

ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



**REPORT ON
THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING OF THE AALCO**

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REPORT ON THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING OF THE AALCO

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Centre for Research and Training (hereinafter ‘CRT’ or ‘Centre’), functioning as an integral part of the Secretariat of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), evolved from the AALCO’s (the then, AALCC) “Data Collection Unit”,¹ which was established in 1989. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Resolution AALCO/40/ORG.4,² the Data Collection Unit was renamed as the Centre for Research and Training in 2001. This marked, as envisaged, a new chapter in the efforts of the Member States towards undertaking research activities, as well as training programmes, within the AALCO.

2. The initial mandate entrusted to the Unit was collection and dissemination of information related only to international economic and trade related instruments and legislations from the Member States of the AALCO. However, pursuant to Resolution 38/ORG.6 adopted in Accra (Ghana) 1999, the Member States emphasized the need and the significance of exchange of information between the AALCO, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other international bodies.³ It is pertinent to note that the said resolution did not confine the activities of the CRT to the international economic and trade law matters, but also covered the entire gamut of substantive activities of the Secretariat, thereby expanding the mandate of the CRT to all the areas of activities of the AALCO.

3. Further, transforming the Data Collection Unit in to CRT in 2001 reoriented the functioning of the Unit. The Meeting of the Advisory Panel of Liaison Officers⁴

¹ The Data Collection Unit was established based on the proposal made by the Government of Republic of Korea at the Twenty-Eighth Session of AALCO (the then AALCC, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee), held in Nairobi in 1989. Initially, the CRT was conceived to primarily undertake the task of attempting the harmonization of legal regimes applicable to the economic activities in the Asian-African region, under the auspices of the AALCC. It may be recalled that the Government of the Republic of Korea had generously contributed US\$ 25,000 to the AALCC towards the above stated purpose. Although establishment of the Unit was proposed and unanimously approved at Twenty-Eighth Session in Nairobi, it became functional, as an integral part of the Secretariat in 1992 pursuant to the Thirty-First Session at Islamabad. As a first step, the Secretariat of the AALCC established a computerized Data Collection Unit which was to be used as a storehouse of information on economic and trade law regulations of Asian-African countries in general and AALCC Member countries in particular. Sizeable documents were received from Member States and international organizations on matters relating to economic laws and the same were compiled, as detailed in the Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Data Collection Unit, Doc. No. AALCC/XXXIV/Doha/95/14/.

Also, pursuant to the Thirty-First Session, Islamabad 1992, an Advisory Panel, comprising Liaison Officers of the Arab Republic of Egypt, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Philippines was established to advise on technical and general policy matters concerning the functioning of the Unit.

² Resolution 40/ORG.4 entitled “AALCO’s Data Collection Unit”, adopted at the 2001 Session, held in New Delhi.

³ Paragraph 2 of the Resolution 38/ORG.6 also refers to the effective role of research and study in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Committee.

⁴ 270th Meeting of the Liaison Officers of the AALCC, held in December 2000.

suggested the following future engagements for the Centre: training programmes for personnel belonging to Legal Departments of AALCO's Member States, especially relating to international law; convening of workshops and seminars on the international law themes; arranging discussions or lectures by international law experts from within and outside the AALCO region. The mandate was further strengthened at the Abuja (Republic of Nigeria) Session, 2002 and by Resolution AALCO/41/ORG 4, the CRT was called upon to: (i) continue to update and improve the technical efficiency of the website for facilitating communication between the Secretariat, the Member States, the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, and other International Organizations; and (ii) Foster capacity-building of the Centre to carry out further research projects on international law. It may be recalled that the said resolution also urged the Member States to furnish information and relevant materials in order to enrich the CRT.

4. Since its inception, the CRT has made several concerted efforts and making substantial contributions to the AALCO. This report briefly provides an outline of the measures taken and efforts made by the CRT in the last one year, i.e., since the Forty-Ninth (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania) Annual Session of AALCO, to 1st June 2011, in furtherance of its mandate and for the effective functioning of the Centre.

II. CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES

A. Training Activities

1. Regional Training on Treaty Law and Practice, (13 to 15 October 2010, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia)

5. A Regional Training on Treaty Law and Practice was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, the AALCO, in collaboration with the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Jakarta was held from 13 to 15 October 2010. The AALCO Secretariat is grateful to the Government of Indonesia for graciously hosting this Regional Training. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from 14 AALCO Member States. The Secretary-General of AALCO along with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, delivered opening remarks in the Inaugural segment of the workshop on 13 October 2011. Thereafter, he also delivered a Lecture on the "Work of AALCO" to the participants. This was second in the series of training workshop on treaty law and practice- first one was in People's Republic of China.

2. Training Programme on International Humanitarian Law (17 – 21 January 2011, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi)

6. A five-day training programme on International Humanitarian Law was organized by the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) of AALCO in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Regional Delegation for South Asia,

New Delhi from 17th to 21st January 2011 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. The training programme was attended by 48 participants from 23 countries, namely, India, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Suriname, State of Kuwait, Mauritius, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, Myanmar, Maldives, United Republic of Tanzania, State of Palestine, Nigeria, South Africa, Sultanate of Oman, Iceland, Republic of Yemen, Slovak, and Libya; and three international organizations, namely, UNHCR, European Union Delegation to India, and European Commission- Directorate General For Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

7. Inaugural Session was held on 17th January 2011. H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General, in his welcome address highlighted the role of AALCO and its training and research wing-Centre for Research and Training. He also gave a brief outline on the AALCO-ICRC relations in the past and also the importance of having training and capacity building programmes. Mr. Francois Stamm, Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC in his introductory remarks gave an overview of the international humanitarian law and the role of ICRC in its promotion and dissemination. Inaugural lecture was delivered by H.E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the significance of humanitarian law in the contemporary world and appreciated the role of ICRC and AALCO in the task of promotion and dissemination. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO proposed a vote of thanks.

8. The five-day training programme consisted of both lecture and case study. The topics included, Introduction to International Humanitarian Law; Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict; IHL and Human Rights; Prisoners of War; Means and Methods of Warfare; International Criminal Tribunals & International Criminal Court (ICC); and Implementation of IHL. Resource persons were of wide academic and practical experience-Mr. Christopher Harland, Regional Legal Adviser for South Asia, ICRC, New Delhi; Dr. Srinivas Burra, Legal Adviser, ICRC, New Delhi; Dr. R. Venkata Rao, Professor of Law & Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India; Mr. William Bowie, Armed Forces Coordinator, ICRC, New Delhi; and Dr. Y.S.R Murthy, Associate Professor & Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Studies, Jindal Global Law School. Training programme was successfully concluded on 21st January 2011 and the Certificate of Completion was awarded to the participants.

3. Training Workshop on the World Trade Organization (28th March – 1st April 2011, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi)

9. A five-day training workshop on the World Trade Organization was organized by the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) of AALCO in cooperation with the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), World Trade Organization from 28th March to 1st April 2011 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. The training programme was attended by 40 participants from 11 countries, namely, India, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda, Sultanate of Oman, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Kingdom of Morocco and Suriname.

10. The Inaugural Session was held on 28th March 2011. H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General delivered the welcome address. In his welcome address, he gave a brief outline on the AALCO's work on the WTO related matters. Mr. Masahiro Mikami, Director, International Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan in his opening remarks highlighted the relationship between the Government of Japan and AALCO as well as the importance of capacity building programmes for the Member States of AALCO. Ms. Vonai Muyambo, Training Officer, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, World Trade Organization in her introductory remarks emphasized the importance attached by the WTO to joint capacity building programmes with AALCO and also explained the methodology of the workshop. Prof. Abhijit Das, Head & Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi delivered the inaugural lecture on the topic: "Doha Negotiations: What is at Stake for Developing Countries". He made a detailed presentation on the negotiations on agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), cotton and fisheries. He also highlighted the role and concerns of the developing countries at the Doha round of negotiations. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, AALCO and Head of the Centre for Research and Training proposed a vote of thanks. On behalf of AALCO and CRT, he thanked the participants for showing keen interest in the training workshop and also thanked the distinguished speakers and the Secretary-General for their support and cooperation. He also sought support and cooperation in the future endeavors.

