



**CV of Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of the Asian-African  
Legal Consultative Organization**

Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad of Malaysia, was appointed the fifth Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) on 20 June 2008 at AALCO's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Session held in New Delhi, India. He was subsequently unanimously reappointed on 18 June 2012 at AALCO's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Session in Abuja, Nigeria. During his tenure, Rahmat Mohamad has seen to fruition his work to revitalize the Organization, as well as his work in promoting the codification, dissemination and development of international law and ensuring Asian-African participation in these processes.

Following the *Putrajaya Declaration of Revitalizing and Strengthening the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization* made at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session in 2009, Rahmat Mohamad took it upon himself to revitalize and strengthen the Organization on both the financial and substantive fronts. His efforts to put AALCO on a sound financial footing involved introduction of revised assessed scale of contributions and an Action Plan to collect arrears, which augmented the capacity of the Organization to effectively fulfill its mandate entrusted upon it by the Member States. On a substantive front, initiatives such as the creation of the Eminent

Person's Group (EPG), comprising of eminent international law practitioners and jurists to provide guidance to the Secretary-General were implemented, and AALCO's revitalized focus on substantive output under Rahmat Mohamad saw the institution of the AALCO Journal of International Law, and the engagement of AALCO in several research-intensive studies on important and relevant topics of international law.

Rahmat Mohamad tenure as AALCO Secretary-General has also been characterized by AALCO's active role in the International Law Commission's (ILC) work which included working on many topics deliberated upon by the ILC and AALCO's increased commitment to the work of the ILC through initiatives such as the Inter-Sessional Meeting of Legal Experts, which focuses on current matters under deliberation at the ILC, particularly the identification of Customary International Law. To study this topic better Rahmat Mohamad initiated the Informal Expert Group as a result of which AALCO's proactive involvement in the identification of Customary International Law has ensured that the Asian-African perspective has played an important role in the considerations of the ILC, and has gone a long way towards erasing the stigma of decades of marginalization of the region in the history of the development of international law.

Under Rahmat Mohamad, AALCO has also increased the scope of its engagements with other IGOs and regional organizations. AALCO has strengthened its role as a Permanent Observer at the United Nations in New York by organizing meetings of Legal Advisors from AALCO Member and non-Member States on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly sessions, to discuss and deliberate on pressing matters of international law. AALCO has also embarked on several capacity-building programmes with other international organizations such as the UN Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA), the International Criminal Court (ICC), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in order to assist Member States in strengthening their regional and national capacities to implement legal obligations. Simultaneously, AALCO's working relationships with regional organizations such as ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the African Union have also been strengthened.

In his capacities as both the Secretary-General of AALCO as well as a respected scholar of international law, Rahmat Mohamad has participated in several conferences and seminars in addition to maintaining a busy lecture schedule. Under his supervision, AALCO has also organized various conferences on topics as far-ranging as the Law of the Sea, Climate Change, and Competition Law. He also introduced on the agenda of the Organization subjects of contemporary relevance such as International Law in Cyberspace, Legal Regime governing Marine Biodiversity and Legal Aspects of Violent Extremism and its

manifestations. Furthermore, Rahmat Mohamad has delivered academic lectures and addresses at various academic institutions both in India and abroad. In an effort to disseminate knowledge, both on international law in general, as well as on the Asian-African perspective, Rahmat Mohamad has published books and serves as the Editor-in-Chief for several AALCO publications and journals. He has commissioned, through the mandate of AALCO Member States, extensive research studies on topics crucially important to AALCO and its Members; topics have included Unilateral and Secondary Sanctions, Statehood of Palestinian, Cyber-law, and Marine Biodiversity.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General of AALCO, Rahmat Mohamad was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia, where he also holds the position of Professor of International Law since 2003, and where he started his career as a Lecturer in 1986. He also currently holds several Adjunct Professor positions both in Malaysia and abroad. He read law at the Institut Teknologi MARA and pursued his LL.M. at Bristol University, England, in 1986. In 2000, he attained his Ph.D. at the University of Aberystwyth, United Kingdom. Rahmat Mohamad is married and has four children. He currently resides in the Diplomatic Enclave of Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India.