

methodology of the workshop. Prof. Abhijit Das, Head & Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi delivered the inaugural lecture on the topic: "Doha Negotiations: What is at Stake for Developing Countries". He made a detailed presentation on the negotiations on agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), cotton and fisheries. He also highlighted the role and concerns of the developing countries at the Doha round of negotiations. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO and Head of the Centre for Research and Training proposed a vote of thanks. On behalf of AALCO and CRT, he thanked the participants for showing keen interest in the training workshop and also thanked the distinguished speakers and the Secretary-General for their support and cooperation. He also sought support and cooperation in the future endeavours.



From L to R: Ms. Vonai Muyambo, SG and DSG

The five-day training workshop consisted of both lecture and case study. Ms. Vonai Muyambo was the lead resource person for the training workshop. The following topics were included; namely, Introduction to the World Trade Organization, WTO Basic Principles and Exceptions, Exercises on Basic Principles, General Agreement on Services (GATS), and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The case studies on GATS and TRIPS, namely, Liberalization of Retail Services in India, and Seizure of Generic Drugs was dealt by Professor Madhukar Sinha, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Training programme was successfully concluded on 1 April 2011 and the Certificate of Completion was awarded to the participants.

6. SEMINAR JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH O. P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY (6 MAY 2011)

The AALCO, in cooperation with the O.P. Jindal Global University, had organized a Seminar on "Corruption, Ethics and Good Governance" at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi on 6 May 2011. The Seminar was attended by around 25 participants which included Diplomats, Professors, Researchers and Students from various Universities. The Secretary-General delivered the welcome address for the Inaugural Session of the Seminar. He mentioned that corruption has become a matter of great concern to the international community of States and also highlighted the work of AALCO in the area of corruption. The theme of the Seminar was introduced by Prof. C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O. P. Jindal University, wherein he narrated the vice of corruption undermining a host of phenomenon like the institution of democracy, rule of law, human rights and others.

Prof. Charles Sampford, Director of the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law and President, International Institute for Public Ethics, remarked that corruption could not be dealt with by law alone and that it needed to be tackled with various means. While giving a detailed account about the creation of the National Integrity Systems

which are key to governance reform and the fight against corruption, he observed that integrity and corruption are conceptually linked terms – with one the obverse of the other. The address was followed by a number of presentations made by the faculty members of the O. P. Jindal Global University focusing on diverse areas of corruption and corrupt practices. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO.

LIAISON OFFICERS MEETINGS

From January to June 2011, three Meetings of the Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States were convened, namely; 309th, 310th and 311th Meetings that took place respectively on 30 March 2011, 27 April 2011 and 25 May 2011. During these Meetings, the Liaison Officers reviewed the substantive, organizational and financial matters related to AALCO.

The 309th meeting of Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States was convened at the Headquarters of AALCO on 30 March 2011. The Secretary-General of AALCO chaired the meeting. It was attended by Liaison Officers from 18 Member States of AALCO along with Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani; and the Legal Staff of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General briefly narrated to the Liaison Officers about the visit of Hon'ble Ms. Celina O. Kombani, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania and the President of the Forty-Ninth Session of AALCO and a team of delegates to the AALCO Headquarters on his invitation. Among other matters, Draft Budget for the year 2012 was discussed.



(From L to R: Hon'ble Ms. Celina O. Kombani; SG and DSGs)

The 310th meeting of Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States was convened at the Headquarters of AALCO on 27 April 2011. The Secretary-General of AALCO chaired the meeting and it was attended by Liaison Officers from 14 Member States of AALCO. Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani; and the Legal Staff of the Secretariat attended the meeting. The meeting had decided to adopt the Draft Budget for the Year 2012 after receiving comments from Member States of AALCO within a stipulated time. The Liaison Officers were also briefed about the preparations for the Fiftieth Annual Session of AALCO to be held from 27 June to 1 July 2011 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The 311th meeting of Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States was convened at the Headquarters of AALCO on 25 May 2011. The Secretary-General of AALCO chaired the meeting and it was attended by Liaison Officers from 18 Member States of AALCO. Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani; and the Legal Staff of the Secretariat attended the meeting. The Draft Budget for the Year 2012 has been carried forward for approval and adoption at the forthcoming Annual Session of AALCO in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Published by the Secretariat of AALCO, 29-C, Rizal Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021
E-mail : mail@aalco.int, www.aalco.int
Editor-in-Chief : **Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad**

Typesetting & Printed by **A P Computers # 91-9810133129**



NEWSLETTER

ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

Volume 8

No. 1

January to June 2011

1. TRAINING PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (17 – 21 JANUARY 2011)

A five-day training programme on International Humanitarian Law was organized by the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) of AALCO in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Regional Delegation for South Asia, New Delhi from 17 to 21 January 2011 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. The training programme was attended by 48 participants from 23 countries, namely, India, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Suriname, State of Kuwait, Mauritius, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, Myanmar, Maldives, United Republic of Tanzania, State of Palestine, Nigeria, South Africa, Sultanate of Oman, Iceland, Republic of Yemen, Slovak, and Libya; and three international organizations, namely, UNHCR, European Union Delegation to India, and European Commission- Directorate General For Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).



