

# ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO)



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## INFORMATION BROCHURE

# Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

## Member States

Arab Rep. of Egypt	Myanmar
Bahrain	Nepal
Bangladesh	Nigeria
Botswana	Oman
Brunei Darussalam	Pakistan
Cameroon	Qatar
China, P. R.	Rep. of Korea
Cyprus	Rep. of Yemen
D. P. R. Korea	Saudi Arabia
Gambia	Senegal
Ghana	Sierra Leone
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Somalia
Iraq	South Africa
Islamic Rep. of Iran	Sri Lanka
Japan	State of Palestine
Jordan	Sudan
Kenya	Syria
Kuwait	Tanzania
Lebanon	Thailand
Libya	Turkey
Malaysia	Uganda
Mauritius	United Arab
Mongolia	Emirates

## Permanent Observers

Australia  
New Zealand

## Milestones

**18-24 April 1955:** The Asian-African Conference, held in Bandung, Indonesia.

**15 November 1956:** Constitution of the Asian Legal Consultative Committee.

**18-27 April 1957:** First Session of the Committee, inaugurated by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, in New Delhi. It decided to locate the permanent Secretariat in New Delhi, India.

**19 April 1958:** The Statutes of the Committee were amended so as to include participation of the countries in the African Continent and changed to AALCC.

**13 October 1980:** Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) accorded Permanent Observer status by the United Nations General Assembly.

**25-30 May 1981:** Twenty-second Annual Session of the Committee held in Colombo, decided to put the Committee on a permanent footing. Initially, the Committee was established as a temporary organization for a term of five years, which was extended on four occasions.

**26 April 2000:** Headquarters Agreement signed between the AALCO and the Government of India.

**24 June 2001:** Name of the AALCC changed to Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

**2006:** Golden Jubilee year of AALCO and Inauguration of its Permanent Headquarters in New Delhi.

**April 2008:** Started functioning from the permanent Headquarters Building in New Delhi.

## STATUTES OF AALCO (Revised and adopted at the Bali Session 2004)

### Article 1:

The functions and the purposes of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization are as follows:

- a) to consider and deliberate on issues related to international law that may be referred to the Organization by the Member States and to make such recommendations to governments as deemed necessary;
- b) to exchange views, experiences and information on matters of common concern having legal implications and to make recommendations thereto if deemed necessary;
- c) to communicate, with the consent of the governments of the Member States, the views of the Organization on matters of international law referred to it, to the United Nations, other institutions and international organizations;
- d) to examine subjects that are under consideration by the International Law Commission and to forward the views of the Organization to the Commission; to consider the reports of the Commission and to make recommendations thereon, wherever necessary, to the Member States; and
- e) to undertake, with the consent of/ or at the request of Member States, such activities as may be deemed appropriate for the fulfillment of the functions and purposes of the Organization.

### Article 2:

(1) The Organization constituted originally by the States of Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan and the United Arab Republic (now Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria) comprises a large number of Asian and African States, and has its Permanent Headquarters, New Delhi, INDIA.

(2) The Organization may admit any other Asian-African country as a Member State.

(3) The terms of admission of a new Member States shall be in accordance with the Statutory Rules of the Organization as prescribed under article 8 of these Statutes.

### Article 3:

The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary-General appointed by the Organization for a term of four years in accordance with the provisions of the Statutory Rules.

### Article 4:

(1) The Organization shall normally meet once a year and such meetings shall, to the extent possible, be held in one of the Member States by geographical rotation.

(2) Annual Sessions, other meetings and consultations shall be held in accordance with the rules framed by the Organization.

### Article 5:

The Legal Expert nominated by the government of a Member State shall serve the Organization as Member. Alternate Members and Advisors may also be nominated if considered necessary.

### Article 6:

The Organization may enter into arrangements for cooperation with the United Nations, its organs and agencies and such other international organizations or bodies as may be deemed appropriate.

### Article 7:

(1) The expenditure incurred for the purposes of the Organization, including the expenditure on the Secretariat shall be met by the Member States in such proportions as may be agreed upon and the contributions shall be paid annually in advance and deposited in the account or accounts to be maintained in the name of the Organization.

(2) The expenses locally incurred in connection with the meetings of the Organization, shall normally be met by the Member State in which the meeting is held, unless otherwise agreed upon between the Secretary-General and the host country.

