

Report of Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, on participation at the workshop on “The Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Disputes Relating to the Law of the Sea in the Gulf Area”, held in Bahrain on 4-6 February 2008.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea and the Kingdom of Bahrain jointly organized a workshop on **“The Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Disputes Relating to the Law of the Sea in the Gulf Area”** which was held in Bahrain on 4-6 February 2008.

On behalf of Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil, the Secretary-General of AALCO, Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General, participated in the abovementioned workshop as an Observer and made a presentation thereat. Representatives of the States in the Gulf Area except Iraq attended the workshop, i.e. Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, United Arab Emirates, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Yemen.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Almed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain, delivered the Opening Statement. He emphasized on the important role which played by ITLOS in the settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea and wished the workshop successful.

H.E. Judge Rudiger Wolfrum, president of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, delivered a statement. He thanked the government of Bahrain for hosting the workshop, and said the Bahrain Workshop is the fifth in the series of regional workshops organized by the Tribunal in order to provide

counsel and governmental experts working in ocean affairs with insight into the dispute settlement procedures enshrined in the 1982 UN Convention for the Law of the Sea with special attention given to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and the procedure for bringing disputes before it. “Practical information about the manner in which cases are instituted and conducted before the Tribunal, whilst taking into account particular issues on ocean affairs and the law of the sea arising in the region in question, will be offered to counsel and governmental experts. The discussions and contributions made will be based on the procedural law of the Tribunal and will set out the advantages it offers potential litigants.” During the workshop, he also made presentations on “Proceedings on the Merits and Incidental Proceedings”, and “Provisional Measures under the Convention, Article 290, Paragraphs 1&5.”

Judge P. Chandrasekhara Rao, from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, made presentations on “Introduction to Proceedings before the Tribunal” and “Advisory opinions”. Judge Joseph Akl, Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, delivered a speech on “Prompt Release of Vessels and Crews”. Judge Shunji Yanai, from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, made a presentation on “Environmental and Fisheries Matters before the Tribunal”. Mr. Philippe Gautier, Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, made a presentation on “How to Submit a Case”.

At the Information Session of the workshop, Dr. Xu Jie, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, made a presentation concerning the Organization and its work, especially on the Law of the Sea and its significant contribution in the elaboration of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (see Annex), he also answered many questions raised by the participants from States of the Gulf Area and distributed AALCO Brochures and AALCO special study which titled *Fifty Years of AALCO Commemorative Essays in International Law* at the workshop. And Prof. Dr. Doris Konig from the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea made a presentation on her

Organization and relevant Law of the Sea issues.

The workshop was huge successful, it provided participants with the opportunity to exchange views on the experience they had and the difficulties that they have encountered in the field of the Law of the Sea. And AALCO's participation had added an extra value to the workshop, it not only enhanced the relation between AALCO and its Member States, but also strengthened its long-standing relationship with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and well grounded in the future cooperation.