

**SPEECH GIVEN BY PROF. DR. DÁRIO MOURA VICENTE  
AT THE INAUGURAL CERIMONY OF THE *CENTRE FOR LUSOPHONE  
CULTURE AND LEGAL STUDIES***

Margão, Goa,  
11 January 2018

Hon. Dr. Saba da Silva, Principal of the Kare College of Law

Shri Nitin Kunkolienker, President of the Governing Council

Shrimati Sheela Gaunekar, President of Vidya Vikar Mandal

Dr. Francisco Duarte Azevedo, Cônsul Geral de Portugal em Goa

Dr. Aurobindo da Gama Xavier, President of the Lusophone Society of Goa

Dear Colleagues and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation of the Principal of the Kare College of Law in Margão to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the Centre for Lusophone Culture and Legal Studies.

Over the past ten years, the Law School of the University of Lisbon has invested, through its Legal Cooperation Institute, much effort and a good deal of its human resources in the strengthening of the cultural and legal ties that have bound India and Portugal for more than five centuries.

Together with another affiliated College of the University of Goa, the Salgaocar College of Law, and with the sponsorship of Instituto Camões, we have set up a *Diploma in Civil Law course* that has trained over 500 Goan students in the fields of European, Comparative and Civil Law.

An extension of that course was created in 2016 in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Indian Society of International Law, which has attracted to its lectures more than a hundred Indian jurists from various parts of the country.

We've also invited a good number of Goan scholars to our University in Lisbon, where our Faculty and students have had the privilege of listening to their talks on themes of Indian Law.

And we've published two editions of a well-known scholarly translation and commentary to the Civil Code's provisions on Family and Succession Law, which has not only sought to fill a gap in reliable English versions of the Code, but also to provide an insight as to how those fields of the law have developed in the past 150 years in Portugal and elsewhere in Europe.

2. The opportunity has now presented itself, upon the invitation of my trusted Colleague Dr. Saba da Silva – under whose guidance the Kare College has aptly sought to internationalise its activities – to collaborate also with this prestigious Goan institution.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed today has precisely that purpose; and we are sure that – as has occurred with the other Indian institutions with which we've worked together over the past ten years – it will soon bear its fruits.

The fact that a Centre for Lusophone Culture and Legal Studies is inaugurated today under the auspices of the Kare College is the best assurance of that. May I congratulate the promoters of this timely initiative and wish them every success.

3. But what – one may ask – is the purpose of the MoU signed today in Margão and of my Law School's association with the Lusophone Centre?

The answer, I believe, is manifold.

Together with India, Portugal began in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century the World's first Globalization, which ensured Indian products easier access to European markets, where they were already much coveted.

As a result thereof, an Indo-Portuguese culture emerged in Goa, which is today part and parcel of this Indian State's identity. As many others, we believe that this identity – one of the most striking examples of how two very different cultures can come together and blend with each other, and a relevant part of India's rich cultural diversity – should be preserved; and that Goan Law is just one facet of the hybrid culture thus formed.

But a new Globalization has emerged in the meantime: that of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, enabled by worldwide economic integration and new technologies. It is possibly the greatest challenge faced by modern India and Portugal.

Training lawyers to meet that challenge in their professional activity is today's Law Schools' most demanding task. It requires broadening students' intellectual horizons, by providing them with the necessary knowledge in the fields of Comparative and International Law and the skills to master them.

This has been precisely the main goal of my Law school's cooperation activities with Indian institutions of higher education. We now look forward to promote it also in association with the Kare College and the Centre for Lusophone Culture and Legal Studies.

Thank you very much.