



AALCO LECTURE SERIES

Second lecture on the topic “The Role of International Law in Diplomacy - and Vice Versa” delivered by H. E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India, on Tuesday, 23rd February 2010, at the Headquarters of AALCO.

The second lecture of the AALCO Lecture Series was held on 23rd February 2010 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi on the topic “The Role of International Law in Diplomacy - and Vice Versa”. The lecture was delivered by H. E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India. The lecture was attended by Dr. Ram Jethmalani, Former Union Law Minister of India and Leading lawyer; Ambassadors/High Commissioners of several countries in New Delhi, which include, Malaysia, Angola, Italy, Finland, Paraguay, Denmark, Poland, Netherlands, and Mozambique; Diplomats of several Member States and Non-Member States of AALCO, Officials and academia.

H.E. Prof. Rahmat bin Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO in his introductory remarks welcomed the speakers and the audience and highlighted the significance of the lecture series to make AALCO as a platform for discussion on matters pertinent to international law and relations among the diplomatic and academic community in New Delhi. Ambassador Eiriksson in his lecture made an excellent presentation on the role of international law in diplomacy and vice versa citing many case studies such as, invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and subsequent invasion of Iraq by the coalition forces, war on terrorism, Nicaragua case, legality of nuclear weapons etc. in this context, he also briefly covered the attitude of the developing countries in this lecture. Dr. M. Gandhi, Director, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India was the discussant and gave insightful comments on the lecture. Many thought provoking questions and comments were made by the participants. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO proposed a vote of thanks. The lecture was a successful event and AALCO plans to organize many such lectures in the future.

Ambassador Eiriksson has a distinguished career to his credit. He was a Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea from 1996 to 2002 and was a member of the United Nations International Law Commission from 1987 to 1996. He was appointed as the first Chairman of the Icelandic National Committee on International Humanitarian Law (2008). In the field of academics, he was a Lecturer at the University of Iceland from 1987 to 1996 and a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law from 1994 to 1995. He was Director of International Law and Human Rights Studies and Dean for Cooperative Programmes at the University for Peace in Costa Rica from 2001 to 2003 and Professor and Head of the Department of International Law and Human Rights from 2005 to 2008.