



**FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION
PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA,
17-20 AUGUST 2009**

TENTATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

**NOTE: FOR UPDATES ON THE ANNUAL SESSION, PLEASE REFER TO THE
WEBPAGE OF THE 48TH AALCO ANNUAL SESSION AT www.agc.gov.my**

A. VENUE OF THE MEETING

The Forty-Eighth of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Annual Session (“48th AALCO Annual Session”) will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The venues for the 48th AALCO Annual Session are as follows:

Address : The Attorney General’s Chambers,
No. 45, Persiaran Perdana,
Presint 4,
62100 Putrajaya,
Malaysia.

Telephone No.: +603 8872 2000

Facsimile No.: +603 8890 5662

E-mail : 48thaalco@agc.gov.my

And

Address : Pullman Putrajaya Lakeside Hotel
No.2, Jalan 5/5
Presint 5
62000 Putrajaya
Malaysia.
Telephone No.: + 603 8890 0000
Facsimile No.: + 603 8890 0001
E-mail : info@pullmanputrajaya.com

B. REGISTRATION FORM

The registration form is as attached to this document. Alternatively, the form is available at www.agc.gov.my All forms should be completed and returned by facsimile or email to the Secretariat of the 48th AALCO Annual Session by **7 August 2009** at the following address:

Secretariat of the 48th AALCO Annual Session
c/o International Affairs Division
Attorney General's Chambers
Level 8
No. 45 Persiaran Perdana
Presint 4
62100 Putrajaya
Malaysia.

Fax No. : +603 - 8890 5622
Email : 48thaalco@agc.gov.my

C. GUESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA

Guest status will be accorded by the Government of Malaysia to Heads of Delegation and invited guests (“Guests of the Government of Malaysia”). The Heads of Delegation and invited guests entitled to be the Guests of the Government of Malaysia are those bearing the position of Ministers of State or Attorneys General and the Secretary General of AALCO.

D. PERSONAL SECURITY OFFICERS

Guests of the Government of Malaysia will be provided with a Personal Security Officer (“PSO”) from the Royal Malaysia Police. Please be informed that firearms are not allowed to be carried into Malaysia.

E. ACCOMMODATION

For delegates attending the 48th AALCO Annual Session whose accommodation is not being borne by the Government of Malaysia, a special conference package has been arranged at the Pullman Putrajaya Lakeside hotel at the rate of USD 150.00 nett per room (single)/night inclusive of breakfast. The address of the hotel is as follows:

Pullman Putrajaya Lakeside Hotel

No.2, Jalan P5/5, Presint 5

62200 Putrajaya

Malaysia

Tel. No.: 603-8890 0000

Fax. No.: 603-8890 0001

Email : info@pullman.com

All room reservations should be made via the Secretariat by filling out the attached Registration Form or through direct contact with the hotel.

Head of Delegation/Guests of the Government of Malaysia

The Government of Malaysia will **only pay for the accommodation** of the Head of Delegation or those accorded with the Guest status. Please be informed that the Government of Malaysia will not pay for any alcoholic beverages consumed.

Delegates other than the Head of Delegation/Guests of the Government of Malaysia

- All other delegates are responsible for the settlement of their personal hotel accounts and any other charges incurred upon departure and are kindly requested to settle their accounts directly with the hotel.

F. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

i. Registration

A Registration Desk will be opened at the Pullman Putrajaya Lakeside Hotel. Registration will commence from 16 August 2009 (Sunday) from 1200 hrs to 1800 hrs. Thereafter, registration will continue on 17 August 2009 (Monday) from 0730 hrs to 0830 hrs at the Attorney General's Chambers. All delegates and observers are advised to register their names before the Inaugural Session and to obtain their Meeting Badges. Delegates will not be permitted into the meeting hall without their Meeting Badges.

ii. Meeting Badges

Meeting Badges for all speakers and delegates will be issued upon Registration.

iii. Working Language

The working language of the 48th AALCO Annual Session will be English and all documentation will be in the English language. There will be simultaneous translation during the session, from English into Arabic and Arabic into English at the plenary session.

iv. Dress Code

Business attire will be required for the meetings and the Official Dinner.

v. Distribution of Documents

Documents of the 48th AALCO Annual Session is available and can be downloaded from the AALCO's website (www.aalco.int). In addition, the Secretariat of the AALCO will be transmitting an official set of the meeting documents to all Member States. Delegations are reminded to bring their meeting documents with them as no additional copies will be distributed during the Annual Session.

vi. Brief Annotation on the New Topics that will be introduced at the 48th AALCO Annual Session

a. Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalizing and Strengthening AALCO:

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) is currently facing a severe financial crisis that poses a challenge to its very survival. It is important to note that the only financial source of income for AALCO is in the form of the regular annual contributions it receives from its 47 Member States. The current situation has arisen mainly as a result of two reasons: firstly, non-

revision of the scale of assessment of annual contributions from Member States for the past 15 years and secondly, the deteriorating financial position over the years, mainly on account of a massive accumulation of arrears of contributions.

