

PROGRESSIVE OUT-LOOK IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS*

I ndia has rich historical background of learning and knowledge and

culture of peace, harmony and non-violence. New Delhi, is the seat of Supreme Court of India, which, as a juridical institution of democratic society, has earned a recognition in world around for its progressive out-look in the field of human rights, access to justice and innovating methods of dispute settlement – domestic and international. Article 253 of the Constitution of India empowers Indian Parliament to make laws for implementing decisions made at any international conference, association or other body. Article 51(c) enables Indian Courts to interpret laws consistently with endeavour to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration. India is a nation committed to the rule of law, and also aware of changing economic trends and those of social obligations. It not only contributes to the thought processes of society but also learns from the collective wisdom which was shown at this Conference.

It is very imperative to have such deliberations. The world we are living in today has been increasingly influenced by information and communication technology, global trade and greater interdependence amongst the nations. The world economy has undergone a rapid transformation.

Unfortunately, we are living in a world eclipsed by conflict and confrontation, suspicion and terrorism which continue *to tear asunder* peace and prosperity in the world. The hope for the future world is the common-minded people of different regions coming together and thinking on establishing peace, order and security in the society, based upon the rule of law and principles of justice and equity. By understanding each other's viewpoint, an international order with newer dimensions and universal in character neither preconditioned nor limited by the rigidities of any particular nation or country can be contemplated. Evolution of perspectives and dimensions, acceptable to all irrespective of political, social, economic and cultural differences is not a utopia. It is an ongoing process which must continue to keep alive and enriched by the voluntary, whole-hearted and purpose-oriented cooperation of Law Asia family. The availability of Forum for peace-loving intellectuals of multi-national society contributes to order and stability for mankind. It also provides a foundation for raising the super-structure of common enterprising and congenial inter-connections. Understanding each other's viewpoint, exchange of views on a common platform and open objective discussion on matters of common concern give rise to mutual recognition which brings the international community close to each other and develops trust in each other.

In this emerging networked global society, where barriers and tariffs are being dismantled, and where time is of the essence, nations are building their information infrastructures. While E-Commerce is becoming a part of day to day life and businesses are refusing to deal with paper in the near future, a whole range of issues, which are matters ripe enough to be dealt with, by us, have surfaced such as laws for E-Commerce, taxation on goods and services sold over the internet etc.

I am glad to learn that all these issues, vital to civilized international society, were discussed at the Conference and viable information to tackle them was exchanged among the delegates. It is essential for the legal minds across the globe to periodically share their wisdom and experiences. There is a lot we can learn from each other.

I am glad to observe that our concern goes beyond the issues which have been dictated to us on account of economic and technological changes. Several issues of social concern like Environmental Law, Consumer Law and effects of privatization have been discussed.

I feel there is need to reflect on the benefits of such technology in the context of each country to harness it for the betterment of each society.



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