



THIRD PROF. N.R. MADHAVA MENON SAARC MOOTING COMPETITION AND LAW STUDENTS CONFERENCE, 2017-18

17th to 18th February, 2018

Supreme Court Judge, Justice Kurian Joseph inaugurated the third Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon SAARCLAW Mooting Competition and Law Students' Conference on 17 February at Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida. Law students from all SAARC countries were participants of the gathering which included Supreme Courts' judges of Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, Judge Supreme Court of Nepal was the Guest of Honour for the event.

Addressing the galaxy of audience which included professors, publishers, senior advocates, and students from across the SAARC countries, Justice Kurian said that the world is now a small village and the lawman being a part of it must lead the world forward. To the young students present for the competition he said that law teaches how to live, and it is for everyone but those few who feel are above it create a lot of problems for the nation. Recalling the lawmakers of the country he said that they had a vision and a mission and they faced many problems but never lost faith in their vision and mission, similarly, the young lawyers of each country must have a mission to take the society forward. He added that only the practitioners of law can take the society ahead.

The Introductory Address of the SAARCLAW Mooting Competition was given by Prof. (Dr.) S. Siva Kumar, Member, Law Commission of India. He informed that this completion takes a total of seven month long preparation. Talking about the inception of the concept, he said that MILAT, Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy and Training, Trivandrum had put faith on Lloyd and the competition took shape which was only possible under the guidance of the 'great grandfather' of legal education, Padma Shree Prof. (Dr.) N R Madhava Menon. He said, this year, SAARCLAW, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law, too has supported the competition. SAARCLAW, which believes in bridging the gap between the legal

professionals of SAARC countries. He alleged that he has great faith in the students who would be practitioners of law and would bridge the gap between the nations which is created due to socio-political issues.

Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India, Mr. R. Venkataramani, called this competition the 'New Silk Route'. He said the competition will bring the nations closer, just the way the old silk route did. The importance of the competition, he said, is to generate goodwill and peace.

Padma Shree Prof. N R Madhava Menon, on whose name the competition is named, emphasized on the fact that in a five year law program, at least one and half years should be given to practice.

The Guest of Honor, Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, Judge Supreme Court of Nepal, quoted Martin Luther King "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere..." He said that have to learn by doing, and have to carve our own path, without naming the media houses, he said that a few media trials in Nepal have had a very strong impact on the judiciary.

The Inauguration ended with two book releases by Justice Kurian. The first, a compilation of articles by students, *Rights of Indigenous People in SAARC*, the first copy of which was given to Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, Judge Supreme Court of Nepal and the second, *Magna Carta and Human Rights: The Legacy of 800+ Years*, Justice Buwaneke Ahuwihare, Judge Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, received the first copy of the book from Justice Kurian.

A conference of law students from SAARC countries will also be held along with the competition between 16 and 18 February. The conference is a forum for law students from the South Asian region to interact. It aims to provide an understanding of the legal systems in these countries to the participating students. The topic for this year's conference is *Disaster Management: SAARC Cooperation*.

Along with the SAARCLAW Mooting Competition, a Colloquium on Ethics for Legal-Judicial Professions also took place. The Inaugural Address of the colloquium was given by Justice T S Thakur, Former Chief Justice of India and the Valedictory address by Justice B. S. Chauhan, Chairman, Law Commission of India.

In conjunction with the Mooting Competition, Lloyd Law College and Bar Council of Kerala M K Nambyar Academy for Continuing Legal Education (Kochi) are organizing a two day South Asian Colloquium on *Ethic for Legal-Judicial Professions* on 17-18 February 2018. Former Chief Justice of India Justice T S Thakur will give the presidential address and the Attorney General of India KK Venugopal will address the inaugural session of the colloquium. Honorary. Director of M. K. N. Academy for Continuing Legal Education Padmashree Prof. N R Madhava Menon will give the welcome address and former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka Justice Mohan Pieris will deliver the key note address.

Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, giving the valedictory address at the third Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon SAARCLAW Mooting Competition and Law Students' Conference 2017-18 said that seeing the judges, academics and students of the SAARC countries at one platform proves the Sanskrit word '*Vasudev Kutumbkam*' true to its meaning. He said that such gatherings are a platform to exchange knowledge, which would in turn lead to improvement of conditions of mankind. Addressing the students of law from all SAARC nations at Lloyd Law College he said that being a human being is also an opportunity and we must make the best of it by giving back to society.

The valedictory function was attended by Padma Shree Prof. N R Madhava Menon, after whom the program is named, Prof. S Siva Kumar, Member, Law Commission of India, Mr. Lalit Bhasin, President, Society of India Law Firms (SILF).

Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida has been organizing this competition for the last three years and this year a total of 29 teams, across all SAARC countries registered, of which 20 participated in the third Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon SAARCLAW Mooting Competition. There were 3 teams from Bangladesh, 3 from Nepal, 3 from Sri Lanka, 1 from Afghanistan, 1 from Maldives, and 7 from India.

The winner of the competition was School of Excellence in Law, Tamil Nadu, India and the First Runners Up was Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.