11. The five-day training workshop consisted of both lecture and case study. Ms. Vonai Muyambo was the lead resource person for the training workshop. The topics included, Introduction to the World Trade Organization, WTO Basic Principles and Exceptions, Exercises on Basic Principles, General Agreement on Services (GATS), and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The case studies on GATS and TRIPS, namely, Liberalization of Retail Services in India, and Seizure of Generic Drugs was dealt by Professor Madhukar Sinha, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Training programme was successfully concluded on 1st April 2011 and the Certificate of Completion was awarded to the participants.

B. Holding of Seminars/Workshops on International Legal Matters

1. Panel Discussion on "Asian-African States: Challenges in International Law in the 21st Century" to commemorate the 54th Constitution Day of AALCO (15 November 2010, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi)

12. To commemorate the 54th Constitution Day of AALCO on 15 November 2010 a Panel Discussion was held on the topic "Asian-African States: Challenges in International Law in the 21st Century". The Constitution Day was a great occasion to celebrate as well as reflect upon the contemporary challenges facing the Asian and African countries. The purpose of the Panel discussion was that AALCO should revisit and reassess its role in the 21st century taking into account the present day realities and emerging issues of international law. Very valuable and insightful views on the topic were given by the learned Ambassadors/High Commissioners of the United Republic of Tanzania, People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Sultanate of Oman, Iceland and the

Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India. There were at least 14 topics identified by the Panelists which AALCO could consider in its future work programme. The Secretariat had noted all the suggestions and would take appropriate steps in that direction.

2. Workshop on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, International Cooperation , organized jointly by the AALCO and the Government of Malaysia (24 to 26 November 2010, Putrajaya, Malaysia)

13. At the Forty-Eighth Annual Session held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in the year 2009, certain Member States raised the proposal of having a multilateral instrument among AALCO Member States on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition in order to facilitate cooperation in addressing transnational organized crime, particularly, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Subsequently, a resolution on the Special Meeting on “Transnational Migration: Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants” (AALCO/RES/48/SP 1, 20 AUGUST 2009) was adopted which mandated the Secretary-General to constitute an open-ended Committee of Experts to conduct a study on ways and means to enhance mutual legal assistance in criminal matters among Member States for their further consideration. This was reiterated at the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 5 to 8 August 2010. In pursuance of this mandate, a *Workshop on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and International Cooperation* was jointly organized by the Attorney General’s Chambers, Government of Malaysia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization from 24-26 November 2010, Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Workshop was attended by delegates from sixteen Member States of AALCO. The delegates from Australia, and International Organization for Migration also attended the Workshop. The Workshop was divided into three segments on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and International Cooperation. The welcome address was delivered by H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO and the keynote address was rendered by Hon’ble Honorable Datuk Idrus bin Harun, Solicitor General of Malaysia. At the Workshop, one of the proposal came forward was to address the area of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and to draft an Asian-African Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

3. Talk by H.E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Hj Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on “Global Governance in the 21st Century: Emerging Issues and Challenges” (11 March 2011, New Delhi)

14. On 11 March 2011 H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato’ Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered a talk on the topic of “Global Governance in the Twenty-First Century: Emerging Issues and Challenges” which was organized by the AALCO Secretariat. The text of the lecture is available on the website of AALCO. H.E. Amb. Eng. John H. Kigazi, the High Commissioner for the United Republic of Tanzania in India presided over the meeting. The event was attended by more than 200 participants that included several Ambassadors, Diplomats, Academicians and students.

15. A book authored by H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad entitled “Asian-African Perspectives on International Law in the Post Westphalian Era: Some Reflections” was released by the Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. The book contained a collection of articles dedicated to the work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in the promotion of progressive development of international law since its inception in 1956. The articles in that publication traced the historical development of modern international law, beginning with the Peace of Westphalia of 1648, to the Bandung Conference of 1955, and from there it proceeded to areas such as Rule of Law, the International Criminal Court, Siyar (Islamic International Law), Question of Palestine and International Legal Issues facing Asia and Africa.

