



Asian-African Legal  
Consultative Organization  
(AALCO)



## The HCCH & the Apostille Convention: Exploring the Benefits for AALCO Members

The Secretariat of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) cordially invites the Member States to attend an **online seminar** on “**The HCCH & the Apostille Convention: Exploring the Benefits for AALCO Members**”, jointly hosted by AALCO and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 March 2022.

The details of the seminar and the registration link are provided below.

### Event

A number of Member States of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) are currently considering or preparing for accession to the *HCCH Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* (Apostille Convention). The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) is planning a practical seminar to enable more States to understand the benefits of acceding to the Convention.

Building on the pleasant and fruitful cooperation under the Cooperation Agreement between the HCCH and AALCO, and taking into account that many AALCO Member States, in particular African States, are not yet party to the Apostille Convention or a Member of the HCCH, AALCO considers it worthwhile to co-host this practical seminar in an effort to widen cooperation and better serve AALCO Member States.

### Background and context

The HCCH is an intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law. It does this through the development of treaties – the HCCH Conventions – covering family and child protection law, transnational litigation and legal cooperation, and commercial and financial law. Of the AALCO Member States, 17 are also Members of the HCCH.<sup>1</sup> The HCCH will provide an overview of the Organisation, its Conventions, and the benefits of Membership.

The Apostille Convention, which facilitates the use of public documents abroad by replacing the often long and costly legalisation process for foreign public documents, is the most successful HCCH Convention. With 121 Contracting Parties spanning every region of the world, over tens of millions of Apostilles are circulated each year. The Convention saves time and energy for people and companies doing cross-border business and has greatly facilitated global trade and investment.

There are currently 15 AALCO Members that are party to the Apostille Convention.<sup>2</sup> It is not required to be a Member of the HCCH before accession to any HCCH Convention. This means any AALCO Member State is eligible to accede to the Apostille Convention. There is no financial or other burden imposed by the Convention. The HCCH will provide an in-depth analysis of the Convention and the associated electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP), the benefits of accession for States, their citizens and businesses, as well as advice on the practical implementation of the Convention.

<sup>1</sup> Cyprus, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritius, People’s Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup> Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mauritius, Mongolia, Oman, People’s Republic of China (Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao *only*), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, and Turkey.

## **Structure**

The event will be held across two consecutive half-days on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 March 2022. More details on the timing will be made available in due course.

The programme will be opened by the respective Secretaries General. The substantive content will begin with a broad discussion on the HCCH that is relevant to all AALCO Members and will be accessible to those not familiar with the Organisation. The sessions will become progressively more targeted towards the Apostille Convention, concluding with information that is relevant to existing Contracting Parties or States that have taken significant steps towards accession.

The working language will be English, and the event will be held in an online only format. There is no limit on the number of participants.

This event is intended as an introduction. If certain States are more advanced in their consideration of HCCH Membership and/or the Apostille Convention, the Permanent Bureau is available for more targeted workshops, preferably in-person.

## **Registration**

Please click on the link below to register your attendance. Registrations will close on Friday 11 February 2022.

<https://limesurvey.hcch.net/index.php/437295>