



Daniel K. Inouye
Asia-Pacific Center for
Security Studies

Senior Security Studies Course

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Strategic Studies Center,
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Institute

Topic Overview

INDO-PACIFIC SPACE DIPLOMACY

Dr. Alfred Oehlers and Lt Col Shannon Vinson

Overview

The strategic importance of space is increasingly recognized by nations in the Indo-Pacific. Space is a key domain with applications affecting nearly every aspect of human life. For many countries, space offers crucial pathways to technological advancement and economic development. Space, in addition, holds vital significance to national security. Reflecting this multifaceted significance, space will increasingly be an issue to be discussed and debated in the international arena. The resolution of differences and search for common ground to protect space as a commons accessible to all nations, will require skillful diplomacy. This presentation will provide an introductory overview to the significance of space, the challenges and opportunities for cooperation, and the range of diplomatic arrangements in the Indo-Pacific that might be harnessed for building multinational consensus.

Objectives

- Provide an introductory overview of the strategic significance of space to the Indo-Pacific.
- Highlight the challenges but also opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration in space.
- Outline a range of diplomatic arrangements that might be harnessed to advance space cooperation and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific.

Recommended Readings

Goswami, N. (2019), "China Has a Head Start in the New Space Race", *The Diplomat*, May 29.
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National Air and Space Intelligence Center (2018), *Competing in Space*, December.

<https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/16/2002080386/-1/-1/1/190115-F-NV711-0002.PDF>

Sarma, N. (2019), *Southeast Asian Space Programmes: Capabilities, Challenges and Collaborations*, Observer Research Foundation, 7 March.

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/southeast-asian-space-programmes-capabilities-challenges-collaborations-48799/>

Secure World Foundation (2020), *Space Policy and Sustainability*, December, Washington D.C.

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Starling, C., Massa, M., Mulder, C. and Siegel, J. (2021), *The Future of Security in Space*, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, The Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C.

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Wilson, R., Gleason, M., Patel, M. and Riesbeck, L. (2020), *The Value of Space*, Center for Space Policy and Strategy, May, Washington D.C.

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