4. Seminar on “Corruption, Ethics and Global Governance” jointly organised with O. P. Jindal Global University (6 May 2011, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi)

16. A seminar on “Corruption, Ethics and Global Governance” was jointly organized by the AALCO Secretariat and O. P. Jindal Global University on 6 May 2011 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General, AALCO in his welcome address briefly explained AALCO’s contribution to the subject matter. Professor C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University introduced the theme of the Seminar. Professor Charles Sampford, Director, The Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law and Professor of Law and Research Professor in Ethics, Griffith University delivered the keynote address. Panelists dealt on the various dimensions of corruptions and the effort to combat the menace. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General proposed a vote of thanks.

C. Upgrading the AALCO’s Website

17. The Secretariat has since the Forty-Second (Seoul, Republic of Korea) Annual Session 2003, in pursuance of the mandate given by Resolution AALCO/42/ORG 4, made concerted effort towards improving the website of AALCO. The homepage of the AALCO’s website has been professionally redesigned with a new outlook. The main contents of the web page are the following hyperlinks: About AALCO, Statements of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General; Secretariat; Research and Training; Publications; Permanent Headquarters Agreement; Liaison Officers Meeting; Model Legal Instruments; and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with other inter-governmental Organizations, etc.

18. The homepage also provides a hyperlink on Regional Arbitration Centres of AALCO, giving a short description on the functions of Arbitration Centres, as well as their activities. The website also displays the detailed information about the Annual Sessions and reports of the various inter-sessional activities.

19. In order to further improve the quality of the website, the Member States are requested to provide the name and address of the focal points, with the email and URL of the Ministry concerned, along with the Head of the Ministry to the Secretariat.

20. The Secretariat plans to upload the national legislations of Member States on various topics of international law on the website in the coming months. In this regard, the Member States are requested to send their national legislations on international law topics to the AALCO Secretariat.

D. Publications

21. The AALCO, since its inception, has regularly been bringing out publications such as Reports and Verbatim Record of the Annual Sessions, Special Reports on various topics of international law, Proceedings and Reports of various Meetings and Seminars held by AALCO, and Commemorative Volumes of Essays in International Law etc.

22. The serials brought out by the Secretariat are: Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, AALCO Quarterly Bulletin, and Newsletter: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization which reflects on the current activities of the Organization.

1. Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

23. The annual report of the Organization re-named as the “Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization”, is being published by the Secretariat since 2003 (Volume I) and is in the Eighth year of publication. The Yearbook provides comprehensive information about AALCO, its activities, and Secretariat studies prepared on the agenda items during the year, summary of deliberations and the resolutions adopted at the Annual Session. In addition, it contains statements delivered by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General. In the last eight years, the Yearbook has established its place firmly among the publications of this stature. It has been well received by the Member States, international organizations, international lawyers and academics.

2. AALCO Quarterly Bulletin

24. For wider dissemination of information, on the practice and developments relating to different subjects of International Law, AALCO, has been publishing, ‘Quarterly Bulletin’ since 1976 (Volume 1). In the year 1997 its name and periodicity were changed to ‘AALCO Bulletin’ brought out bi-annually, till 2001 (Volume 25). The Secretariat felt the need to re-structure the format and mode of this publication and after careful discussions and study, a totally overhauled publication in the new title, i.e; ‘AALCO Quarterly Bulletin’ was launched by beginning once again with Volume 1, Issue No. 1 dated January-March, 2005 and is being published regularly.

25. The present AALCO Quarterly Bulletin (Vol.6, No. 1-4 (2010)) contains well-researched articles on international law; write-ups on selected current developments; and selected documents of relevance to the Asian and African States. The publication provides appropriate information to scholars and academics who are keen to obtain insights to the Organizations’ work in promoting research in international law matters. In

this respect, it is requested that the Member States support this publication by way of encouraging their international law scholars, law faculty, research scholars to contribute articles for this publication, especially reflecting the international law issues in the Asian and African regions.

