



Instituto de Cooperação Jurídica
da Faculdade de Direito de Lisboa

Speech made in Panjim, on January the
24th, 2009, at the release of the book on
“Family and Sucession Law in the
Portuguese Civil Code of 1867: A 21ST
Century Approach”

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Vice- Chancellor of the University of Goa,
Principal of the Salgãocar College of Law,
Consul-General of Portugal,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

In the first place, I would like to thank Principal Marian J. Pinheiro for the kind invitation to participate in this session.

The Law School of the University of Lisbon is proud to have set up, together with the Salgãocar College of Law, an exchange programme that provides for the joint organization of post-graduate courses in Goa with Portuguese professors, as well as conferences and research projects in Lisbon for Goan scholars and students.

While setting up this programme we have counted with the support and cooperation, not only of Principal Pinheiro, but also of our good friend Prof. Carmo D'Souza, whom we would also like to thank.

Since the beginning of this programme, we have wished to contribute to the better knowledge and understanding of Portuguese legal culture by Goan jurists. We hold this task not only as an historical responsibility, but also as an important way of preserving the ties that for centuries have linked Portugal and India.

A project was thus conceived, of publishing a bi-lingual version of the Civil Code of 1867, in Portuguese and English, along with a commentary thereof by Portuguese scholars that would provide a contemporary version of that prestigious legal text.

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It is the result of this project that is released today, in the form of a book published by the Institute of Juridical Cooperation the Lisbon Law School. We have entitled it “Family and Succession Law in the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867: A 21ST Century Approach”

This book envisages not only to provide a new English translation of the Code and a commentary of its provisions but also to give an account of the subsequent evolution of Portuguese Family and Succession Law in the 1966 Code Civil and complementary legislation.

This commentary was written by five lecturers of our Law School, coordinated by Prof. Jorge Duarte Pinheiro, and is the result of many months of team work. Its publication was made possible thanks to the support of IPAD and Montepio Geral. Copies shall be made available by the College to all interested. We are sending them from Lisbon through the Portuguese Consulate, for whose cooperation we are grateful.

Precisely one hundred years ago, a Goan jurist – Luiz da Cunha Gonçalves – obtained for the first time a doctorate in Law in a Portuguese University. He subsequently became the author of a much celebrated 15 volume *Treatise of Civil Law*, which still stands as the best commentary on the 1867 Civil Code ever published in Portuguese.

Many others Goans have subsequently distinguished themselves as advocates, judges and law professors, both in India and in Portugal. We would like this book is to be taken as our modest tribute to all of them.

Thank you very much.

Professor Dário Moura Vicente
President of the Institute for Juridical Cooperation

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