

Hon. Mr. Rauff Hakeem, the Minister of Justice of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the President of AALCO visits the AALCO Headquarters on 24 January 2012

At the invitation of Prof Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary General of Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO), headquartered in New Delhi, Minister of Justice Rauff Hakeem is visited India from 23-27 January 2012 in his capacity as the current President of AALCO. It is customary for the Presidents of AALCO to visit the headquarters of the organization during their tenure.

The Minister of Justice met the Secretary General and other officials of AALCO on 24 January 2012 where a range of legal and other issues of common interest for Asian and African nations were discussed. High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India Prasad Kariyawasam accompanied the Minister at these meetings.



Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka seated on the left, The Minister in the Centre and Secretary-General of AALCO on the right

Addressing the New Delhi based Liaison Officers of AALCO, he thanked AALCO for the opportunity provided to Sri Lanka to host the milestone 50th Annual Session of the Organisation in Colombo in June 2011. Sri Lanka, is among one of the seven founding members of the AALCO and has the unique honour of chairing the newly constituted Eminent Persons Group of AALCO. Describing AALCO's contribution in the international legal arena as groundbreaking, Minister Hakeem referred to the law of the sea, concept of archipelagic states, Bangkok Principles on treatment of stateless persons and refugees, law related to trafficking of women and children, as areas in which AALCO's contribution has been substantial. He flagged some of the present challenges such as climate change, WTO related issues, Intellectual Property Rights, international terrorism, piracy and cyber crime where further deliberations are needed.



The Minister of Justice on the podium, seated are Ambassador Sudhir T Devare, Director General of Indian Council of World Affairs on the left, Prof. Upendra Baxi in the center and Secretary-General of AALCO on the right

Minister Hakeem addressed a well attended gathering of New Delhi based diplomats, academics and scholars at a Seminar organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs, a pioneer Indian Think Tank, on the topic “Right to Protect : Asian & African Perspectives” at the prestigious Sapru House in New Delhi on 24 January 2012.