SAARCLAW Sri Lanka Chapter hosted a well-organized, well attended and a successful 14th SAARCLAW and 11th SAARC Chief Justices' conference. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

SAARCLAW is striving to bring the Legal Fraternity in South Asia together. The member countries of SAARC and its legal community have often felt the need to be closer and work together for better life and effective understanding through shared learning in the field of law reforms, enforcement, and justice administration, good governance with special advantages for regional cooperation, development and growth. There is a growing need amongst the member countries to focus on regional infrastructure as a means to facilitate meaningful connectivity for regional trade and free flow of ideas, goods, services, technology and resources as lack of connectivity will hinder regional development in all dimensions. The Legal Community of SAARC region has explored the possibility of enhancing connectivity in SAARC through law, justice, good governance and development. SAARCLAW Conference and Chief Justices Conference is one of the major steps of SAARCLAW to turn the vision and mission of the organization into reality. SAARCLAW organized 14th SAARCLAW Conference and 11th Chief Justices Conference on the 27th-28th and 29th October 2017 at Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The theme of the conference was ‘Emerging legal trends in SAARC Countries’. The conference was attended by the Honorable Chief Justices of SAARC Countries or its representatives from and the legal fraternity from South Asia.

High Level Delegates in the 14th SAARCLAW Conference and the 11th SAARC Chief Justices’ Conference. (L-R): Hon’ble Justice Mr. Tsering Wangchuk, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Hon’ble Justice Mr. Mirza Hussain Haider, Judge, Supreme Appellate Court of Bangladesh, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, Chief Justice of Pakistan, Hon’ble Justice Mr. Abdullah Saeed, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Maldives, Hon’ble Justice Mr. Sayed Yousuf Halim, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Afghanistan, Hon’ble Mr. Priyasath Dep, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Hon’ble Justice Mr. Gopal Parajuli, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal along with Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, President SAARCLAW.

High Level Delegates in the 14th SAARCLAW Conference and the 11th SAARC Chief Justices’ Conference. (R-L): Hon’ble Secretary General SAARC; Hon’ble Ms. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice Sri Lanka; Hon’ble Priyasath Dep, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka; Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Hon’ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, President SAARCLAW; Mr. Nihal Jayamanne, Vice President SAARCLAW; Mr. K. K. Venugopal, Patron SAARCLAW; Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General SAARCLAW during 14th SAARCLAW Conference and the 11th SAARC Chief Justices’ Conference.
Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Shri. Ranil Wickremesinghe in an inauguration speech emphasized that the Legal systems in the South Asian region must modernize to keep pace with its development. He remarked that it was essential to consider how to eliminate delays in the Legal system and this is partly a job for the Bench, partly a job for the Bar, and partly a job for the Legislature. He pointed out that “SAARC countries are now in a region identified as the next region of growth. However, dispute resolution in any commercial case takes too long, and that is one of the reasons that keeps back people from investing in South Asia,” Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized and concluded “Over a period of time, the actions we take, the modernization measures and new procedures we bring in, will enable us ensure we, at least, reduce the time taken to resolve disputes,”

President of SAARCLAW Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla was emphasized on the success of SAARCLAW, saying it is the only forum that provides for an intellectual and frank debate between the bench and the bar of the South Asian countries. Addressing the 14th SAARCLAW Conference and the 11th Chief Justices Conference being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla emphasized that the SAARC legal systems must be modernized to keep pace with the region’s development. He said the success of SAARC as embedded in the 1985 SAARC Charter cannot be measured with the successes and failures of the SAARC countries’ commitment to SAARC, but must be measured from the success of people-to-people cooperation that bodies such as SAARCLAW provides and promotes.

Address by Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW during the Inaugural session of the 14th SAARCLAW and 11th SAARC Chief Justices’ Conference.