These issues were raised by His Excellency, the Secretary-General of AALCO during the previous AALCO Extraordinary Session in New Delhi in 2008. Pursuant to that, two draft resolutions were tabled for the consideration of Member States: (i) New Delhi Declaration on Revitalizing the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (New Declaration); and (ii) Resolution on AALCO's Financial Matters and Budget for the Year 2009. However, there was a general view that the New Delhi Declaration should not be taken up during the Extraordinary Session as there had not been sufficient deliberation on it. Nevertheless, considering the importance of the New Delhi Declaration, it was agreed that the matter could be taken up at the forthcoming 48th AALCO Annual Session after further deliberation on the issue of revitalizing the Organization.

Based on this, it is proposed that during the 48th AALCO Annual Session, the Member States should deliberate and discuss on the formulation of the Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalising and Strengthening the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization ("Putrajaya Declaration") and its implementing instruments such as plans of action. The Putrajaya Declaration should contain, *inter alia*, assurances from Member States that AALCO is to be sufficiently revitalized to enable it to serve as a centre for harmonizing the actions of Asian-African States in international law matters, and for the Member States to provide AALCO with the necessary financial support, thereby enabling it to more proactively contribute in realizing the objectives of the Organization in the future.

b. Managing the Global Financial Crisis - Sharing of Experience:

The global financial crisis has been brewing for a while with its effects felt since the middle of 2007 and into 2008. It is believed that the crisis began in July 2007 when a loss of confidence by investors in the value of securitized mortgages in the United States resulted in a liquidity crisis that prompted a substantial injection of capital into financial markets by the United States Federal Reserve, Bank of England and the European Central Bank. In September 2008, the crisis deepened as stock markets worldwide crashed and entered a period of high volatility and a considerable number of banks, mortgage lenders and insurance companies failed in the following weeks. Since then, around the world stock markets have fallen, large financial institutions have collapsed or been bought out, and governments in even the wealthiest nations have had to come up with rescue packages to bail out their financial systems.

On the one hand many people are concerned that those responsible for the financial problems are the ones being bailed out, while on the other hand, a global financial meltdown will affect the livelihoods of almost everyone in an increasingly inter-connected world. Many people are now calling for fundamental reforms of the financial systems internationally. This ranges from reform to the international banking and finance regimes, to reform of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.

c. Special Meeting jointly organized by AALCO-the Government of Malaysia on “Transnational Migration-Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants”:

This topic will focus on two problematical areas which arise in transnational migration where people, in particular women and children searching for economic opportunities or even just safer lives away from war-torn homelands, fall prey to human traffickers and people smugglers who operate across national borders with impunity and profit from human misery. Panel-

led discussions will examine the contributing factors in source and destination countries as well as the dilemmas faced by transit and destination countries in trying to balance the humanitarian obligation to protect and shelter trafficked persons and illegal migrants against the inherent sovereign right to determine its immigration laws and policies. The discussions will also focus on the effectiveness of legal regimes - national, regional and international, in the absence of concerted efforts to implement them through effective enforcement. This Special Meeting will seek to identify and promote cooperative and collaborative practical measures that AALCO Member States can undertake to combat these twin menaces to legitimate international travel and commerce.

- d. Special Meeting jointly organized by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Government of Malaysia and AALCO on the “Law of the Sea”:

Maritime Security and Piracy

This particular topic is of significance especially in the wake of frequent threat to international navigation, in particular, the threat of piracy and armed robbery against ships worldwide. More recently, the hijacking of commercial vessels off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden have gained international notoriety. In addition, it is critical to appreciate the fact that international navigation and the safety and security of maritime routes are vital to the world economy as more than two-third of world trade is carried out by international shipping.

This topic will focus on the role of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on piracy and use of force at sea, the piracy situation in the Straits of Malacca and generally acts of piracy and violence at sea. The panel for this session will consist of

representatives from ITLOS and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

Delimitation of Maritime Boundary

Delimiting maritime boundaries between States according to established principles of international law of the sea are fraught with issues concerning sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction which invariably would result in States disagreeing over the boundaries separating their respective maritime zones. According to established principles of international law, as stated in Article 279 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, States are under an obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means as indicated in Article 33 of the UN Charter.

