

H.E. Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol

Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol is the seventh Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), an intergovernmental organization comprising 49 Member States from Asia and Africa and serving as an important platform for legal consultation, cooperation and the articulation of Asian-African perspectives on international law.

Dr. Pinitpuvadol was first elected Secretary-General for the term 2022–2025 and was subsequently reappointed for a second term 2026–2029, reflecting the continued confidence of AALCO Member States in his leadership and vision for the Organization.

During his tenure, Dr. Pinitpuvadol has worked to strengthen AALCO's role as a bridge between Asia and Africa and the wider international legal community. Under his leadership, AALCO has expanded its substantive engagement with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, including the International Law Commission (ILC), UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, UNIDROIT, the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), ICRC and other institutions active in the progressive development of international law, international trade and investment, and dispute settlement.

A particular emphasis of his tenure has been on ensuring that the perspectives and interests of Asian and African States, especially developing countries, are more effectively reflected in global legal processes. He has promoted AALCO's engagement on international investment law and ISDS reform, law of the sea, environmental law and climate change, international humanitarian law, cybercrime, artificial intelligence and other emerging areas of international law. He has also placed strong emphasis on capacity-building, legal education and greater engagement with young international lawyers, academics and government officials across Asia and Africa.

Dr. Pinitpuvadol has further promoted closer institutional dialogue between AALCO and the International Law Commission, including exchanges with ILC members and initiatives aimed at bringing Asian-African State practice and perspectives more effectively into the Commission's work. He has also strengthened AALCO's engagement with UNCITRAL on international trade law and investment dispute settlement and developed closer cooperation with UNCTAD on international investment agreements and investment law reform.

Capacity-building has been another central priority. During his tenure, AALCO has expanded its seminars, webinars, expert dialogues and partnerships with governments, universities and international organizations, with particular attention to strengthening the participation of developing countries and the next generation of international lawyers in the development of international law.

As AALCO approaches its 70th anniversary, Dr. Pinitpuvadol's second term is guided by the Strategic Vision “*AALCO@70 – Credible, Inclusive and Forward-Looking.*” The Vision seeks to strengthen AALCO's institutional relevance and international visibility while preserving its distinctive character as an Asian-African intergovernmental legal organization. Its priorities

include deeper engagement with major international legal institutions; stronger participation of Member States in AALCO's work; practical capacity-building and legal tools for emerging challenges; greater engagement with youth and academia; digital transformation; and strengthening AALCO's role as a bridge among different legal traditions and between Asia, Africa and the wider international community.

Before joining AALCO, Dr. Pinitpuvadol served as Executive Director of Thailand's International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), where he led programmes in international trade, investment and development and expanded institutional cooperation with UNCTAD, WTO, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP, ICSID and other regional and international organizations.

He previously served as a legal scholar and lecturer at Chulalongkorn University and has held various public and advisory positions in Thailand, including serving as a Senior Legal Expert on international law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. His principal areas of expertise include international investment law, international trade law, international economic law, private international law, international dispute settlement, human rights and children's rights.

Dr. Pinitpuvadol holds a Docteur en droit in International Law from the University of Strasbourg, France, as well as a Diplôme d'études approfondies (DEA) in International Law from Université Robert Schuman (Strasbourg III).

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Pinitpuvadol has sought to reinforce AALCO's founding mission while adapting the Organization to a rapidly changing international legal landscape—ensuring that Asian and African voices, experiences and legal traditions continue to contribute meaningfully to the progressive development of international law and a more inclusive international legal order.