(3) The expenditures and expenses shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of the Statutory Rules.

### Article 8:

The Organization may frame such rules as may be considered necessary for carrying into effect the functions and purposes of the Organization.

## Cooperation with other International Organizations

The AALCO's activities have been broadened from time to time to keep pace with the needs and requirements of its Member Governments and the globalized nature of today's world.

This has been especially so in the fields of international trade and economic law matters, international humanitarian law, international refugee law, international environmental law etc. The AALCO, as the only organization of its kind at inter-governmental level embracing the two continents of Asia and Africa, has also oriented its activities to complement the work of the United Nations in several areas. In the light of the Organization's growing status and functions, the General Assembly by a Resolution, adopted at its thirty-fifth Session in 1980 decided to accord AALCO Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations. Following that, an item on "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization" is placed biennially on the agenda of the General Assembly.

The Organization has also established close relations with the United Nations Specialized Agencies and several intergovernmental Organizations and concluded formal cooperation Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding with 18 of them. These agreements provide for mutual consultation, exchange of documentation, representation at each others meetings. They facilitate joint organization of seminars and workshops on the areas of mutual interests. These include:

- African Union
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Council of Europe
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Criminal Court
- International Maritime Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- League of Arab States
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Nations
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- United Nations University
- World Intellectual Property Organization

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**Secretary General**  
**Prof. Dr. Rahmat bin Mohamad**

## Message

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), in the span of 52 years, has contributed significantly in forging Asian-African cooperation on international legal matters. It is well recognized and respected as an outstanding symbol for Asian-African solidarity, reflecting the aspirations of Asian-African countries in the progressive development and codification of international law.

With the full support, guidance of the Member States, AALCO is in the process of revitalizing its entire activities to meet the present day challenges in the field of international law building upon the Bandung Spirit of Friendship, Solidarity and Cooperation amongst Asian-African States.

In this regard, I am privileged to present this Information Brochure, which provides a bird's eye view of the Organization's growth and work programme since its establishment and its service to the Member States.

(Rahmat bin Mohamad)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Historical Background

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), originally known as the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) was constituted by the Governments of Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, and United Arab Republic (now Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria) on 15 November 1956, to serve as an Advisory Body of Legal Experts, to deal with the problems referred to it by its Member States, and to help in exchange of views and information on matters of common concern among the participating countries. It is considered to be a tangible outcome of the historic Bandung



The Asian Prime Ministers and other leaders who attended the Asian-African Conference photographed with the President of the Union of Burma Dr. Ba U and Premier U Nu when they stopped over in Rangoon to enjoy the Burmese Water Festival enroute to Bandung. L to R Mr Pham Van Dong, Deputy Premier of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; Sardar Mohammed Naim Khan, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan; Mr. Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China; the President, Dr. Ba U; Sri Nehru, Prime Minister of India; Lt-Colonel Nasser, Prime Minister of Egypt; Mr. Chenyi, Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China; Prime Minister U Nu.



Silver Jubilee Celebrations of 1955 Bandung Conference and 21st Session of AALCO (Jakarta, 1980)

Conference, held in Indonesia, in April 1955. Later, in April 1958, in order to include participation of countries of the continent of Africa its name was changed to Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC). Initially, AALCO was established as a non-permanent Committee for a term of five years. The five-year term was further extended on four occasions until 1981, when at its Colombo Session, it was decided to place the Organization on a permanent footing. That decision necessitated revision of the original Statutes and Statutory Rules, the revised versions of which were adopted in 1987 and 1989 respectively. In accordance with the growing stature and status of the Organization, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session, held at the Headquarters of AALCC in New Delhi, in 2001, the name of the Committee was changed to Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

Alive to keeping the constituent instruments of the Organization in tune with the changing times and newer hopes and aspirations of its Members, the Member States, at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Organization at Bali, Indonesia, in June 2004 accorded their unanimous approval to a new and revised Text of Statutes. The new Text of Statutes is in consonance with the constituent instruments of other intergovernmental Organizations and brings it at par with them. Consequently, the Statutory Rules are also being revised.