3. Newsletter of AALCO

26. In order to cover the recent meetings and other diversified activities of AALCO and to reflect upon the growing stature of the Organization, the Secretariat commenced publishing “Newsletter” from September 2004. The present Newsletter contains the most current news of AALCO and it keeps the Member States abreast with the latest developments.

E. Special Studies published

27. The Centre in pursuance of its mandate to conduct an in-depth research on topics of international law published, “Essays on Contemporary Issues in International Law” (2009); Golden Jubilee volume titled “Commemorative Essays in International Law” (2007) and four Special Studies namely: “The Concept of International Terrorism” (2006); “Rights and Obligations under United Nations Convention against Corruption” (2006); “Combating Corruption: A Legal Analysis” (2005) and “Special and Differential Treatment under WTO Agreements” (2003). The details of the above publications have been provided in the earlier reports except as provided below:

1. The Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal Implications: Report of the Seminar and Select Documents

28. A Seminar on “The Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal Implications” was held on 16th July 2010 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. H.E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General, AALCO; H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Higazy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in India; H.E. Mr. M. Levent Bilman, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in India; H.E. Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi, the Chief Representative of League of Arab States in India; and Prof. Achin Vanaik, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi made presentations. These presentations were followed by discussion to which the participants contributed valuably and exchanged their opinions with the Panelists. As a follow up, “The Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal Implications: Report of the Seminar and Select Documents” was released by the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania on 15th November 2010 at the AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi.

2. Asian-African Perspectives on International Law in the Post Westphalian Era: Some Reflections

29. A book authored by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad entitled “Asian-African Perspectives on International Law in the Post Westphalian Era: Some Reflections” was released by the H. E. Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato’ Hj Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin, the Deputy

Prime Minister of Malaysia on 11 March 2011 in New Delhi. That book contained a collection of articles dedicated to the work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in the promotion of progressive development of international law since its inception in 1956. The articles in that publication traced the historical development of modern international law, beginning with the Peace of Westphalia of 1648, to the Bandung Conference of 1955, and from there it proceeded to areas such as Rule of Law, the International Criminal Court, Siyar (Islamic International Law), Question of Palestine and International Legal Issues facing Asia and Africa.

3. Publication to Mark the Fiftieth Annual Session of AALCO

30. A commemorative volume comprising of research articles on various branches of International Law authored by the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretaries-General, and Legal Staff of the AALCO Secretariat will be released during the 50th Annual Session of AALCO to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 27th June to 1st July 2011. A similar publication entitled “Essays on Contemporary Issues in International Law” was released during the 48th Annual Session of AALCO held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in the year 2009.

F. Internship Programme (2010-2011, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi)

31. One of the Centre’s activities is to encourage the young students of law from the Member States to get familiarized with the functioning of inter-governmental Organization and also to have a preliminary understanding of international law by way of short projects. During the period under review of this Report, i.e., from August 2010 to 1st June 2011, nine students from India and Malaysia have successfully completed or undergoing their internship programme at the AALCO Secretariat.

32. During the internship, the internees were assigned several tasks which included: i) Preparation of a short report on the history, functions and objectives of the AALCO; ii) Creating a database of national legislation of Member States on specific topics; iii) visit to intergovernmental Organizations such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and institution such as Indian Society of International Law (ISIL). After their successful completion of the internship, a Certificate was awarded by the Secretary-General of AALCO.

33. As the internship programme is available throughout the year in the AALCO Secretariat, the Member States are requested to make use of this opportunity and thereby encourage the law students to undertake such internship programme with AALCO in New Delhi.