H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial Hon'ble Secretary General, SAARC in his address mentioned the role of law and order and the responsibility of platform of apex body such as SAARCLAW in the region. He said, "It is well known that law and order contributes to peace, security, welfare of the peoples, and happiness in our societies. Law and order is equally important for the dispensation of justice to protect people's rights, liberties and freedoms. The legal community has the cardinal role to play in promoting law and order and to address the challenges in this regard. SAARCLAW provides a useful regional platform to collectively reflect on the challenges and opportunities within its domain. The legal luminaries have the knowledge of emerging legal concepts, trends, instruments and mechanisms as well as administration of justice. The two-day Conference devoted to the theme, “Emerging Legal Trends in SAARC Countries”, is, therefore, timely and provides an opportune occasion for the legal community to share their wealth of knowledge and good practices of their respective countries.”


Second revised edition of SAARC & SAARCLAW Book written by Mr. Hemant K Batra’s Vice President SAARCLAW was also launched and unveiled By His Excellency Mr. Amjad B Sial, Hon'ble Secretary General, SAARC.

VIEW FULL GALLERY at http://saarclawsl2017.lk/gallery/
An Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony held at the SAARCLAW Regional Secretariat, Kathmandu between World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) and SAARCLAW Nepal, Country Chapter on 10th January, 2017. The signatories being Ms. Elizabeth Hanna Satow, National Director on behalf of World Vision International Nepal and Prof. Purna Man Shakya, President SAARCLAW, Nepal Chapter and Vice President, SAARCLAW.

An Memorandum Of Understanding has been signed with PLAN International Asia Regional Office (PLAN ARO) and SAARCLAW on 20th June, 2017 at SAARCLAW Regional Secretariat, Kathmandu Nepal. The signatories being Prof. Purna Man Shakya, Vice President SAARCLAW on behalf of SAARCLAW and Mr. Sven Coppens, Country Director on behalf of Ms. Senait Gebregziabher, Regional Director, Plan International Asia Regional Office.

“RoundTable—Discussion: Trafficking of Indian Migrant Workers” jointly organized by Solidarity Center, Goeman Bind HTO, SAARCLAW India and The Indian Law Institute on 6th December, 2017. Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Executive Chairman, SAARCLAW India, Mr. Tim Ryan - Regional Director, Solidarity Centre, Mr. Alonzo Suson- Country Program Director, Solidarity Centre, Sri Lanka and Ms. Swati Sharma Sulalit from Goeman Bind HTO along with other participants from Legal Community of India shared their views in the Roundtable Discussion.
SAARCLAW has successfully concluded a Regional Seminar on Arbitration in SAARC Region—Successes and Failures and a Memorial Lecture on Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nasim Hasan Shah organized on 28 January 2017 at Hotel Marriott in Karachi, Pakistan on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of SAARCLAW. The program was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, Chief Justice Supreme of Pakistan. The Conference commenced with the Justice Nasim Hasan Shah Memorial Lecture and concluded with discussing the Arbitration Successes and Failures in the SAARC Region.

The event was also addressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Sripavan, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan. Mr. K. K. Venugopal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India was the keynote speaker and presented paper on “Poverty - An Alarming violation of Human Rights.” “SAARC has been most successful when it comes to people-to-people cooperation and SAARCLAW is a testament of such cooperation where judges, lawyers, legal academics and law students come under one roof to share experiences and expertise,” Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, Chief Justice Supreme of Pakistan in an inauguration speech of the conference. Chief Justice Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Sripavan, underlined the need for legislation that could directly benefit the masses and all those approaching the courts in quest of justice. Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan and President SAARCLAW highlighted the successes of SAARCLAW in the region and emphasized on the role of legal fraternity of the region and the cooperation with each other in the last 25 years under the roof of SAARCLAW. The program was attended by judges, senior lawyers, legal academics, law students and legal community from South Asia.

**LINKS TO VARIOUS REVIEWS AND REPORTS ON ENERGY**

**Global Gas Security Review 2017**

**WEO-2017 Special Report: Energy Access Outlook**

**Series: Energy Efficiency 2017**

**Energy Investment 2017**

**Market Report World Energy overview - the base case**
Asian Development Bank, together with International Finance Corporation, Financial Times, and London School of Economics, organized a conference on Corporate Governance Challenges and Opportunities in Asia from 20 November 2017 to 21 November 2017 in ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines. Over 100 regulators, judges, executives, lawyers, including SAARCLAW High Level Delegates from South Asia and ADB staff discussed issues related to corporate governance principles and best practices in private- and state-owned enterprises.

