

contemporary topics on which AALCO could do meaningful work. A lively exchange of views ensued the presentation by the Panelists. After the panel discussion the AALCO publication entitled: "The Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal Implications: Report of the Seminar and Select Documents" was released by the High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO proposed a vote of thanks. The event concluded with a reception and dinner hosted by Prof. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO.

#### WORKSHOP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (24-26 NOVEMBER 2010)

A Workshop on "Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and International Cooperation" was organized jointly by the AALCO and the Government of Malaysia in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 24 to 26 November 2010. Prof. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO and Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General represented the AALCO at the Workshop. It was attended by delegates from 16 Member States of AALCO, namely; India, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Republic of Sudan, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Union of Myanmar, and United Republic of Tanzania. The delegates from Australia (Non-Member State of AALCO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) also attended the Workshop. The Workshop was divided into three segments on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and International



(From L to R): SG delivering the Welcome Address at the Workshop.



Group Photograph of the participants at the Workshop.

Cooperation. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO and the keynote Address was rendered by Hon'ble Datuk Idrus Harun, Solicitor General of Malaysia. At the workshop, one of the suggestions that emerged was to address the issue of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters for both Asian and African regions.

#### PARTICIPATION AT THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (13 DECEMBER 2010)

At the Sixty-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Dr. Roy S. Lee, the Permanent Observer of the AALCO to the UN headquarters in New York, delivered the statement on behalf of AALCO on 13 December 2010. The statement was made under Agenda Item 122 (b) on "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations". Dr. Lee said that the Organization enhanced the role of Asian and African countries in shaping and transforming international law; and advocated for a new system of international relations that was more democratic and inclusive of all, including developing countries. It was also informed that in furtherance of brining matters of common concern to Asian and African countries to the International Law Commission, the Organization planned to introduce a series of meetings at the United Nations Headquarters early in 2011 to introduce candidates from Asia and Africa for the forthcoming elections of the International Law Commission and International Court of Justice.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (18-19 DECEMBER 2010)

Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO on behalf of the Organization had extended his support to the Construction Industry Arbitration Council (CIAC) based in New Delhi in organizing a two-day International Conference on "Emerging Trends in International Commercial Arbitration". The conference took place in New Delhi on 18 and 19 December 2010. The Secretary-General made an address during the inaugural segment of the Conference. Other dignitaries who also addressed the gathering during the inaugural session of the Conference were Hon'ble Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of Corporate Affairs; Hon'ble Justice R. V. Raveendran, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Chairman, CIAC; Mr. Pravin H. Parekh, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Mr. T. K. Vishwanathan, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha; and Mr. Chander Verma, Chairman, Construction Industry Development Council.

#### NEW ASSIGNMENT



After successfully completing his two-year tenure with the AALCO Secretariat, Dr. Yuichi Inouye has been posted by the Japanese Government at its Diplomatic mission in Zagreb, Croatia. The AALCO Secretariat bade farewell on 5 October 2010 to Dr. Inouye, who served as the Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO from September 2008 to October 2010. The farewell was attended by several diplomats and AALCO Staff. The AALCO Secretariat wishes him the very best in his future endeavours.

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# NEWSLETTER

## ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

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#### AALCO'S PARTICIPATION AT THE REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (1 JUNE 2010)

The Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was held from 31 May to 11 June 2010 at Kampala, Uganda. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO addressed the Plenary Session of the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the



Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO (SG) addressing the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

International Criminal Court on 1 June 2010. During his address, the Secretary-General mentioned the initiative taken by AALCO in promoting international criminal justice. An Informal Networking Meeting for the AALCO Member States followed by a reception was hosted by the Secretary-General on 2 June 2010. During the course of the meeting, H. E.

