



**ADDRESS BY DR. XU JIE, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
AALCO AT THE SOUTH ASIA TEACHING SESSION HELD IN
BANGALORE ON 27 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6:30 PM**

Prof. Dr. R. Venkata Rao, Professor of Law and Vice-Chancellor National Law School of India University, Bangalore;

Mr. Francois Stamm, Head of Regional Delegation for South Asia, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), New Delhi;

Mr. Christopher Harland, Regional Legal Adviser, ICRC;

Distinguished Guests, Dear Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good evening to you all!

I have immense pleasure in being part of this august gathering at the inaugural ceremony of this “South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) ON International Humanitarian Law (IHL)” – which is jointly organized by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Allow me to express my profound gratitude towards Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Vice-chancellor of NLS, Bangalore; who heads one of the pioneer legal educational institutions in India. AALCO had the privilege of Prof. Rao’s informative lecture during an AALCO-ICRC Training Programme which was held in our Headquarters in New Delhi in January 2011.

I am deeply indebted to Mr. Francois Stamm, Head of Regional Delegation for South Asia, New Delhi; for inviting me to be part of this inaugural session. Mr. Stamm has been very active in strengthening the AALCO-ICRC relationship. I also extend my gratitude to Mr. Christopher Harland, ICRC, New Delhi for his continued efforts in enhancing close working relationship with the two organizations.

May I now invite your attention to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) where I serve as Deputy Secretary-General. The Organization comprises of forty-seven Member States from Asian and African continents, which is the tangible outcome of the historic Bandung Conference, 1955. The Organization has been consistently working since its inception in 1956, towards forming a concerted perspective for its Member States on various important issues on international legal matters, including protection of human rights, international humanitarian law issues, international trade law, Law of the sea, environment and sustainable development and so on. The issues of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and protection of human rights are of core concerns to our Member States. AALCO has always taken concerted efforts in cooperating and coordinating with ICRC in working for the benefit of its Member States within the Asian and African region while addressing the various aspects of IHL. In order to raise awareness of IHL and capacity-building for its officials from AALCO Member States, we formalized the relationship with the ICRC by signing a cooperation

agreement in Geneva in 2003. Since then, we have jointly organized various inter-sessional meetings, workshops, seminars and training programmes for the legal and diplomatic officials of AALCO's Member States on various aspects of IHL and International Criminal Court. As an ongoing project, AALCO Secretariat is looking forward to creating a database of national legislation on implementing IHL, with the cooperation of ICRC.

The relevance of IHL in contemporary world is exceedingly increasing due to various instances of mass uprising in different parts of the world. It is a concern for international community to respond to problems and challenges in the event of conflict, especially when efforts are being made to restructure the form of governance. The role and activities of the ICRC in addressing these issues from the perspective of protecting humankind and providing relief to the victims of war or conflict situations, for nearly one and a half century, is highly appreciable.

One of the major activities of the ICRC in terms of dissemination and promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is the South Asia Teaching Session which is organized bi-yearly in collaboration with one of the leading law schools in South Asian region. This training and capacity-building programme convened over the years, highlighting the significant topics like the General protection in armed conflict, Means & Methods of Warfare, Situation of Women in Armed Conflict, Superior & Command

Responsibility, Peacekeeping and IHL, International Criminal Tribunals and the ICC, and so on; have facilitated many key stakeholders in various Ministries, Personnels in Armed Forces, academicians and practitioners of IHL. I am also convinced of the credentials of the speakers for this teaching session, which I must say would be very beneficial in terms of practical relevance and academic input for the participants.

I take this opportunity to wish a very grand success for this South Asia Teaching Session and hope that this week-long session would enable participants in working towards implementing IHL in their own official capacities within their countries. In materializing the combined efforts taken by the international community to deal with various dimensions of promoting peace and protection of human rights; there should be cooperation among States, international/inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations at international, regional and bilateral levels. Efforts must be taken to form a network of officials and academia who would work towards promotion of IHL in their respective field.

I once again appreciate the ICRC and NLS, Bangalore for jointly organizing this event. Last but not the least, I wish the participants would enjoy your stay in this beautiful city of Bangalore. Wishing this session a grand success,

I Thank You.