

**INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY PROF. DR. RAHMAT MOHAMAD,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AALCO FOR THE SEMINAR ON**

**“CLIMATE CHANGE:
POST-KYOTO INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY”
ON 16 JANUARY 2013**

H. E. Prof. Chia Jui CHENG, Secretary-General of Xiamen Academy of International Law, and Professor, School of Law, Soochow University, Taipei, China;

Prof. Bharat H. Desai, Professor of International Environmental Law, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi;

Distinguished Delegates, Speakers, and Participants;

A very good morning to you all. On behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), may I take this opportunity to welcome each one of you to this Seminar on “Climate Change: Post-Kyoto International Climate Policy”, which is currently addressed by the international community. The issue of climate change has become very important, post Doha Conference of Parties, which witnessed urgent need to advance the Durban Platform. Series of United Nations Climate Change Talks, have taken place on the issue as to how to deal with the second commitment period of Member States post-Kyoto Protocol. In order to have a varied perspective on the issue of climate change, AALCO thought it imperative to host this Seminar.

Distinguished Speakers and Participants,

I would like to delve into a brief overview about AALCO. AALCO is an Intergovernmental Organization of 47 States from Asia and Africa with its Permanent Headquarters in New Delhi, India. The Organization is one of the very few regional intergovernmental Organizations that unites countries from Asian and African continents on matters of international legal issues of common concern. It serves its Member States as an advisory body on matters with an international legal dimension. The consultative nature of the Organization beholds transparency within the AALCO and also ensures that the voice of Asia and Africa is heard in various international fora. Its close working relationship with various other international organizations is the evidentiary fact of AALCO's contribution towards progressive development and codification of international law.

The topic of "Environment and Sustainable Development" has been on AALCO's agenda for the past four decades. We have closely been associated with few important International Organizations during previous Annual Sessions of the Organization and have dedicated few special half-day meetings on the issue of climate change keeping in view the concerns and vulnerability of our Member States on this interesting topic. I wish this seminar would be beneficial for our Member States and towards achieving that end, our Centre for Research and Training (CRT) intends to publish the presentations made by the eminent speakers at this forum in the form of a book to be released during our forthcoming Annual Session.

Now, I take this opportunity to welcome our Distinguished Speaker H. E. Prof. Chia Jui CHENG who is currently serving as the Secretary-General of Xiamen

Academy of International Law, and also a Professor at the School of Law, Soochow University, Taipei, China. Prof. CHENG, travelled all the way from China to be with us today. He has authored more than ten books in specialized fields of international law. I am sure that his keynote address would be very informative and enlighten us on the nuances of trade implications in relation to climate change.

We also have another eminent personality with us who has kindly agreed to deliver the inaugural address for this Seminar Prof. Bharat H. Desai. Prof. Desai is a Professor of International law at the Centre for International Legal Studies, and he also holds the Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Prof. Desai has been teaching international environmental law for more than two decades and has authored nearly eight books especially on this subject. He would be discussing about the Post-2012 regulatory Process. His vast expertise and knowledge in the field of Climate Change law would be very enriching and contributive to our seminar. I welcome both the distinguished Guests to our Organization.

Last but not the least, I welcome all the speakers and distinguished participants to this seminar. I hope this seminar would be very helpful to diplomats from our member states as well as non-member states. I look forward for the discussions which would contribute towards framing an understanding on the issue of climate change.

May I take this opportunity to invite Prof. Chia-Jui CHENG to deliver his keynote address. Thank you.