

East Asian Space Diplomacy: Navigating International Relations in Orbit

Space Diplomacy · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which two East Asian nations recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for enhanced cooperation in space exploration, including initial agreements on space weather monitoring and sharing ground station facilities?

A) South Korea and Japan

B) China and Taiwan

C) North Korea and South Korea

D) Japan and Taiwan

2. South Korea's newly established Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) has been actively seeking international partnerships. Which European space agency did KASA sign an MOU with in late 2024 to enhance cooperation in peaceful uses of space?

A) European Space Agency (ESA)

B) UK Space Agency (UKSA)

C) French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES)

D) German Aerospace Center (DLR)

3. Taiwan's space program, revitalized since 2020, is strengthening international ties. Which country is Taiwan's primary partner for space cooperation, with recent legislative efforts aimed at deepening this relationship?

A) United States

B) Japan

C) South Korea

D) Singapore

4. North Korea's space program, regulated by the National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA), has recently engaged in significant international collaboration. With which major global power has North Korea been cooperating on space industry matters since 2023?

A) Russia

B) China

C) Iran

D) Syria

5. China's commercial space sector is rapidly expanding, with a recent launch of the Gravity-1 carrier rocket from waters off Shandong province. This launch successfully deployed multiple satellites, highlighting the growing role of private companies in China's space capabilities. Which of the following is a key Chinese commercial rocket firm that has developed a methalox engine, drawing international attention?

- A) LandSpace
- B) Galactic Energy**
- C) CASC
- D) OneSpace

6. Japan is enhancing its defense capabilities and international military cooperation, including in space-related areas. Which major joint military exercise, involving US forces and other allies, saw Japanese combat troops participate for the first time in 2026?

- A) Balikatan**
- B) RIMPAC
- C) Cope North
- D) Cobra Gold

7. The Taiwan Space Agency (TASA) aims to become a space power. Besides the United States, which other East Asian nation is a key partner for Taiwan in strengthening its space ambitions and international cooperation?

- A) Japan**
- B) South Korea
- C) Singapore
- D) Vietnam

8. South Korea's Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) has outlined ambitious goals, including landing homegrown spacecraft on the Moon by 2032 and Mars by 2045. KASA also aims to become one of the top five leading space agencies. Which of the following is a key strategic initiative prioritized by KASA that aims to reduce reliance on foreign navigation systems?

- A) Korean Positioning System (KPS)**
- B) Lunar Exploration Program
- C) Reusable Launch Vehicles
- D) Space Weather Monitoring

9. North Korea's National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA) has highlighted the legitimacy of space development under international law. Which project, jointly pursued by China and Russia, was recently cited by North Korean media as an example of growing global momentum in space development?

A) International Lunar Research Station

- B) Tiangong Space Station
- C) Chang'e Lunar Program
- D) China Space Station Collaboration

10. China's space diplomacy is expanding its geopolitical footprint, particularly in the Global South. Which African country is described as China's most comprehensive space partner, ranking second globally in the China Space Cooperation Index?

A) Egypt

- B) Ethiopia
- C) Namibia
- D) Kenya

11. Taiwan's Space Development Act and the creation of the Taiwan Space Agency (TASA) signify a push towards becoming a space power. What is a primary focus for Taiwan's space program, aiming to enhance national security and economic growth?

A) Developing LEO communication satellites

- B) Expanding semiconductor technology
- C) Investing in asteroid mining
- D) Establishing a space tourism industry

12. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) has played a role in regional space cooperation. Which Southeast Asian nation's space science development has been supported by Japan's ODA, including the opening of a national space center in March 2026?

A) Vietnam

- B) Thailand
- C) Indonesia
- D) Malaysia

13. In 2023, North Korea successfully launched its first military spy satellite, Malligyong-1, with reported aid from Russia. What was the primary stated purpose of this satellite?

A) Military reconnaissance of U.S. and South Korean military movements

- B) Weather forecasting for agricultural purposes
- C) Scientific research on atmospheric conditions
- D) Monitoring international maritime traffic

14. The European Space Agency (ESA) has an existing cooperation agreement with a South Korean research institute that predates the formation of KASA. Which institute is this?

A) Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)

- B) Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute
- C) Korea Institute of Science and Technology
- D) National Research Foundation of Korea

15. China is preparing for major breakthroughs in space exploration, including the launch of Chang'e 7. What is the primary objective of the Chang'e 7 mission?

A) Exploring the Moon's south pole for water ice

- B) Establishing a permanent base on Mars
- C) Deploying a new generation of Earth observation satellites
- D) Testing advanced propulsion systems for deep space travel

16. South Korea's Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) is aiming to become a leading space agency. Besides developing advanced rockets like KSLV-III, what is a key long-term goal for KASA regarding celestial bodies?

A) Landing homegrown spacecraft on the Moon and Mars

- B) Establishing a lunar mining operation
- C) Launching a deep-space telescope
- D) Sending a crewed mission to Jupiter

17. Taiwan's space agency, TASA, is leveraging its strengths in manufacturing. Which U.S. agency is expected to deepen cooperation with TASA through the NASA Reauthorization Act, enhancing space partnership?

A) NASA and NOAA

- B) US Space Force
- C) Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- D) Department of Defense (DoD)

18. Japan's recent defense policy shifts include expanding its space-related military units and easing restrictions on arms exports. This move has drawn criticism from which neighboring country, citing concerns about remilitarization?

A) China

- B) North Korea
- C) South Korea
- D) Russia

19. North Korea revised its Space Development Law in 2022. What significant change was made regarding the purpose of space development?

A) Removed commitment to only peaceful uses and added national defense capabilities

B) Increased focus on international scientific collaboration

C) Prohibited all military applications of space technology

D) Mandated cooperation with the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

20. China's domestic satellite navigation system, BeiDou, is aiming to expand its global influence. What is a key application mentioned for the BeiDou Navigation Satellite Network, beyond navigation?

A) Driving innovation in AI and autonomous driving

B) Facilitating international space tourism

C) Enhancing deep-sea exploration technology

D) Supporting global climate change research