

**Remarks by Ambassador Luo Zhaohui at the
Donation Ceremony of Office Equipment by the
Chinese Government to Asian-African Legal
Consultative Organization**

(AALCO Secretariat, 20 April 2018)

Your Excellency Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn, Secretary
General of AALCO,

Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Division of Legal and
Treaties, MEA

Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

Today it is my great pleasure to donate a batch of office
equipment to AALCO on behalf of the Chinese Government.
Hopefully, the new air conditioners would help you refreshed
and cool off on a blistering summer day.

This donation shows the Chinese Government and people's
support to the work of AALCO and its Secretariat. As a senior
jurist, Dr. Gastorn has been devoted to increasing AALCO's

activity, visibility and influence since he took office as Secretary General. We want to thank Dr. Gastorn for a great job he's done. Our thanks also go to the newly appointed Deputy Secretary General Madame Wang Liyu from China for her efforts to facilitate the donation process.

AALCO is quite unique, because it is the only inter-governmental legal organization in the world that covers Asia and Africa. AALCO is very important, because it is a platform for Asian and African countries to participate in international legal cooperation and reflect the aspirations and common interests of developing countries. AALCO is full of expectation, because it inherits and develops the Bandung Spirit of "solidarity, friendship and cooperation", and plays an active role in promoting world peace and development as well as fairness and justice.

China has offered strong support to the work of AALCO since China became its Member State 35 years ago. First, intellectual support. China has nominated one Secretary General and four Deputy Secretaries General to AALCO so far.

Second, host annual session. The 54th AALCO Annual Session was successfully held in Beijing in 2015 when Premier Li Keqiang attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Third, capability building. The China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law funded by the Chinese Government has been held 3 times. The 4th session will be held in Beijing and Hong Kong this September. Fourth, offer more assistance within our ability. The Chinese government has provided financial support for the 56th AALCO Annual Session and seminars co-hosted by AALCO and other international organizations. We look forward to closer cooperation with AALCO and are willing to play an active role in expanding AALCO's influence.

Dear friends,

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up. China owes its success to the world. A year ago in the small town of Davos, Switzerland, President Xi Jinping called for determined efforts to develop global free trade and

investment, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the opening up, and oppose protectionism in a clear-cut manner. President Xi also pointed out that we should uphold multilateralism, safeguard the authority and effectiveness of multilateral institutions, and build a fair and equitable governance model. Recently, the US initiates Section 301 investigation against China. In this context, President Xi's proposals stand more prominent rather than dilute.

In the recent concluded Boao Forum for Asia, President Xi announced that China's door to the outside would not shut but only open wider, and proclaimed significant measures for China's further opening-up. The Belt and Road Initiative was put forward 5 years ago. Since then, it has become the largest international cooperation platform in line with the trend of economic globalization. The Belt and Road Initiative originated from China, but its opportunities and achievements belong to the world.

Most of the 47 Member States are countries along the Belt and Road. AALCO could build a platform for legal cooperation

with regard to the Belt and Road Initiative, and play a bigger role in trade and investment dispute mediation and arbitration. We are also looking forward that AALCO would make the best of its unique and important position to improve global governance in the international law, promote a more just and equitable international order, and uphold the sovereignty and development interests of Asian and African countries.

Thank you!