Article 33 of the UN Charter provides a list of dispute settlement procedures which *inter alia* includes negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. However, the list does not represent a progression, with States exhausting the possibilities of one procedure before trying another. Instead, a State may choose the dispute settlement procedure most suited to the dispute in question and States may use different means at different stages of the dispute as indicated in Article 280 of UNCLOS 1982.

This topic will focus on the preferred/advisable case preparation/management method(s) of managing boundary disputes from two perspectives. One from the perspective of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the other from the perspective of a legal practitioner with experience in managing boundary disputes. In doing so, the panelists will also consider the range of reasons that have been cited by States with unresolved maritime boundaries in explaining the challenges faced in the process of delimiting maritime boundaries and the possible solutions to overcome such challenges.

vii. Secretariat

The AALCO Secretariat will be located at a venue to be informed.

viii. Drafting Committee

A Drafting Committee will be established which will be chaired by the host country with the assistance of the AALCO Secretariat.

G. MEDICAL FACILITIES

The Secretariat has arranged with the Ministry of Health of Malaysia for basic medical facilities for all delegates in cases of emergency.

H. AIRFARE

Delegations are required to make their own travel arrangements.

I. MEALS

Breakfast will be provided for all delegates at the hotel. Unless otherwise stated, lunch, dinners and tea breaks will also be provided for all delegates throughout the meeting dates.

J. PROTOCOL, IMMIGRATION AND TRANSPORTATION

i. Arrival and Departure

At Kuala Lumpur International Airport

- The Organizing Secretariat personnel will be at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to greet and assist the Secretary General of AALCO, Ministers, Attorneys General, Solicitors General and other Guests of the Government of Malaysia and delegates on their arrival and departure.
- Immigration officers will also be on duty at the airport to assist on immigration matters. Please refer to Paragraph L for further information on visa requirements.

At Hotel

- Organizing Secretariat personnel will be at the hotel to greet and assist delegations.

ii. Return bookings/confirmation

Delegates are responsible for their return air-travel bookings confirmation. Please contact the Hotel Reception counter or the Secretariat for assistance if required.

iii. Transportation

Airport-hotel-airport

Heads of Delegation and invited guests who are accorded with the status of Guests of the Government of Malaysia will be provided with the appropriate means of transport at the airport for transportation to the hotel on their arrival and for transportation from the hotel to the airport on their departure.

The Organizing Secretariat personnel will also assist the other delegates at the airport for transportation to the hotel on their arrival and from the hotel to the airport on their departure.

Transportation during the Annual Session

Transportation will be provided for all delegates who are staying at the specified conference hotel to the Conference venue and to attend any official/social functions.

K. HELP DESK

A help desk for all delegates will be made available at the Secretariat Room from 08:00 hours to 18:00 hours daily from 16-21 August 2009 (Sunday-Friday).

L. PASSPORT AND VISA

To gain entry into Malaysia, foreign nationals need to have in their possession passports with at least six months of validity and appropriate visas. Visas are not required for delegates from ASEAN Member States. Guests and delegates from all other countries are requested to obtain the necessary advice from the Malaysian Embassies at their respective countries or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of their respective countries for all information and applications relating to their travel visa to Malaysia.

M. HEALTH

All passengers who arrive in Malaysia from regions where yellow fever, or A H1N1 have been detected (which may include countries in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa and South America) will be required to complete a quarantine questionnaire. If any symptom of such illnesses is detected at the Airport by the Health Authorities, the authorities will have to make a medical inspection of the

passenger concerned. Additionally, an international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required only for those participants arriving from those countries specified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for that purpose.

N. OFFICE FACILITIES

Office facilities and telephone/facsimile services are available at the Business Center of the hotel and delegates are to be responsible for all costs incurred there. Services provided include computer rental with internet access, facsimile, telex and photocopying services.

The Attorney General's Chambers is wi-fi enabled in most areas. For usage of this facility, username and password can be obtained from the Secretariat.

O. GENERAL INFORMATION

i. Water

Tap water is potable.

ii. Climate

Malaysia is located at the equator with tropical climate all year-round. Light clothing is advised.

iii. Currency

The currency used in Malaysia is Ringgit Malaysia (RM). The current exchange rate is approximately RM 3.6 = USD 1.

iv. Transport

A substantial number of limousines, sedans and minivans are available at the hotel for delegates at their own expense. Arrangements should be made directly with the hotel.

P. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact any of the following members of the Secretariat of the 48th AALCO Annual Session:

i. Information on participation, programme and speakers:

Head of the Organizing Committee

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ii. Information on the Secretariat

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iii. Information on accommodation

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iv. Information on programme

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vi. Information on transportation and security

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