

Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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Distinguished Lecture Series: Address by His Excellency Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India

Dear Sir/Madam,

GNLU organized the Ambassador Lecture Series on 31 August 2016 which was graced by H.E. Mr. Liu Jinsong, the Charge d'affaires and DCM, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India and was accompanied by Mr. Ai Longfei, Education Officer, Education Department; Mr. Tu Pengfei, Third Secretary, Economic & Commercial Counsellor's Office and Mr. Ren Hao, Attache, Political Section. H.E. Mr. Liu Jinsong delivered the lecture as part of the Ambassador Lecture Series.

The Lecture Series commenced with the Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, Director of GNLU in which he emphasised on the importance of peaceful co-existence mechanism between India and China that existed since the 1950s. Peace, development and win-win co-operative representation are unstoppable trend and Asia holds a uniquely important position in the pursuit of world peace and development. He expressed that since Asia shares many commonalities, hence its time that India-China strengthen the foundation for exchange and mutual learning and that is where the academic institution will play a major role. He also expressed his views about that peaceful co-existence of the two countries in matters of trade, development etc. in the 21st Century. This co-existence should not just be at the governmental level but also at the people-to people level. And this can happen only when academic institutions and people at large contribute in strengthening the relations between these civilizations. H.E. Mr. Liu Jinsong, in his address stated that although law is difficult to study, he stressed on the importance of law. The founding fathers of independent India such as Gandhi, Ambedkar and Patel were all students of law and so also current politicians such as Jaitley and even Xi Jinping and the Chinese Premier.

He shared that exchange on legal issues began since a long time ago through the exchange of Buddhist teachings. Xuanzang and Faxian have come to India and learnt a lot about the

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discipline of Buddhism and spread it in China. He disagreed with the statement that law comes from western texts, in fact, law evolves from our civilizations. Criminal laws, civil laws and judicial laws come from South East Asia. Indian, Chinese and Islamic legal systems are the most important in the evolution of law.

He also shared that Indo-China relations rest on five principles of peaceful co-existence - the Panchsheel. World affairs should not be dominated by one or two countries; rather there should be promotion of the spirit of equality. He further said that although BRIC countries have major shares in global GDP and trade flows, there is a lack in proportional share in voting rights at IMF and other international organizations. The boundary disagreements between the two countries can be solved by diplomacy only and existing agreements at the Line of actual control should be implemented. The similarities between India and China outnumber the differences and hence there is a need to focus on bilateral relation and friendship.

Mr. Jinsong further stated that the Chinese sovereignty over the island has solid legal and historical basis while addressing the South China issues. He said that the current conflict is in violation of Philippines and China treaty and the Tribunal is not an official UN organization or ICJ body currently and hence the decision is illegal and invalid. He laid stress that bilateral negotiation is the only way to solve this issue.

After the Lecture series, Mr. Jinsong and the Chinese delegates also interacted with the faculty members and the students. This Lecture Series and the visit of the Chinese delegation at GNLU has been a successful one and one can hope for more collaborations academically between GNLU and the Chinese Universities.

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