III. FUTURE PROJECTS/ENDEAVOURS

A. Proposed Training Programmes and other Activities in 2011-2012

34. One of the primary objectives of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) is to undertake activities for the promotion and wider dissemination of international law and strengthen international law expertise in the Asian-African region. Pursuant to this object, AALCO has over the years undertaken various activities, including organizing Training Programmes for the officials of Member States, Workshops and Seminars on various international law themes. These programmes have served as one of the important means of building network among the scholars, diplomats and other government officials dealing with international law in the Asian-African region. This would go a long way in promoting and strengthening South-South cooperation.

35. In the period 2011-2012, the AALCO Secretariat intends to further strengthen the existing programmes and introduce new programmes. Some of the proposed programmes are: Training Programme in international law issues organized at the Headquarters (New Delhi)/any interested Member State(s); Regional Workshop on Treaty Law and Practice; Expert Group Meetings/Workshops on International Law; Workshop/Seminar on UNCITRAL related texts and Young Jurist Conference.

36. The Training Programme at the Headquarters is an annual feature and permanent activity of the Centre for Research and Training. In this respect, the Secretariat would organize continuously on international law issues with the objective to refresh Diplomats and Government officials from Capital with the fundamentals and the new developments in international law.

B. Database on National Legislations Implementing International Law of AALCO Member States

37. The Secretariat is intending to formulate a database on the national legislations of the Member States of AALCO on the various fields of international law. Towards that objective, AALCO is presently considering to prepare a database of the Member States on the area of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) jointly with ICRC. A preliminary database will be released during the 50th Annual Session of AALCO. The AALCO Secretariat is planning to bring more such data bases in the near future.

C. Eminent Persons Group (EPG)

38. The Secretary-General proposes to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of eminent jurists and scholars from Member States. The EPG could serve as an informal guidance mechanism/advisory body for the Secretary-General to steer the work of the Organization. The aim of the group would be to suggest to the Secretary-General the short, medium and long term measures needed for the substantive work and financial well being of the Organization. The Expert Group may either hold periodical meetings at the

Headquarters of AALCO in New Delhi or at a place of their choice in consultation with the Secretary-General of AALCO. The proceedings of such meeting and the recommendations would be submitted at the Annual Session. The first such meeting is proposed to take place on 26th June 2011 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

D. Research and Training Fund of AALCO

39. It may be recalled that at the Thirty-Third (Tokyo, Japan) Annual Session, 1994, the Heads of Delegations had decided that the CRT would be retained as a part of the AALCO Secretariat, and its operational costs would be met from the regular budget of the AALCO. However, the regular budget itself is facing many difficulties due to non-payment of the contributions by some Member States on time and huge arrears of contributions by the Member States for many years.

40. The problem of funding the activities of the CRT, especially from the regular budget of the Organization has severely restricted the activities that could be undertaken by the Centre. The Centre, because of financial constraints, is not able to expand its further research activities and undertake projects, as well as training programmes, within AALCO.

41. Keeping in view the importance of the Fund, the Forty-Ninth Session, in the Resolution AALCO/49/ORG 4, urged the Member States to make voluntary contributions to the “Research and Training Fund” established vide AALCO/RES/45/ORG 4 to promote and strengthen Research and Training under the CRT, and to provide a sustainable financial base to the Centre to undertake its mandated activities”.

42. Any Member State of AALCO could provide voluntary contribution to the “Research and Training Fund”. The Fund will be exclusively devoted to research on international law issues of common interest to Member States and for the training of the officials of Member States.

E. Arabic Version of AALCO Website and Arabic Translation of AALCO Works

43. AALCO Membership consists of 16 Arabic speaking countries. In order to make AALCO work effective, AALCO Secretariat provides Arabic translation of secretariat reports on the deliberated agenda items of the Annual Sessions. AALCO Secretariat also arranges simultaneous interpretation from English to Arabic and vice versa during the Annual Sessions of AALCO. The AALCO Secretariat is planning to have an Arabic version of the AALCO website and to upload Arabic translation of AALCO documents to further assist the Arabic speaking AALCO Member States and other Arab countries in the Asian-African region.

IV. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE AALCO SECRETARIAT

44. The adaptation of the “Data Collection Unit” to the “Centre for Research and Training,” symbolized a new beginning for the Centre towards undertaking research, as well as training programmes, with in AALCO. However, the Centre has been facing difficulties in its effective functioning due to financial constraints as mentioned above.

