

# **SPACE RESOURCES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS ON CELESTIAL OBJECTS: NEW FRONTIERS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLITICS (18 April 2024)**

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Essentially built upon a series of international agreements signed between 1960s and 1980s, for most of its existence, international space law has gained renewed traction more recently, particularly with an increase in private actors' participation in space activities since the turn of the century.

In response to this pressing matter, City University of Hong Kong Law School convened a lecture featuring esteemed speaker, Dr. Güneş Ünüvar from the University of Luxembourg. Dr. Ünüvar, a member of the Board of Directors of the NGO Moon Village Association (MVA) as its Legal Advisor, brought a wealth of knowledge and unique perspectives to the speech. Serving as the discussant for this enlightening session was Prof. Chen YU, while Prof. Meng Fang guided the symposium's proceedings with finesse and expertise.

In a captivating presentation led by Dr. Güneş Ünüvar, the intricate tapestry of legal frameworks guiding humanity's foray into space was illuminated. Dr. Ünüvar navigated the complexities of international agreements, spotlighting the pivotal role of the Outer Space Treaty established in 1967. This foundational document, alongside subsequent agreements like the Moon Agreement and the Principle of

Non-Appropriation, lays the groundwork for collaborative space exploration while addressing crucial issues such as resource ownership and exploitation rights. With initiatives such as the Artemis Accords and the International Lunar Resources Agreement (ILRS) shaping the trajectory of space governance, Dr. Ünüvar emphasized the pressing need for a balanced and equitable framework as humanity ventures into the uncharted realms of the cosmos.

During the culminating Q&A session, Prof. Chen YU sparked vibrant interaction with the audience, cultivating a dynamic exchange of ideas. Her incisive inquiries and astute responses elevated the symposium, offering participants a profound exploration of the intricate nuances surrounding space resources and property rights.

As the symposium reached its conclusion, the profound insights shared by Dr. Güneş Ünüvar and the engaging discussions led by Prof. Chen YU left participants with a deepened understanding of the intricate intersections of international law and politics in the realm of space exploration and utilization. Under the adept moderation of Prof. Meng FANG, the event concluded on a high note, marking a significant step forward in our collective exploration of the legal frameworks shaping human activities beyond Earth's atmosphere.



Dr. Güneş Ünüvar



Prof. Chen YU



Prof. Meng FANG