

Annexure

FIFTY YEARS OF AALCO: A READY REFERENCE (1956-2006)

The year 2006 marks the completion of fifty years of Asian-African cooperation on international legal matters through the deliberative forum of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. Perhaps, the Golden Jubilee is an opportune occasion to reflect upon and consolidate at one place a handy reference tool that documents the work done by the Organization in a nutshell. Thus, in furtherance of this objective the Secretariat, as a first step, has attempted to document the rich history of the Annual Sessions of the Organization - the plenary organ and the highest decision-making body - through following three tables.

Table I compiles the information pertaining to the name of the Dignitaries who inaugurated the Annual Sessions of AALCO. It crisply brings out the fact that AALCO had received attention at the highest political level from Member States, as most of the Sessions had been inaugurated either by the Head of the State or the Government. This also had given the benefit to AALCO of receiving guidance from some of the most eminent Statesmen of Asian-African region. In addition, this table contains information pertaining to the Bureau of the Session comprising the President, Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Deputy/Assistant Secretaries-General.

Table II demonstrates the participation of Member States, Observer Delegations from Non-Member States and the International Organizations. It brings out clearly the fact that the Member Governments have been in very active involvement in the work of their Organization. In addition, owing to the global reach of the work of the Organization, a very large number of Non-Member States and several International Organizations have also been participating in the work of the Annual Sessions.

Table III consists of the information pertaining to the substantive matters deliberated in the course of fifty years of the work of AALCO. One can notice that since its establishment, AALCO has been deliberating and making useful recommendations pertaining to nearly all important topics of international law that found place on international legal agenda. Thus, through its vast and rich work the Organization has contributed significantly in the progressive development and codification of international law as well as its dissemination. It may not be out of place to mention that the solidarity forged within the

forum of AALCO found its way into the various United Nations fora engaged in such exercise.

The Secretariat has compiled this information from the available record consisting of the Reports of the Annual Session and other relevant documents. While the Secretariat has taken full care in compiling this information, some errors, in view of vast information might have inadvertently crept in. The Secretariat would most humbly request the reader to inform about any such error, so that the Secretariat may immediately rectify it.