“SECOND PROF. N. R, MADHAVA MENON SAARC MOOTING COMPETITION AND LAW STUDENTS CONFERENCE, 2016-17”, ORGANIZED BY LLOYD LAW COLLEGE ON 10-12TH FEBRUARY, 2017 AT LLOYD LAW COLLEGE, GREATER NOIDA, INDIA.

SAARCLAW, Lloyd Law College and MILAT successfully organized Second Prof. N. R. Madhava Menon SAARC Mooting Competition & Law Students Conference, 2016-17 at Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida, from 10th to 12th February, 2017. The competition aimed at honing legal advocacy skills among law students of SAARC countries and improving legal and academic ties between the SAARC nations. The competition witnessed an intense cultural and academic exchange between fourteen participating teams and delegates from Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Conference was attended by Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Executive Chairman, SAARCLAW India Chapter and Executive Council Member, SAARCLAW and Mr. Vipin Bhatt, Executive Director, SAARCLAW Regional Secretariat. Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Executive Chairman, SAARCLAW India Chapter and Executive Council Member, SAARCLAW also delivered an inaugural speech.
The conference was attended by Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General SAARCLAW. Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, as the Secretary General of SAARCLAW, discussed the situation of human trafficking in some South Asian countries. Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid presented major challenges and key gaps in the legal framework, including a lack of gender-perspective approach on trafficking issues. In conclusion, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid stressed that trafficking is a complex and global problem that requires a global answer. He highlighted that it is important to raise awareness within the countries and the public. Governments must have sufficient oversight and work in partnership with the private sector and NGOs. He encouraged the parliamentarians to refer to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Action Plan to combat human trafficking to develop policies.

COURTESY CALLS TO DIGNITARIES

Meeting with Mr. M. N. Ranasinghe, Controller General of Immigration and Emigration & Commissioner for Registration of Persons of Indian Origin, Sri Lanka on 3rd October, 2017 by Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid to discuss to regarding the 14th SAARCLAW Conference and the 11th SAARC Chief Justices’ Conference.
Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, President, SAARCLAW, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW along with other delegates of SAARCLAW paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Hon’ble Justice Mr. Gopal Parajuli, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal to discuss regarding 14th SAARCLAW and 10th SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October, 2017.

Courtesy call on H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Hon’ble Secretary General, SAARC on 12th September, 2017.
Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, President, SAARCLAW, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW along with other delegates of SAARCLAW paid a courtesy call on H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Hon’ble Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on 7th September, 2017 and invited His Excellency for 14th SAARCLAW and 10th SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October, 2017.

Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla, President, SAARCLAW, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW along with other delegates of SAARCLAW paid a courtesy call on H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Hon’ble Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat on 3rd July, 2017.
Prof. Purna Man Shakya, Vice-President, SAARCLAW along with Mr. Vipin Bhatt, Executive Director, SAARCLAW paid a courtesy call on H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Hon’ble Secretary General, SAARC Secretariat on 3rd July, 2017.
Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla (R), President, SAARCLAW, and Mr. Nihal Jayamanne (L), Vice President, SAARCLAW, President, SAARCLAW Sri Lanka Chapter paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Priyasath Dep, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and discussed hosting the next SAARCLAW and SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 2017.

Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla (R), President, SAARCLAW, and Mr. Nihal Jayamanne (L), Vice President, SAARCLAW, President, SAARCLAW Sri Lanka Chapter paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Minister of Justice Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe and discussed hosting the next SAARCLAW and SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 2017.

Mr. Mehmood Y. Mandviwalla (L), President, SAARCLAW, paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Minister Mr. D. M. Swaminathan, Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs and discussed hosting the next SAARCLAW and SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 2017.

President: Rt. Hon'ble Justice Ms. Sapan Pradhan Malla, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal
Vice President: Mr. Tulasi Bhatta, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal
Secretary: Ms. Anju Upreti Dhakal, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal
Treasurer: Ms. Kamala Chhetri Upreti, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal
Executive Council Members: Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal Prof. (Dr.) Amber Prasad Pant Prof. Purna Man Shukla, Mr. Badri Bahadur Karki, Mr. Hari Phuyal

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