



Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad of Malaysia was elected and appointed as the Secretary-General of the Asian-African legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) on 30th June 2008 for a four-year term. He assumed his office on 15th August 2008.

Prior to his current appointment, Rahmat Mohamad was the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. He holds the position of Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law in the same University in 2003, where he started his career as a Lecturer in 1986. He read law at the Institut Teknologi MARA, Malaysia and pursued his LL.M at Bristol University, England in 1986. Later he attained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the University of Aberystwyth, United Kingdom.

Rahmat Mohamad is an accomplished author and has published research papers and several books and studies on international legal issues. He has presented papers on ASEAN and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at international and national conferences and meetings. His doctoral thesis entitled "*Dispute Settlement in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)*" had inspired him to co-author two books namely; *A Dispute Settlement Mechanism for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)* (Lexis Nexis: 2004) (co-authored with Azahari Abdul Aziz) and *Understanding Dispute Settlement Mechanism in the World Trading System: An Analysis of the Mechanism under the WTO, NAFTA and MERCOSUR* (Lexis Nexis: 2004) (co-authored with Azahari Abdul Aziz)

Rahmat Mohamad was instrumental in establishing the ASEAN Studies Center and was its founding Director. The Centre is strongly supported both by the government and non-governmental organizations in the ASEAN region. Under his leadership the Centre was privileged to organize the first ASEAN Civil Society Conference in 2005. At the ASEAN Summit 2005, held in Kuala Lumpur, Rahmat Mohamad represented the civil societies of ASEAN to voice their concerns before the ASEAN Heads of State and Government. Symbolically it was the first official engagement between the ASEAN Heads of State and the civil societies held in Malaysia since the inception of ASEAN in 1967. As a founding director of the Center he co-edited a book entitled "*Building an ASEAN Community*" (ASEAN Studies Centre: 2005)

Committed as he is to the notion that the collective voice of the Asian-African states should be brought to bear on the international law-making, as Secretary-General of AALCO, he has taken a number of steps towards that end by channeling the views of Asian-African States on a number of issues, and to put them forth at various international fora to ensure that they get adequate weightage. Driven by the need to promote as widely as possible the dissemination of international law and its expertise in Asian-African countries, not only has he delivered numerous lectures and papers in India and abroad, but also, convened many dialogues and seminars on a regular basis with Regional Organizations, Government Think Tanks and Universities, with a view to exploring the areas of international law from the third world perspective. He has also been instrumental in the convening of a number of capacity building programmes under the aegis of AALCO with other international organizations such as the: United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA); International Criminal Court (ICC); World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to name a few with a view to assist the Member States of AALCO towards strengthening their regional and national capacities to implement their legal obligations. His quest has always been to place the views and common concerns of Asian-African States at international fora. His latest publication entitled "*Asian – African Perspectives on International Law in the Post Westphalian Era: Some Reflections*" reflects his thoughts on the contemporary working of international law in the paradigm of the Asian and African perspective and was released by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on his official visit to India on March 11, 2011.

In the year 2010, he had initiated the move towards the creation of AALCO – Eminent Person Group [EPG] that comprises of eminent international law practitioners and Jurists from the Asian-African region. The core mission of EPG is to assist and guide the Member States of AALCO as regards the future direction of the Organization and towards that end, to ascertain the concrete challenges obtaining in various areas of international legal order in the resolution of which AALCO could play an important role from the view point of its Member States.

He has participated in umpteen numbers of international law conferences and events over the years. The most notable amongst them include: the first Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court held at Kampala, Uganda in 2010, the Third World Summit of Prosecutors held at Bucharest, Romania in 2009, and the Second Biennial General Conference of the Asian Society of International Law," held at Tokyo, Japan in 2009. He has also contributed to the Fourth Edition of the Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development of ICEL and the IUCN. Due to the Permanent Observer status that AALCO enjoys with the United Nations, he also works very closely with various UN Specialized Agencies and other Organizations on the common theme of capacity building and institutional support on rule of law and progressive development and codification of international law.

Rahmat Mohamad is married and has four children and now lives in the Diplomatic Enclave of Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India.