

Webinar

The 'Final Frontier' of Private Law: Space Assets, Legal Certainty, and Dispute Resolution

 19 AUG 2026 18:30 – 19:30 (GMT+8)

The commercial space economy is entering a new phase. Satellites, launch capacity, spectrum access, orbital slots, remote-sensing data, and in-orbit services are increasingly treated as investable and revenue-generating assets. Yet the legal infrastructure has not kept pace. Existing international frameworks largely address State responsibility, object registration, liability, and frequency coordination. They do not provide a comprehensive private-law system for recording ownership, leases, security interests, priority, enforcement rights, or insolvency treatment. This gap creates uncertainty for financiers, operators, insurers, investors, and future dispute-resolution bodies.

This webinar will explain the present legal architecture of commercial space activities and identify where its private-law gaps lie. It will draw on latest developments in legal frameworks and initiatives to illustrate the broader global trend, and consider possible institutional responses, including whether a registry, finance framework, or dispute-resolution platform could help make commercial space assets more legally certain and financeable.

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Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL)

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Moderator



Adrian Lai JP

*Deputy Secretary-General and Co-Convenor of the Advisory Board
Asian Academy of International Law*

*Barrister
Des Voeux Chambers*

Adrian is a practising barrister, arbitrator, accredited mediator and certified public accountant. He is instructed as Counsel in a wide range of civil contentious matters, with particular focuses on arbitration, professional negligence and disciplinary matters. He sits as arbitrator – sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator or presiding arbitrator – in international commercial arbitrations conducted under various rules including those of HKIAC, CIETAC, ICC and UNCITRAL. He is named on the panels of many arbitral bodies. In addition to international commercial arbitrations, he has also participated in investor-State arbitrations and State-to-State arbitrations. Adrian is a designated national correspondent of China to the UNCITRAL, reporting on the Hong Kong SAR's implementation of the New York Convention and the UNCITRAL Model Law (as adopted in the Arbitration Ordinance). He also sits on the Advisory Committee on Promotion of Arbitration of the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong SAR. Adrian has keen academic interest in international law, which is beneficial to his handling of cases involving points of international law. In his capacity as the Deputy Secretary General of Asian Academy of International Law, Adrian participates as an observer in the work of the UNCITRAL Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform.

Speaker



Gallant Guo

*Research Associate
Asian Academy of International Law*

Gallant is a dual-qualified legal professional, admitted as a Solicitor in Hong Kong and holding the PRC Legal Profession Qualification. He serves as a Research Associate at Asian Academy of International Law, where he assists with ongoing research projects, supports the preparation of research-based programmes, and contributes to the analytical work and project development of international law. Gallant also practices as an Independent Tribunal Secretary, handling complex, cross-border commercial and treaty arbitrations in both English and Chinese. His robust disputes practice spans high-value cases in energy, infrastructure, technology, and digital assets. He previously gained extensive practical experience training in the disputes team at Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, representing multinational corporations and state-owned enterprises in commercial litigation and international arbitrations, including HKIAC proceedings. An active contributor to the field, Gallant has also served as a contributor to the prestigious ICCA Yearbook Commercial Arbitration (China) since 2022.