## PUBLICATIONS

AALCO, being a legal research Organization, attaches great importance to its publications. It has constantly endeavored to enhance the content and quality of its publications. The Secretariat brings out three important publications regularly, namely the *Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization*, *AALCO Quarterly Bulletin*, and a *monthly Newsletter*. The Secretariat also prepares the Reports and Verbatim Records of Annual Sessions, Legal Advisers' and Liaison Officers' Meetings, Seminars and other meetings convened under its auspices from time to time. The Secretariat also regularly brings out Special Studies on topics of contemporary relevance in International law under the auspices of CRT.



**AALCO Quarterly Bulletin** contains well-researched articles, besides reporting on AALCO's activities and information on the recent developments in the field of international law relating to Asian-African regions.



**Combating Corruption: A Legal Analysis** (AALCO, New Delhi 2005), Special Study prepared by the Secretariat as part of the activities of the Centre for Research and Training.

### Select Special Studies Published by the AALCO Secretariat

- Legality of Nuclear Tests (1964)
- South West Africa Cases (1967)
- Relief against Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion (1967)
- Legal Guidelines for Privatization Programmes (1994)
- Essays in International Law (1976, 1981, 1986, 1996, 2001 and 2007)
- A Study on Special and Differential Treatment under WTO Agreements (2003)
- Combating Corruption: A Legal Analysis (2005)
- Rights and Obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption (2006)
- A Preliminary Study on the Concept of International Terrorism (2006)

**Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization.** Now in the sixth year of publication, it maintains continuity with the earlier publication titled "Report and Selected Documents".



**Newsletter of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization** keeps Member States informed on regular basis about the activities of the Organization.

The Organization maintains a website at <http://www.aalco.int> for dissemination of information about the AALCO and its various activities.

## Inter-sessional Meetings

In addition to the Annual Sessions, Inter-sessional Meetings constitute an important element of AALCO's activities. In accordance with the approved work-programme of the Organization, the Secretary-General convenes inter-sessional meetings, meetings of the sub-committees of expert groups and may also arrange for informal consultations during the intervening period to consider any subject or issue pending consideration of the Organization on which consultations among the Member Governments may be deemed necessary.

### Meeting of AALCO Legal Advisers

Every year, a Meeting of AALCO's Legal Advisers is convened in New York, during the General Assembly Session. Legal Advisers of Non-member States and representatives of United Nations and its Agencies also attend this Meeting. The meeting provides a forum for exchange of views on current issues of common concern to Member States. In addition, the Secretary-General receives informal guidance from the Legal Advisers regarding the various assignments to be carried out by the Secretariat. Since 2003, at the initiative of present Secretary-General, an AALCO-ILC Joint Meeting takes place along with the Legal Advisers Meeting.

### Seminars

Under the auspices of the CRT, Seminars on topics of contemporary relevance in international law are regularly convened. The Centre later publishes the report of such Seminars, which certainly are a valuable addition to the existing literature on the subject.

### Training Programmes

Under the auspices of the CRT, training programmes on various International Law topics for the officials of Member Governments are taken up in association with friendly Inter-governmental Organizations and academic institutions based in India. This received greater thrust at the new Headquarters Building, which is equipped with requisite infrastructural facilities for conducting any such programmes. From 2008, CRT has initiated a Training Course on "General International Law" for Diplomats and Officials of the Member States.



Secretary-General, Prof. Dr. Rahmat bin Mohamad with Prof. R. P. Anand, Emiretus Professor, JNU, DSG's of AALCO along with Officials attending the "General Course on International Law" at the AALCO Headquarters

## Functions and Purposes

The Functions and Purposes of the Organization are as follows:

- To serve as an advisory body to its Member States in the field of international law and as a forum for Asian-African co-operation in legal matters of common concern;
- To consider and deliberate on issues related to international law that may be referred to the Organization by the Member States and to make such recommendations to governments as deemed necessary;
- To exchange views, experiences and information on matters of common concern having legal implications and to make recommendations thereto if deemed necessary;
- To communicate, with the consent of the governments of the Member States, the views of the Organization on matters of international law referred to it, to the United Nations, other institutions and international organizations;
- To examine subjects that are under consideration of the International Law Commission and to forward the views of the Organization to the Commission; to consider the reports of the Commission and to make recommendations thereon, wherever necessary, to the Member States; and
- To undertake, with the consent of/or at the request of Member States, such activities as may be deemed appropriate for the fulfilment of the functions and purposes of the Organization.

