



Training Programme on the Working of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, 3 February 2015, AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi

On 3 February 2015, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) conducted a training programme on the working of the Organization for diplomats and legal officers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The training programme was held at the AALCO Headquarters in New Delhi, India. The delegation led by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India, His Excellency Ambassador Maan Al Hafiz comprised officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Court of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Mr. Ioannis Konstantinidis representing international law firm, Volterra Fietta.

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO, in his welcome speech, thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their continued interest in and support to the activities of AALCO. His Excellency Ambassador Maan Al Hafiz thanked the Secretariat of AALCO for their effort in conducting a training programme dedicated to the officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The first part of the programme was a brief presentation on the contemporary issues in international law from the Asian-African perspective by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad. He highlighted the four major challenges of the international law that the Asian-African regions are grappling with— violent extremism and terrorism, international law in cyberspace, armed conflict and refugee flows and the violence in Gaza. The session is then followed by a question and answer (Q&A) session.

The following session was conducted by Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Principal Legal Officer and Mr. Pandiaraj, Senior Legal Officer, touching on the historical background to the establishment of the AALCO and its functioning. Mrs. Bakshi provided the participants with a comprehensive background of the Organization. Mr. Pandiaraj then shared with

the participants the contributions of the Organization towards the progressive development and codification of international law. He also went on to highlight AALCO's links with other global and interregional organizations and the activities that AALCO undertakes in pursuance of those links. The publications of AALCO were also introduced to the delegates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Then Mr. Feng Qinghu, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, took the floor for discussing the concept of the rule of law through the domestic and international perspectives and its manifestation in the United Nations system. The next speaker for the evening was Mr. Moshen Baharvand, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, who discussed at length the relationship between AALCO and the ILC in its historical trajectory and the concrete outcomes thereof. The participants enthusiastically participated in the discussion followed. This is the third time that AALCO has conducted similar training programmes for the officers of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The first and the second programmes were held in 2013 and 2014.