(Group Photograph of the participants at the Training Programme)

The Inaugural Session was held on 17 January 2011. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO in his welcome address highlighted the role of AALCO and its training and research wing-Centre for Research and Training. He also gave a brief outline on the AALCO-ICRC relations in the past and also the importance of having training and capacity building programmes. Mr. Francois Stamm, Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC in his introductory remarks gave an overview of international humanitarian law and the role of ICRC in its promotion and dissemination. The inaugural lecture was delivered by



(From L to R: H.E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson; Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO (SG); and Mr. Francois Stamm)

H.E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the significance of humanitarian law in the contemporary world and appreciated the role of ICRC and AALCO in the task of promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law. Finally, Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO proposed a vote of thanks.

The training programme consisted of both lecture and case study and the topics included Introduction to International Humanitarian Law; Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict; IHL and Human Rights; Prisoners of War; Means and Methods of Warfare; International Criminal Tribunals & International Criminal Court (ICC); and Implementation of IHL. Resource persons were of wide academic and practical experience-Mr. Christopher Harland, Regional Legal Adviser for South Asia, ICRC, New Delhi; Dr. Srinivas Burra, Legal Adviser, ICRC, New Delhi; Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Professor of Law & Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India; Mr. William Bowie, Armed Forces Coordinator, ICRC, New Delhi; and Dr. Y.S.R Murthy, Associate Professor & Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Studies, Jindal Global Law School. Training programme was successfully concluded on 21 January 2011 and the Certificate of Completion was awarded to the participants.

2. TALK BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA (11 MARCH 2011)

On 11 March 2011, H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered a talk on the topic of "Global Governance in the Twenty-First Century: Emerging Issues and Challenges" which was organized by the AALCO Secretariat. H.E. Amb. Eng. John H. Kigazi, the High Commissioner for the United Republic of Tanzania in India presided over the meeting. The event was attended by more than 200 participants that included several Ambassadors/High Commissioners, Diplomats, Academicians and students.



(From L to R: H.E. Amb. Eng. John H. Kigazi; H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin; and SG)

3. RELEASE OF BOOK AUTHORED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL (11 MARCH 2011)

The Secretary-General of AALCO had authored a book entitled "Asian-African Perspectives on International Law in the Post Westphalian Era: Some Reflections" and the book was released by the

H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on 11 March 2011 in New Delhi. The book contains a collection of articles dedicated to the work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in the promotion of progressive development of international law since its inception in 1956. The articles in that publication traced the historical development of modern international law, beginning with the Peace of Westphalia of 1648, to the Bandung Conference of 1955, and from there it proceeded to areas such as Rule of Law, the International Criminal Court, Siyar (Islamic International Law), Question of Palestine and International Legal Issues facing Asia and Africa.



(From L to R: H.E. Amb. Eng. John H. Kigazi; H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin; and SG)

VISITS OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS TO AALCO HEADQUARTERS

DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN (25 MARCH 2011)

On 25 March 2011, Dr. Alireza Jahangiri, Director-General of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the AALCO Headquarters. A meeting was held between the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretaries-General Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani, and Dr. Jahangiri wherein there were discussions on the work of AALCO, functioning of the AALCO Secretariat among other things. The meeting emphasised on the need to enhance AALCO's activities in furtherance of progressive development and codification of international law. Further, Dr. Jahangiri stated that AALCO's role in terms of being a platform for countries from Asian-African regions must be strengthened which could be effectively tackled subject to full support and encouragement by its Member States. Hence its role in enhancing its solidarity among its Member States is very pivotal.



(Dr. Alireza Jahangiri and SG)

DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS, JAPAN (28 MARCH 2011)

On 28 March 2011, Mr. Masahiro Mikami, Director of International Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan along with Mr. Takashi Shibata, Second Secretary to the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi visited the AALCO Headquarters. The Secretary-General along with the Deputy Secretaries-General Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani had a fruitful meeting with the distinguished guests where the matters pertaining to the organizational and substantial matters were discussed. During the meeting the Secretary-General expressed his heartfelt condolences for the natural disasters that had recently occurred in Japan.



