

The Fourth Training Session of China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law

The Fourth Training Session of CAERP was held from September 3 to 14, 2018 in Beijing and from September 15 to 23, 2018 in Hong Kong with a total of 53 participants. The courses were conducted in English by leading international law scholars and practitioners, and were of both academic and practical value. Additionally, the fourth session also included city tours, site visits and cultural classes.

The Fourth Training Session was held under the framework of the China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law. The Program was announced in 2015 by President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, aiming at carrying forward the spirit of the Bandung Conference and enhancing exchanges and cooperation in the field of International Law among Asian and African states. Around 50 legal officials from 35 AALCO Member States, 4 non-Members (Algeria, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Laos), AALCO Secretariat and relevant ministries of the Chinese Government attended the session. This training session was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and co-organized by the Wuhan University Institute of International Law and the Asian Academy of International Law.

Ambassador Huang Huikang, member of the UN International Law Commission, and Prof. Kennedy Gastorn, the Secretary-General of AALCO, delivered opening remarks at the opening ceremony. Ambassador Huang, on behalf of the organizer, extended a warm welcome to all the legal officials from Asian and African States for attending the training session. Ambassador Huang highlighted that the opening of the training session coincided with that of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and that this training session was a testament to China's firm commitment to China-Africa friendship and the friendly cooperation among Asian and African States. He called on Asian and African States to strengthen cooperation in international law, uphold the international legal regime based on the UN Charter, and work together to make the international order more just and equitable.

The Fourth Training Session largely focussed on trade and investment laws training, which included topics such as “Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and the Laws of Foreign Investment: A Renewed Relationship in the 21st Century”, “International Commercial Arbitration and an Introduction to International Investment Law”, “The Challenges of Settling International Trade Disputes in an Era of International Uncertainties”, “Investment Law”, and “Investment Mediation” etc. There were also introductory lectures on topics such as “History of International Law and International Criminal Tribunals” and “International Treaty Law”. Training on incidental topics was also included like “HCCH”, “Apostille Convention”, “Choice of Court Convention and the Judgments Project”, “Belt and Road Statement”, and “Contribution of ‘One Country, Two Systems’ to international law”. Further, a Participants Forum like each year was organized, wherein a representative of each group of participants made a presentation on one of the topics on which the participants were trained during the session.

On September 3, 2018, the Symposium on "Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and International Law", as part of the Fourth Training Session, was held in Beijing. This Symposium was moderated by Ambassador Huang Huikang. Prof. Kennedy Gastorn, the

Secretary-General of AALCO, Mr. Santiago Villalpando, Chief of Treaty Section , UN Office of Legal Affairs, Prof. Sienho Yee from Wuhan University, Prof. He Zhipeng from Jilin University, Prof. Yenkong Ngangjoh Hodu from Manchester University and Prof. Emilia Onyema from London University made presentations at the Symposium. All participants of the Fourth Training Session attended the Symposium. The participants also had the opportunity to attend the Hong Kong Forum: 60th Anniversary of New York Convention in Hong Kong on 20 September, 2018.