooperation must be credible in that there is political will and the proposed cooperation offers something of value to each partner; (2) the collaborative arrangements should demonstrate a cost (burden to be accomplished) and benefit (value) to each partner; (3) cooperation should build national capacity; and (4) cooperation should be based on open communications between the partners.

The focus of this session was on the issue of international space cooperation regarding Japan and South East Asia, and on space security cooperation between Europe and the U.S. Also, India and Australia were identified as important space powers in regard to space cooperation in Asia, given Australia's cooperation with the U.S. on the Wide-Ban Global Satellite Communications System (WGS) and the evolving Indian-U.S. strategic relationship.

Japan

The Japanese perspective on international space cooperation is framed by new approaches to space diplomacy in Japan and by the reform of Japanese space organizations. First, in regard to space diplomacy, the new Japanese Basic Law for Space Activities was established in May 2008 and enforced in August of the same year. According to the Basic Law, a new Minister and a new

Strategic Headquarters were established for space activities. And in June of 2009, the Strategic Headquarters announced the new Japanese Basic Plan for Space Activities.

Since launching sounding rockets to support the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957-1958, Japan has promoted international space cooperation. Actually, Japan realized various kinds of international space programs

*...Japan
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countries.*

with the United States, Europe, Canada, Russia, and Asian-Pacific countries. However, Japanese space activities have not been linked with diplomatic policies. This is the case because Japan has had no coordination

between its space and diplomatic policies. The new Basic Plan stipulates that Japan should advance both "space activities for diplomacy" and "diplomacy for space activities."

Space activities for diplomacy imply the use of space to accomplish diplomatic purposes. For example, Japan could take better advantage for this end with the International Space Station program, with the Asia-Pacific Disaster Management Support System through the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, and with the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization.¹

¹The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, under the initiative of Japan, is an agency-level forum to promote regional space utilization. The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, under the initiative of China, is an intergovernmental organization to promote collaborative space programs. Although the two organizations are different, it was noted during this panel that there is the need for Japan to dialogue with China about compatibility between regional cooperative space efforts in the near future.

In the area of diplomacy for space activities, Japan could make better use of Official Development Assistance to help develop countries through space cooperation. By offering assistances and services through its advanced space science and technology capabilities, Japan can promote human security in developing countries. Japan could also be more active in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament to promote diplomacy for space activities.

Galileo. Also, the European Space Agency (ESA) is beginning to make contributions to the space component of common European defense and security, and recently adopted programs that deal with security, like SSA for example. In the SSA area, Europe is seeking to develop autonomous systems and to contribute with those systems to global SSA capability. U.S. military leaders are supportive of these European initiatives.

United States – European Space Security Cooperation

Space and security cooperation between Europe and the U.S. is limited given differences in priorities, capabilities, resources, and differences at the normative level. Nevertheless, a window of opportunity for transatlantic space cooperation between Europe and the U.S. exists – there is a need to address the global context of space internationally, and there exist opportunities for building military space cooperation in areas of operational management, space debris, rules of road, and codes of conduct.

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Furthermore, security and defense are a re-affirmed priority at the European level. The limited use of space for security was part of the past trend in Europe due to the lack of integration across national-based security approaches. This is now changing with role of the European Union (EU) and the European Defense Agency (EDA) in space activities, and programs, such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and