(From L to R: Dr. Hassan Soleimani (DSG) and Dr. Xu Jie (DSG); Mr. Takashi Shibata; Mr. Masahiro Mikami and SG)

PRESIDENT OF THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AALCO (29 MARCH 2011)

On 29 March 2011, a delegation from the Ministry for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania headed by Her Excellency Ms. Celina Ompeshi Kombani (MP), Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs and also the President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO visited the AALCO Headquarters. In subsequent meeting with her, along with Deputy Secretaries-General Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani, the Secretary-General discussed a number of issues specifically regarding the current and future work programme of AALCO and how to further enhance its noble activities. Madam Kombani expressed her deep solidarity with the Government and people of Japan who had been ravaged by an earthquake and tsunami. On that occasion, Madam Kombani said that they hoped and prayed that they would recover from that catastrophe with all their courage as they have done in the past.



(Her Excellency Ms. Celina Ompeshi Kombani and SG)

Madam Kombani delivered a speech at the 309th Liaison Officers Meeting held on 30 March 2011 at AALCO Headquarters. His Excellency Mr. John Kigazi, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to India in New Delhi accompanied her during the

meeting. In her speech, while appreciating the commendable work of AALCO in developing international law, she said that the Organisation has identified itself as vital machinery in nurturing inter-regional cooperation in international law and since its inception in 1956 it had continued to be a symbol of unity, brotherhood and cooperation as advocated by the Bandung Conference.

Highlighting the importance of AALCO, the President mentioned that the AALCO should lead the fight against neo colonialism by ensuring that Africa and Asia are on equal footing with other continents when it comes to matters of economic dimension. This could only be achieved if Member States would continue to support the Organisation by involving it in all matters pertaining to the economic interests of the countries. The Organization should carry on tirelessly its role of providing advice to Member States in all international matters of legal nature. The true economic liberation of Asia and Africa would not be achieved unless the people continued to unify their prowess. The Organization should be used as a forum of forming a common understanding of matters of international law affecting us. By so doing, we would continue to have a common voice in all international fora and our opinion will be much respected.

INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION MEMBER FROM SRI LANKA (1 APRIL 2011)

On 1 April 2011, Dr. A. Rohan Perera, Member of the International Law Commission and Advisor on International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka, alongwith Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Minister, High Commission of Sri Lanka in India visited the AALCO Headquarters. A meeting was held with the distinguished guest in the presence of Deputy Secretaries-General of AALCO Dr. Xu Jie and Dr. Hassan Soleimani. Discussions were held in terms of the Proposal of the Secretary-General with regard to the formation of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and other activities of the ILC that would be mutually beneficial for both the Organizations. Also there was a brief discussion on the preparations for the forthcoming session by the host government – Sri Lanka. Other issues were also discussed.



(From L to R: DSGs; Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Dr. A Rohan Perera and SG)

4. LAW TEACHER'S VISIT TO THE AALCO SECRETARIAT (4 MARCH 2011)

The AALCO Secretariat received a delegation of Law Teachers teaching in various Indian Universities on Friday, 4 March 2011. These Law Teachers were attending the Refresher Course on International Law, organized by the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL). On behalf of the Secretary-General, Prof. Rahmat Mohamad, the Law Teachers were welcomed by Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General. In his brief welcome remarks, Dr. Xu outlined the importance of international law in the contemporary world and as the role of law teachers in shaping the careers of young law students. He also highlighted the close relationship between the ISIL and AALCO that had proved to be mutually beneficial for the two Organizations.

Dr. Hassan Soleimani, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO gave an overview of the establishment, role and mandate of the Asian-African



(Group Photograph)

Legal Consultative Organization. In his presentation, he highlighted how AALCO was established as a result of the Asian-African Relations Conference of 1955 to promote cooperation amongst Asian-African States on international legal matters. The presentation was followed by a lively interactive Session in which the Law Teachers raised queries relating to the nature and work of AALCO. Mr. Sridhar Patnaik, Assistant Professor, the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) thanked the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretaries-General and the Legal Staff for organizing the event and hoped that visit of Law Teachers, through ISIL could be organized, as and when the Refresher Course was organized by the ISIL.

5. TRAINING WORKSHOP ON WTO (28 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2011)

A five-day training workshop on the World Trade Organization (WTO) was organized by the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) of AALCO in cooperation with the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), World Trade Organization from 28 March to 1 April 2011 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. The training programme was attended by 40 participants from 11 countries, namely, India, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda, Sultanate of Oman, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Kingdom of Morocco and Suriname.



(Group Photograph of the Workshop Participants)

The Inaugural Session was held on 28 March 2011 wherein the Secretary-General of AALCO delivered the welcome address and in his address, he briefly outlined on AALCO's work on the WTO related matters. Mr. Masahiro Mikami, Director, International Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan in his opening remarks highlighted the relationship between the Government of Japan and AALCO as well as the importance of capacity building programmes for the Member States of AALCO. Ms. Vonai Muyambo, Training Officer, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, World Trade Organization in her introductory remarks emphasized the importance attached by the WTO to joint capacity building programmes with AALCO and also explained the