The Functions and Purposes of the Organization as listed above, give effect to the way in which subjects/topics were considered by the Organization and formed over the years the Work Programme of AALCO. Thus, there are three ways in which a matter is placed on the Work Programme of AALCO: (a) reference by a Member State; (b) Suo-moto initiative of the Secretary-General; and (c) Follow-up of the work of the International Law Commission. In order to carry out these basic functions and purposes of the Organization, the Secretariat prepares a study on the topic, which forms the background material for deliberations at the Annual Sessions. The Member States after deliberations on the topics on the agenda items of the Annual Sessions, adopt resolutions, which set out the directions for the Secretariat for implementing the work programme agreed upon by the Member States.



L to R: Late Ms. Fumiko Saiga, Judge, ICC, Dr. Yuichi Inouye, DSG, Mr. Narinder Singh, President, 47th Session of AALCO, SG Prof. Dr. Rahmat bin Mohamad, Amb. Mr. Hideaki Domichi and Amb. Mr. Komatsu

## Current Work Programme

The AALCO since its inception has worked on a wide range of areas of international law — law of diplomatic relations, extradition law, treatment of foreign nationals, State immunity and commercial transactions, issues of the law of the sea, Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, dual citizenship, ionospheric sovereignty, divorce laws, free legal aid, ILC's continuing agenda items, legality of nuclear tests, conflict of laws in international sales, double tax avoidance, law of treaties, Afro-Asian view of the UN Charter, Vienna Conventions of diplomatic and consular relations, Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, law of outer space, principles of peaceful coexistence, law of international rivers, South West Africa cases, uniform transport law, legal advisory services in foreign offices, environmental law, territorial asylum, succession of States in respect of treaties, reciprocal assistance in respect of economic offences, issues of international trade law, regional cooperation and New International Economic Order, legal framework for joint ventures in industrial sector, mutual assistance in criminal matters, debt relief etc.

The current work-programme of the Organization includes the following topics:

- Work of the International Law Commission
- Law of the Sea
- Status and Treatment of Refugees
- Deportation of Palestinians and Other Israeli Practices Among them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in all Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law Particularly the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949
- Legal Protection of Migrant Workers
- Extra territorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties
- International Terrorism
- Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Women and Children
- International Criminal Court: Recent Developments
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- An Effective International Instrument Against Corruption
- Work of UNCITRAL and other International Organizations in the field of International Trade Law
- WTO as an Agreement and a Code of Conduct for World Trade
- Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection
- Human Rights in Islam

## ACTIVITIES

### Annual Sessions

AALCO's Annual Sessions are known for their balanced nature of the deliberations and the items on its agenda. Till date, Forty-Seven Session Annual Sessions have taken place.



47th Session (New Delhi, 2008)

ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION			
Years	Dates	Sessions	Countries
1957	18 - 27 April	First	New Delhi (India)
1958	1 - 13 October	Second	Cairo (Egypt)
1960	20 January - 4 February	Third	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
1961	15- 28 February	Fourth	Tokyo (Japan)
1962	17 - 30 January	Fifth	Rangoon (Burma)
1964	24 February - 6 March	Sixth	Cairo (Egypt)
1965	23 March - 1 April	Seventh	Baghdad (Iraq)
1966	8 - 17 August	Eighth	Bangkok (Thailand)
1967	18 - 29 December	Ninth	New Delhi (India)
1969	21 - 31 January	Tenth	Karachi (Pakistan)
1970	19 - 29 January	Eleventh	Accra (Ghana)
1971	18 - 27 January	Twelfth	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
1972	18 - 25 January	Thirteenth	Lagos (Nigeria)
1973	10 - 18 January	Fourteenth	New Delhi (India)
1974	.7 - 14 January	Fifteenth	Tokyo (Japan)
1975	26 January - 2 February	Sixteenth	Tehran (Iran)
1976	28 June - 5 July	Seventeenth	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
1977	19 - 26 February	Eighteenth	Baghdad (Iraq)
1978	17 - 23 January	Nineteenth	Doha (Qatar)
1979	19 -26 February	Twentieth	Seoul (Republic of Korea)
1980	24 April - 1 May	Twenty-First	Jakarta (Indonesia)
1981	25 May - 30 May	Twenty-Second	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
1983	16 - 20 May	Twenty-Third	Tokyo (Japan)
1985	7 - 14 February	Twenty-Fourth	Kathmandu (Nepal)
1986	3 - 8 February	Twenty-Fifth	Arusha (Tanzania)
1987	12 -17 January	Twenty-Sixth	Bangkok (Thailand)
1988	14 -18 March	Twenty-Seventh	Singapore
1989	13 - 18 February	Twenty-Eighth	Nairobi (Kenya)
1990	12 - 17 March	Twenty-Ninth	Beijing (P.R. of China)
1991	22 - 27 April	Thirtieth	Cairo (Egypt)
1992	25 January - 1 February	Thirty-First	Islamabad (Pakistan)
1993	1 - 6 February	Thirty-Second	Kampala (Uganda)
1994	17 - 21 January	Thirty-Third	Tokyo (Japan)
1995	17 - 22 April	Thirty-Fourth	Doha (Qatar)
1996	4 - 8 March	Thirty-Fifth	Manila (Philippines)
1997	3 - 7 May	Thirty-Sixth	Tehran (Iran)
1998	13 - 18 April	Thirty-Seventh	New Delhi (India)
1999	19 - 23 April	Thirty-Eighth	Accra (Ghana)
2000	19 - 23 February	Thirty-Ninth	Cairo (Egypt)
2001	20 - 24 June	Fortieth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
2002	15 - 19 July	Forty-First	Abuja (Nigeria)
2003	16 - 20 June	Forty-Second	Seoul (Republic of Korea)
2004	21 - 25 June	Forty-Third	Bali (Indonesia)
2005	27 June - 1 July	Forty-Fourth	Nairobi (Kenya)
2006	3 - 8 April	Forty-Fifth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
2007	2 - 6 July	Forty-Sixth	Cape Town (South Africa)
2008	30 June - 4 July	Forty-Seventh	New Delhi (HQ, India)



## Centre for Research and Training

The Centre for Research and Training (CRT), earlier known as the Data Collection Unit, was established by the Organization in 1989 to collect and collate information on international economic and trade instruments and legislations of the Member States. Over the time, its activities have been expanded to cover the entire gamut of the substantive activities of AALCO, including research and dissemination of information on topics of contemporary relevance.

In addition, the Centre is presently engaged in a) capacity building by carrying out research projects on international law; b) organizing training programmes for personnel of legal department of AALCO's Member States, especially relating to international law. It can be through short-term attachment with the Secretariat or participating in the training course organized by the Secretariat; and c) convening workshops and seminars and arranging discussions or lectures by the international law experts from within and outside the AALCO region.

The Centre maintains and continuously updates the AALCO's website which also provides links with the United Nations and other international organizations engaged in international law matters.

## Regional Arbitration Centres

One of the major achievements of AALCO in its programme in the economic field was the launching of its Integrated Scheme for Settlement of Disputes in the Economic and Commercial Transactions in 1978. Pursuant to that Scheme, it was decided to establish Regional Arbitration Centres under the auspices of AALCO, with the objectives to promote and conduct international commercial arbitration in the Asian-African regions.

Four such Centres have been established so far, which are located at Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Lagos (Nigeria) and Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran). A fifth Regional Arbitration Centre is established in Nairobi to cater to Central and West African countries. The respective Host Governments recognize the Centres' independent status and have accorded them diplomatic privileges and immunities. Each Centre is headed by a Director, appointed by the Host Government in consultation with the Secretary-General of AALCO. The Directors of the Centres present their reports on the functioning of the Centres at the Annual Sessions of the AALCO.

## Membership

Forty-seven countries comprising almost all the major States from Asia and Africa, as on date are Members of the Organization. Membership of the Organization is open to all Asian and African States that desire to participate in the Organization in accordance with its Statutes and Statutory Rules. Any such State desirous of membership has to address a written communication to the Secretary-General of the AALCO intimating its desire to participate in the Organization and stating its acceptance of the Statutes and Statutory Rules. The communication when received is circulated among the Member Governments with a request for submission of their comments within a period of six weeks. Unless objections are received from not less than one-third of the total membership of the Organization, the State concerned is thereafter declared admitted as a Member.

