

63RD SESSION OF THE AARDO LIAISON COMMITTEE, 26 FEBRUARY 2014

**OPENING REMARKS by
H.E. Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin
Secretary General, AARDO**

H.E. Mr. Khaled Ali El Bakly
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and
Hon'ble Chairman of the Liaison Committee

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great privilege and immense pleasure for me to extend to you all a most cordial and hearty welcome to the 63rd Session of the Liaison Committee of AARDO being held today at AARDO Secretariat. I deem it a great honour to welcome H.E. Mr. Khaled Ali El Bakly, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to India, and Hon'ble Chairman of the Liaison Committee for his gracious presence to preside over the meeting. I extend a warm welcome to the two Vice-Chairmen of the Liaison Committee from Africa and Asia namely, the distinguished delegate from the High Commission of the Republic of Zambia, and the Hon'ble Representative of the esteemed Government of India, respectively for their august presence. I cordially welcome Their Excellencies and distinguished delegates for their benign presence to attend the meeting. I am especially grateful to the distinguished delegates from the State of Eritrea, Cote D'Ivoire, Republic of Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who are attending the meeting as Observers. I trust that the participation in the meeting would enable them to know more about the activities and programmes of AARDO. I wish to extend my profound thanks and gratitude to you all for making it convenient to attend the meeting in spite of your heavy schedule of work

Hon'ble Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Since the last (62nd) Session of the Liaison Committee, held here on 26 August 2013, two important events took place, firstly, the 64th Session of the Executive Committee, which was very kindly hosted by the esteemed Government of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 21-24 October 2013; and secondly, the Fourth meeting of the Technical Programme Committee (TPC) of AARDO was held at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India during 25-29 November 2013 at the kind invitation of the esteemed Government of India. I wish to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to the esteemed Governments of Malaysia and India for making excellent arrangements for the meetings and for extending all the courtesies and hospitality to the distinguished participants. Although the decisions and proposals taken by the Executive Committees have been included in the Agenda Notes for the kind information of the distinguished delegates, yet I would like to briefly mention some of the important decisions arrived at:

- recommended that the proposed settlement of outstanding membership contribution of the Republic of Iraq be placed before the 18th General Session of AARDO Conference for kind consideration and decision.
- decided that the contributions received from member countries be adjusted according to the year mentioned in their payment advice note. However, in case of no specific advice, the Secretariat would adjust the amount against arrears, if any.
- wholeheartedly welcomed the admission of Sri Lanka into the folds of AARDO as its distinguished member

- recommended certain clauses of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure along with the recommendations of the “Sub-Committee on amendments and changes to the Constitution and Rules of Procedure”, to the 18th General Session of the AARDO Conference for kind consideration and approval.
- Elected Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, the nominee of the esteemed Government of the Republic of Mauritius to the post of Assistant Secretary General (ASG), AARDO.

I am pleased to inform that Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh has assumed the charge of the office of Assistant Secretary General with effect from 14 February 2014. Before joining AARDO, he had held senior positions in the Government of Mauritius. Certainly his vast knowledge and varied experience will be beneficial to AARDO. With Your Excellency's kind permission, may I kindly request Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh to introduce himself to the distinguished members of the Liaison Committee.

Hon'ble Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Technical Programme Committee (TPC), besides reviewing the work programme for the triennium 2012-2014, closely examined the work programme for the ensuing triennium 2015-2017. The meeting came up with some constructive and useful suggestions to further diversify the work programme for the benefit of the member countries.

I utilized my presence in NIRD, Hyderabad to hold discussions with the high-powered delegation from the Food and Agriculture Officials Training Institute (FATI), Republic of Korea, headed by its Director General, which was participating in TPC meeting, on matters of mutual interest. Both sides expressed the hope that collaboration between them would steadily grow in the future and that they need to have more discussions on that. Similarly, I met the delegation from Taiwan International Cooperation and

Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) led by its Deputy Secretary General and had discussions on matters of mutual interest. I am glad to mention here that the esteemed Government of the Republic of China has decided to increase the international training slots for AARDO-sponsored nominees from the present 13 to 16 slots in the triennium 2015-2017. Republic of China is also willing to host one international workshop during 2015-2017.

I also took the opportunity to call on Dr. M.V. Rao, Chief Executive of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) & Director General, NIRD to discuss matters of mutual interest. During the discussions, the Chief Executive, NFDB offered to organise a special training course on fisheries for the benefit of AARDO member countries during 2014.

I am pleased to inform you that AARDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation, Istanbul, Turkey for the promotion of agricultural and rural development, in Abuja, Nigeria on 06 December 2013. The MoU lays focus on cooperation on human resource development, joint implementation of development projects, promotion of agri-trade and networking, exchange of visits, etc.

I am also glad to inform that AARDO participated as an Institutional Partner in the first ever Africa-Asia Agribusiness Forum organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on 4-6 February 2014. An important event of this Forum was the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between AARDO and FICCI to collaborate and jointly organize activities that are beneficial to both the organizations.

I am pleased to share with the Liaison Committee the information that AARDO Secretariat has begun the process of converting its old documents into digital format. In this connection, the reports of the AARDO Conference and the Executive Committee

meetings containing about 5000 pages have already been converted into digital format. I am also glad to inform that the Arabic version of AARDO's website has been launched.

Hon'ble Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Liaison Committee meets every six months to review the activities of the Organization during the previous six months and offer guidance, wherever required, to the AARDO Secretariat. The details of the activities carried out by the Secretariat during the last six months as well as the proposed activities to be carried out by AARDO during the subsequent six months have been included in the agenda notes which have been circulated among members well in advance. The Agenda Notes also contain Work Programme and Budget of the Organization for the Triennium 2015-2017 for kind consideration of the Liaison Committee.

Thank you very much for your presence and kind attention!