

## **Secretary General**

**H.E. Prof. Dr. Kennedy GASTORN**



Prof. Kennedy Gastorn, of United Republic of Tanzania, is the sixth Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). He took office on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. He was elected for a four-year term at the Fifty-Fifth Annual Session held in New Delhi (HQ), India.

### **Vision for AALCO**

As the Secretary General of AALCO, Prof. Gastorn's priority is to reinforce AALCO as the "hub" for collective dialogue on legal concerns of the Member States from Asia and Africa. He also insists that he will continue to work towards getting AALCO heard and heeded in the international law-making process leading to its progressive and equitable development. He also aims to generate new momentum among the Member States to actively participate in AALCO activities and to encourage and welcome countries from Asia and Africa to become new members of AALCO.

His vision is to build a strong working relationship with the United Nations, the International Criminal Court (ICC), International Law Commission (ILC), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional organizations like Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Union, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). He also hopes to increase the scope of engagement with other IGOs and regional organizations.

### **Career at a Glance**

Prior to his current appointment, Prof. Gastorn was the Director of International Affairs of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the immediate past Head of the Department of Public Law, University of Dar es Salaam School of Law. He was also a member of the National Environmental Advisory Committee in the Vice President's Office United Republic of Tanzania. He has been involved with the Government of Tanzania as a consultant on various issues such as Drafting Regulations and Guidelines

for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act, 2004 of Tanzania in 2012 (Permanent Secretary, Vice President's Office United Republic of Tanzania); International development Agencies such as a Legal Consultant for GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) in drafting regulations relating to water resources management, supply and sanitation at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation of Tanzania and other international institutions as a consultant on issues such as Drafting a Scalable Model on Mediating and Arranging of German-African University Partnerships (2014), *Stiftung Partnerschaft mit Afrika e.V.*

He represented Tanzania as a legal expert within the framework of Admiralty/Maritime Law in the Indian Ocean Maritime Security Project (MASE) of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) since 2014. He is also a member of International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) based in Denmark. He worked at the Canadian High Commission in Tanzania and the German Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*) in Berlin, Germany.

Prof. Gastorn is an accomplished legal scholar and author and has co-edited and published numerous research papers and books on international legal issues and regional integration in particular. **His writings include:** Books titled “The impact of Tanzanian’s new land laws of the customary land rights of pastoralists: A case study of the Simanjiro and Bariadi Districts” (2008); “Processes of Legal Integration in the East African Community” (2011), and “Constitutional Reform Processes and Integration of East Africa” (2013).

Some of his recent papers in international refereed journals include: “Defining the Imprecise Contours of *Jus Cogens* in International Law”, 16 Chinese Journal of International Law (2017) 643-662; “The Progressive Liberalization of Trade in Services under the East African Community Common Market Protocol: Reviewing its Trends in the Light of World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services”, [*RECHT IN AFRIKA/LAW IN AFRICA*, 2015:2:198-223]; “The Inevitable Reforms on the Legislative Competencies of the East African Legislative Assembly” [*LAW AND POLITICS IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA*, 2015:1:28-48]; and the “Effectiveness of Flexible Land Tenure in Unplanned Urban Areas in the SADC Region: A Case Study of Tanzania and Experiences from Zambia and Namibia, [*SADC LAW JOURNAL*, 2013:2: 160-181].

He has received several academic awards including the Fulbright African Research Scholar in 2014 at the Buffalo Law School, State University of New York.

## **Education**

Prof. Gastorn read Bachelor and Master's in law from University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2003. He earned his doctorate from University of Bayreuth, Germany in 2007.

## **Personal**

Prof. Gastorn was born on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1976. He is married and has children.