## Permanent Headquarters

Pursuant to the Headquarters Agreement between AALCO and the Government of India, which was signed on 26 April 2000, New Delhi is the seat of the AALCO. The Government of India has gifted a complex building which consists of Permanent Headquarters Building for the Secretariat of AALCO and the Secretary-General's Residence, in which the Secretariat started functioning from April 2008.



Signing ceremony of Headquarters Agreement, New Delhi 2000. Mr. Tang Chengyuan, the then Secretary-General of AALCO and Dr. P. S. Rao, the then Legal Adviser and Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India

## Finances

The Organization's finances are met primarily from three sources, namely (i) the annual budget to which contributions are made by all Member States; (ii) voluntary contributions including contribution in the form of deputation of officers; and (iii) special budget for specific purpose such as for the Arabic Division.

All Members are committed to contribute towards the annual budget, which is shared on the basis of an agreed scale of contribution, which is linked to the economic situation of each Member State. The Member States from Arabic speaking countries also make an additional contribution towards the Arabic budget, which goes towards translation of documents into Arabic and for interpretation during the Annual Session. All other contributions are on a voluntary basis. Since the 42nd (Seoul) sessions the French interpretation has been introduced for the benefit of French speaking countries.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Annual Sessions

AALCO's Annual Session is its plenary organ and the highest decision making body. The resolutions adopted during the Annual Sessions by Member States on organizational and substantive matters steer its work programme. In addition, the Annual Session also elects the Secretary-General of the Organization.

The Annual Session is usually hosted by one of the AALCO Member States, as far as possible by rotation, between Asian and African regions. High-level representatives of the Governments of Member States attend these Annual Sessions. In addition, many Observer delegations representing non-Member governments and international organizations from all other regions also participate in the deliberations.



Hon'ble Mr. H.R. Bhargava, Minister of Law and Justice, Govt. of India with Leaders of delegations at the 47th Session of AALCO

Over the years it has become a regular practice that some of the Judges of the International Court of Justice [ICJ, The Hague] and Members of International Law Commission [ILC, Geneva] actively participate in the Organization's Annual Sessions.

### Meeting of Liaison Officers

Liaison Officers, nominated by the diplomatic missions of Member States located in New Delhi, represent their Governments, during the interval between the two Sessions at the Permanent Headquarters of the Organization. As mandated by the Statutory Rules, Member States nominate officers, preferably one with legal experience, for participation in the Meeting of Liaison Officers. As a practice, they are usually diplomats at their missions in New Delhi. The Liaison officers normally meet once every two months.

### Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Organization including preparation of technical studies and documentation, provision of advisory services to the Governments of the Member States and organization of training programmes. It is located in New Delhi and as per the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of India, enjoys diplomatic privileges and immunities.



During a Meeting at the Secretariat's Auditorium Hall

The Secretariat is headed by an elected Secretary-General who is assisted by International Category Officers deputed by Member States, in the rank of Deputy and Assistant Secretaries-General. Presently, the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan have deputed their Senior Officials to serve the Secretariat. Legal and supporting staff, including officials in professional and administrative categories aid the Secretary-General in the discharge of his functions. The Organization also maintains Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations at New York, Vienna and Geneva.

### Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the Organization is elected by the Member States for a renewable term of four years, on a rotational basis from the two regions. A legal expert or a person who has adequate legal expertise and administrative experience, and is a national of a Member State is considered for this position. As Chief Executive of the Organization, he guides, directs and steers the work programme adopted by the Annual Sessions. The incumbent presents a review of the Organization's work on a biennial basis to the United Nations General Assembly as well as the views and opinions of Member States to the International Law Commission on matters under its consideration. A valuable part of his mandate is to forge and promote cooperation with United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other Inter-governmental Organizations.



Secretary General Prof. Rahmat bin Mohamad at the 47th Session of AALCO

The former Secretaries-General of the Organization are Mr. B. Sen, Mr. Frank X. Njenga, Mr. Tang Chengyuan and Amb. Dr Wafik Zaher Kamil. The present SG is Prof Dr Rahmat bin Mohamad from Malaysia who was elected unanimously at the Forty-Seventh Session (HQ, New Delhi, 2008).



B. Sen  
(1956-1987, India),



Frank X. Njenga  
(1988-94, Kenya)



Tang Chengyuan  
(1994-2000, China, P.R.)



Wafik Z. Kamil  
(2000-2008, Egypt)