

Training Seminar on Treaty Law and Practice hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.R. China. Wuhan, 13-17 October 2009

A four-day regional capacity-building workshop for the ASEAN Member States on treaty law and practice was held from 13 to 17 October, in Wuhan, P.R. China. The United Nations Secretary-General has identified the consolidation and the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels as one of the most important goals of the Organization and this training served to further that goal by bringing together officials of the member States (except Brunei Darussalam) of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the P.R. of China as well as Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

Convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.R. China and implemented by the Wuhan University Institute of International Law, it was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs. Generous support for the participants was provided by the United Nations Foundation and the Democratic Governance of UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy.

The opening ceremony included statements by H.E. Dr. XUE Hanqin, Ambassador of China to ASEAN, Legal Counsel of the Foreign Ministry of China, Member of the International Law Commission, and member of the Institut de droit international, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Bin Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO, Dr. XIE Hongxing, Prof. XIAO Yongping and Prof. YU Minyou of Wuhan University and Ms. Annebeth Rosenboom, Chief of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, representing the United Nations.

General presentations were given on international treaty law, participation in multilateral treaties and the depositary practice of the Secretary-General, the registration of treaties under Article 102 of the UN Charter, and reservations and declarations by officials of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs. Dr. XUE gave a presentation on relevant issues of the International Law Commission, Mr. TIAN Lixiao, Director of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China gave a presentation on corruption and extradition, Mr. YI Xianliang, Counsellor of the Department of treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China gave a presentation on negotiating multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) and relevant procedural issues. Professor Sienho YEE, of Wuhan University, gave a presentation on the interpretation of treaties by the International Court of Justice and its implications for treaty-makers and one on the issue of a State member's responsibility for acts of an international organization. Professor Bing Bing JIA of Tsinghua University gave a presentation on the relations between treaties and custom. Mr. Torsten Schackel, Human rights officer of the Office of the High commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination gave an introduction to the Office of the High commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): mandate, activities and resources available to governments and a presentation on the International Human rights Treaty System (CRC and CEDAW).

A special session focused on the evaluation of the workshop and further requests from the UN family of offices and programmes that could assist States in the region to implement treaties at the domestic level.