Mr. Ichiro Komatsu, Ambassador of Japan to Switzerland released the "Report of the Round Table Meeting of Legal Experts on the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC" held on 30-31 March 2010 at Putrajaya, Malaysia. The informal meeting was very well attended and several high-level representatives of Member States, Non-Member States and representatives of civil society organizations attended the Review Conference. A three-member delegation led by the Secretary-General; Dr. Yuichi Inouye, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO; and Mr. Shikhar Ranjan, Senior Legal Officer participated at the Review Conference.

#### SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH WTO OFFICIALS (13 JUNE 2010)

The Secretary-General of AALCO had a meeting with senior officials of the World Trade Organization (WTO) including Mr. Harsha Singh and Mr. Alejandro Jara, Deputy Director-Generals; Mr. Evan Rogerson, Director, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Division; Mr. Ian Huxtable, Counsellor, Council and TNC Division, and Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda, Director, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva on 13 June 2010. The WTO Officials highly appreciated the Basic Course on WTO organized by the AALCO and expressed their interest in providing resource persons and technical assistance for making the event a regular annual programme.

#### ADDRESS AT THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION (14 JULY 2010)

Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General of AALCO addressed the Sixty-second session of the International Law Commission (ILC) at the United Nations Offices in Geneva on 14 July 2010. He presented an overview of the deliberations on the "Report on Matters relating to the Work of ILC at its Sixtieth Session" that took place at the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO held from 17 to 20 August 2009 at Putrajaya, Malaysia. A lively exchange of views on areas of mutual interest to ILC and AALCO ensued the statement.

#### Liaison Officers Meetings

The 306<sup>th</sup>, 307<sup>th</sup> and Resumed 308<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officers Meetings were held on 16 July, 25 August, and 1 December 2010 respectively. The Liaison Officers Meetings were convened at AALCO Headquarters. They were chaired by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO.



SG; Dr. Hassan Soleimani and Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretaries-General (DSG) at the Liaison Officers Meeting.

They were attended by the Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Xu Jie, Dr. Yuichi Inouye; and Dr. Hassan Soleimani; and the Legal Staff of the Secretariat.

The 306<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officers Meeting was held on 16 July 2010 and attended by 19 Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States. The Meeting, inter alia, discussed various pertinent issues including Adoption of the Draft Budget for the Year 2011,

report on AALCO's participation in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC in Kampala, Uganda on 1 June 2010; Secretary-General's participation at the Sixty-second session of the International Law Commission at UN Offices in Geneva on 14 July 2010; and Information regarding the hosting of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO.

The 307<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officers Meeting was held on 25 August 2010 and attended by 17 Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States. At the meeting, the Secretary-General informed about the outcome of the Seminar on "Blockade on Gaza and its International Legal Implications" held on 16 July 2010; and the mandate received from the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 5 to 8 August 2010.

The Resumed 308<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officers Meeting was held on 1 December 2010 and attended by 20 Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States. The meeting discussed issues relating to External Auditor's Report for the Year 2009, Draft Budget for the Year 2012, AALCO Eminent Person's Group and establishment of Sub-Committee for Advisory Panel of Liaison Officers to look into the Administrative and Financial Matters relating to AALCO's Local Staff.

#### SEMINAR: BLOCKADE OF GAZA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (16 JULY 2010)



(From L to R): H. E. Mr. Levent Bilman, Prof. Achin Vanaik, H. E. Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi, SG, H. E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Higazy and the DSG.

In view of the attack on the peaceful aid convoy-Freedom Flotilla carrying humanitarian aid for the civilians in Gaza by the Israel on 31 May 2010, which has several international legal implications, AALCO convened a seminar on "Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal



Implications” on 16 July 2010 at AALCO Headquarters. The panelists for the seminar were Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO; H. E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Higazy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in India; H. E. Mr. Levent Bilman, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in India; H. E. Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi, Chief Representative of League of Arab States in India; and Prof. Achin Vanaik, Head, Department of Political Science, Delhi University. The seminar was followed by a lively question and answer session. Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO proposed a vote of thanks.

#### FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO (5-8 AUGUST 2010)

At the invitation of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO took place in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 5 to 8 August 2010. It was inaugurated by H. E. Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. H. E. Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Justice of the United Republic of Tanzania; and H. E. Mr. Priyasath Gerald, DEP, Solicitor General of Sri Lanka were elected as the President and Vice-President respectively of the session. The Annual Session was attended by 150 delegates from 30 Member States, 2 non-Member States and 6 International Organizations. 12 delegations were led by Ministers/Attorney-Generals/Solicitor Generals.



H. E. Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania inaugurating the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO on behalf of H. E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. In the photo (From L to R): Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO; H. E. Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO; SG; and Dr. M. Gandhi, Director, Legal and Treaties Division, Government of India representing Mr. Narinder Singh, President of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of AALCO.

The Annual Session apart from deliberating upon the organizational matters of AALCO, also deliberated on the following agenda items, namely; (i) Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among



Group Photograph of the Head of Delegations attending the Forty-Ninth Annual Session, August 2010.

them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in all Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law Particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949; (ii) WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for the World Trade; (iii) Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection; and (iv) Challenges in Combating Corruption: The Role of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Besides, a Thematic Debate on “Making AALCO’s Participation in the Work of International Law Commission (ILC) More Effective and Meaningful”; and two-half day Special Meetings on “The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments” and “Environment and Sustainable Development” were also organized.

The Forty-Ninth Annual Session accepted the invitation by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Fiftieth Annual Session of AALCO. Tentatively, the proposed dates for the Fiftieth Annual Session are from 26 to 30 June 2011.

#### • DEBATE ON “MAKING AALCO’S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION (ILC) MORE EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL” (6 AUGUST 2010)

One of the highlights of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session was the thematic debate on “Making AALCO’s Participation in the Work of International Law Commission (ILC) More Effective and Meaningful” held on 6 August 2010. H. E. Mr. Priyasath Gerald, DEP, Vice-President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO chaired the meeting. Introductory Remarks by Prof. Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO were followed by presentations from three Panelists, namely Prof. Shinya Murase, Member of International Law Commission from Japan; Dr. Roy S. Lee, Permanent Observer of the AALCO to the United Nations Headquarters, New York; and Prof. V. S. Mani, Director, School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, India.

#### • SPECIAL MEETING ON “THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS” (7 AUGUST 2010)

A half-day Special Meeting on “The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments” took place on 7 August 2010. The Special Meeting was jointly organized by AALCO and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). There were two Working Sessions; namely, (i) Principle of Complementarity and (ii) Crime of Aggression. Panelists for the Working Session-I were; Amb. Yasuji Ishigaki, the Special Assistant to the Foreign Minister of Japan; Mr. Pahkiso Mochochoko, Senior Legal Adviser, ICC; Dr. Roy S. Lee; and Dr. Srinivas Burra, Legal Adviser, ICRC, Regional Delegation for South Asia, New Delhi. Working Session-II on Crime of Aggression had presentations by Prof. V.S. Mani; Amb. Yasuji Ishigaki, and Dr. Roy S. Lee

#### • SPECIAL MEETING ON “ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” (7 AUGUST 2010)

On 7 August 2010, another half-day Special Meeting on “Environment and Sustainable Development” was jointly organized by the AALCO, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL). The Special Meeting had two Working Sessions, namely, (i) Building Momentum towards Cancun Climate Change Negotiations; and (ii) Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development. Presentations in Working Session-I were made by Mr. Xiang Xin, Deputy Division Director, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People’s Republic of China; Prof. Shinya Murase, Sophia University, Tokyo; and Dr. Roy S. Lee. Presentation in Working Session-II was made by Mr. Donald Kanairu, Regional Governor, ICEL. A Memorandum of Understanding for furthering cooperation between the AALCO and ICEL was signed by the Secretary-General of AALCO and Mr. Donald Kanairu, the Regional Governor of ICEL formerly Director, Environment, Policy and Law Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on behalf of their respective organizations.

#### REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON TREATY LAW AND PRACTICE (13-15 OCTOBER 2010)

A regional training course on “Treaty Law and Practice” was organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia and AALCO jointly with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in Jakarta, Indonesia from 13 to 15 October 2010. Prof. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO and Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General represented the AALCO at the Training course. During the Opening Session, remarks were made by the representative of the UNOLA and the Secretary-General. H. E. Triyono Wibowo, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia delivered the opening remarks. The Secretary-General also made a presentation on “The Work of AALCO”. The training was attended by over 40 participants from 14 AALCO Member States.



(From L to R): Director-General of Ministry of Legal Affairs, Indonesia; H. E. Triyono Wibowo, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; SG; and Representative of United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA)

Later on, the Secretary-General during his visit to Indonesia also had a meeting with H. E. Dr. Bagas Hapsoro, Deputy Secretary-General, ASEAN on 13 October 2010. He also delivered a public lecture at the University of Padjajaran Bandung and visited the Museum of Asia Africa Conference



SG and DSG at the Museum of Asia Africa Conference 1955.

1955 on 14 October 2010. He had a meeting with the official of the Indonesian Society of International Law in Jakarta on 15 October 2010.

#### AALCO MEETING AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS (1 NOVEMBER 2010)

The Annual AALCO Meeting convened on the sidelines of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly took place at the UN Headquarters in New York on 1 November 2010. To ensure a theme based discussion, the meeting was organized in two segments, namely, the “Legal Issues Facing the Regions of Africa and Asia” and “Matters relating to the work of the International Law Commission”. On behalf of H.E. Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, the President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO, H. E. Mr. Ombeni Y. Sefue, the Permanent Representative of United Republic of Tanzania at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

chaired the meeting. Under the first segment, statements were made by the President and Secretary-General of AALCO. The meeting was also addressed by H.E. Judge Hisashi Owada, the President of the International Court of Justice; Ms. Patricia O’ Brien, the Legal Counsel of the UN; Amb. Isabelle Picco, Chair, Sixth Committee; Amb. Hasan Kleib, Vice Chair, ASEAN, and Mr. Dire Tiadi, Legal Counsellor of the Republic of South Africa. Dr. Roy S. Lee, Permanent Observer of the AALCO to the UN Headquarters, New York also addressed the meeting.

The second segment of the meeting was devoted to ILC Matters. Following the presentation by the Secretary-General on the essence of the deliberations of the thematic debate held during the Forty-Ninth Session of AALCO; Amb. N. Wisnumurti, the Chair of ILC made a presentation on the work of ILC at its sixty-second session. The meeting witnessed wide participation as 81 UN Member States attended it. Four members of the Commission including the Chairman also attended the meeting.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 54<sup>TH</sup> CONSTITUTION DAY OF AALCO (15 NOVEMBER 2010)

To commemorate the 54<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century” at AALCO Headquarters. The panelists for the Panel Discussion were Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General of AALCO; H. E. Eng. John W. H. Kijazi, High Commissioner of United Republic of Tanzania to India; H. E. Mr. Zhang Yan, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to India; H. E. Dato’ Tan Seng Sung, High Commissioner of Malaysia to India; H. E. Sheikh Humaid Ali Sultan Al-Manni, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to India; H. E. Mr. Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and H. E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India. From the views presented by the eminent panelists, it was inferred that there were many



(From L to R): H. E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, H. E. Sheikh Humaid Ali Sultan Al-Manni, H. E. Mr. Narinder Singh, SG, H. E. Eng. John W. H. Kijazi, H. E. Mr. Zhang Yan and H. E. Dato’ Tan Seng Sung.



(From L to R): SG, H. E. Eng. John W. H. Kijazi and H. E. Mr. Zhang Yan H. E. Eng. John W. H. Kijazi, High Commissioner of United Republic of Tanzania releasing the book on “The Blockade of Gaza and its International Legal Implications: Report of the Seminar and Select Documents”.