45. It is pointed out that during the Tokyo Annual Session, 1994 and Doha Annual Session, 1995 the Secretariat was called upon to take active measures to publicise the existence of the Unit and the services available in the Unit.⁵ Therefore, it is submitted that the Member States may consider reviving this mandate and adopting appropriate methods to publicise the work of the Centre as well as the activities undertaken by and resources available with the Centre, in order to encourage other groups like students, research scholars, universities, and Organizations to access it.

46. CRT, as part of its activities, would continue to hold meetings of experts on various issues of international law. Along with its periodic publications, the CRT would also undertake, in future, special studies with a view to providing Member States in-depth analysis on topics of relevance.

47. Keeping in view that the Secretariat in the process of revitalizing its activities, the Member States are urged to fund adequately for CRT in order to facilitate its future activities as explained in the previous section effectively. This would help the Centre to institute fellowships and per diem for officials and experts participating in the Training Programmes.

48. The Member States may also provide the Secretariat with necessary directions and recommendations regarding the research topics as well as specific Training Programmes. The Member States may also suggest topics of common interest and concern for conducting in-depth research studies.

⁵ Para 5 of the “Report on the Progress made by the Data Collection Unit” adopted at the Thirty-Third Annual Session held at Tokyo, 1994 provided:

“5. Directs the Secretariat to take active measures to publicise the existence of the Unit so that the services available in the Unit could come to the knowledge of the private companies in the Member States.”

It was reiterated and further elucidated in Para 5 of the “Resolution on the progress of the AALCO’s Data Collection Unit” adopted at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Session held at Doha, 1995.

V. ANNEX

SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT
AALCO/RES/DFT/50/ORG 4
1 JULY 2011

REPORT ON THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING OF THE AALCO

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fiftieth Session,

Having considered the Secretariat Report on the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) of the AALCO, contained in Document No. AALCO/50/COLOMBO/2011/ORG 4,

Having heard with appreciation the introductory remarks of the Deputy Secretary-General,

Recognizing the need and importance of the exchange of information among AALCO, its Member States, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, and other International Organizations for improved capacity-building and enhancement of legal expertise in areas of international law,

Bearing in mind the effective role of research and training in promoting the objectives of the Organization,

Also bearing in mind a more proactive role the CRT could play in furthering the mandate of the Organization in making the best use of the Headquarters which is equipped with modern technology and infrastructure facilities,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing special studies on matters of common concern and its plan to hold training programmes in cooperation with International Organizations and to ensure financial support to these programmes,

Also appreciating the efforts of the CRT for organizing the Training Programme on International Humanitarian Law and Training Workshop on the World Trade Organization at the AALCO Headquarters in New Delhi;

1. **Requests** the Secretariat to maintain, update and improve the technical efficiency of the website for facilitating dissemination of information to the Member States, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, and other International Organizations;

2. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to foster capacity-building of the Centre to carry out further research projects on international law and to organize training programmes for the benefit of the officials of Member States handling international law issues;

3. **Urges** Member States to furnish information and other relevant materials, including the name and address of the focal point with e-mail and the website of the Ministry concerned and officials in charge of AALCO, in order to enhance the activities of the Centre for Research and Training (CRT);

4. **Also Urges** Member States to make voluntary contributions to the “Research and Training Fund” established vide RES/45/ORG 4 to promote and strengthen Research and Training under the CRT, and to provide a sustainable financial base to the Centre to undertake its mandated activities;

5. **Directs** the Secretariat to take necessary measures to promote the awareness about the Centre so that the services available in the Centre would be made use of by the public and private sectors in the Member States;

6. **Also directs** the Secretariat to work towards the realization of its proposal for the training of officials of AALCO Member States;

7. **Requests** the Member States to provide the Secretariat with specific topics for conducting in-depth research studies; and

8. **Decides** to place this item on the provisional agenda of its Fifty-First Session.