

In-house Training: “Rules of the Road for Cyberspace”—A Lecture on Cyberspace and International Law by Mr. Arun Mohan Sukumar, Head, Cyber Initiative, Observer Research Foundation

AALCO Secretariat organized a lecture on the desirability of an international legal regime to govern the activities in cyberspace as part of its internal training initiatives on Tuesday, 6 October 2015 at its Headquarters. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Arun Mohan Sukumar, Head, Cyber Initiative at Observer Research Foundation, a leading think tank on international relations and security studies based in New Delhi.

Mr. Sukumar, after briefly detailing the history of the Internet, lucidly explained the existing ‘multi-stakeholder’ governance structure in place with a prominent role held by ICANN, a private body under the jurisdiction of the United States. He spoke about the efforts of developing nations like China and India to initiate revamping the existing structure with a UN centric model and opposition from developed nations to any substantial alternation of this structure. He opined that all deliberations on normativity in cyberspace fundamentally hinges on possibility and effectiveness of legal responses to rapid changes in technology. The extension of the principle of territorial sovereignty to cyberspace *inter alia* to rein in domestic activities in cyberspace is a classic example of such responses from States.

He also dealt with the formation and application of international law in the realm of cybersecurity and spoke about the significance of Tallinn Manual in consolidating international law applicable to cyber warfare. He stressed on the importance of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties to effectively address transnational cyber crimes. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session.