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**SEMINAR ON REVIEWING REFORMS TO THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT
REGIME AND TO THE INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE ASIAN-AFRICAN REGIONS
ARUSHA, TANZANIA, 19 - 21 NOVEMBER 2018**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The seminar on reviewing reforms to the international investment regime and to the investor-state dispute settlement mechanism, jointly organized by the African Institute of International Law (AIIL) and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), will be held at Arusha, Tanzania, from 19-21 November 2018, sponsored by the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China. It is being organized in accordance with the Joint Capacity Building Initiative on 'International Investment and Trade' by both organizations, as per the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by them on 31 August 2017. The seminar will be conducted by selected international experts and policy makers with considerable experiences in international investment and trade matters.

PURPOSE

This seminar is part of AALCO's initiative to broadly strengthen the capacity of Asian and African countries to design and implement investment policies and law reforms that may improve their business climate. It also aims at raising the profile of Afro-Asia as an investment destination while facilitating regional cooperation and highlighting the Afro-Asian perspectives in international dialogue in international investment laws and policies.

PROGRAM CONTENT

The three-day seminar will include lectures on the following subjects: Reviewing the Efforts by UNCITRAL in Reforming the International Investment Regime; Perspectives on the Termination and Re-negotiation of BITs in the Regions of Asia and Africa; The Investment Support Program for the Least Developed Countries; Treaty Practice: Investment Clauses within Upcoming Mega Free Trade Agreements (TPP, TTIP, RCEP); Legal Issues Relating to the Belt and Road Initiative; Issues with the Current ISDS System: From Diagnosis to the Desirability and Feasibility of a Reform; The Way towards an Optimal Investor State Dispute Settlement Mechanism: the Issue of Re-designing ISDS Provisions and Current International Efforts; The Practical Considerations of Having a "World Investment Court"; and The role of AALCO's Regional Arbitration Centers in Settlement of Investment Disputes;

METHODOLOGY AND TRAINING MATERIAL

The seminar is designed to allow participants to actively interact with the speaker, the moderator and their peers. It will be conducted through lectures, case studies and simulation exercises included in an accurate and consistent narrative, based on the applicable legal principles, articles and recent academic studies, as well as major current challenges and debates that animate the profession. The training is tailored for relevant senior government officials, professionals in the field, those whose profession requires developing a strategic perspective and those who need to engage in informed discussions to address the emergence of certain legal and practical issues. Discussion forums will be organized on selected topics to promote participation and knowledge sharing among participants.

A comprehensive set of training materials will be provided for each participant at the beginning of the training course. Certificates will be awarded to those participants who will have completed the training seminar in its entirety.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS

The 2018 seminar will gather participants from Asia and Africa. It is aimed at Attorney General Chambers and Judiciaries officials and senior trade and investment practitioners from 47 AALCO Member States as well as other non-member States of Asia and Africa. Academics, researchers, and other practitioners in the field are also invited to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

When selecting participants, due consideration will be given to the candidates' qualifications, the scope of their professional duties, the relevance of the seminar to their professional duties as well as geographic and gender balance of the participants. Applications from female candidates are highly encouraged.

Applications for admission should be submitted to seminar@aalco.int and programs@aail-iadi.org respectively, no later than 30 September 2018. An application shall consist of a personal statement and an updated CV. Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

LANGUAGE OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar will be conducted in English. Knowledge of spoken and written English is a preference for applicants.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATION

There are a few fellowships available for participants unable to bear the seminar costs. Fellowship participants will receive economy airfare, accommodations and a stipend for dinner. Self-funded participants will bear costs associated with their participation (travel, accommodation and living expenses). Booking arrangements for accommodation can be made upon request. Training materials, tuition, and lunch will be provided to all participants free of cost at the venue.

For more details, please visit: www.aail-iadi.org and www.aalco.int