

Report on 22nd IPBA conference experience

It was a great experience for me to attend the 22nd IPBA Annual Meeting & Conference held on 29 February to 03 March 2012 in New Delhi, India. This is my first time that I attended an international conference. The IPBA Meeting and Conference is unique compared to other meetings, because it was attended by lawyers from around the world. I had a chance to meet with many lawyers and make friends with new IPBA scholars: Ms. Amarjargal Lkhagvaa from Mongolia, Ms. Pham Thi Nguyen Anh from Vietnam, Ms. Shamalie Jayatunge from Sri Lanka, Ms. Kidist Abayneh Abebe from Ethiopia, Mr. Semanta Dahal from Nepal, Mr. Jason Annandale from Samoa, and Mr. Anirudh Krishnan from India.

After visiting the office of bharucha & partners, an Indian law firm in New Delhi. I have learned a lot about Indian law firms and their practice areas. I was told that there are more than one million qualified lawyers in India. In Laos, there are only 159 qualified lawyers. At the New Delhi High Court, I have learned about the general court proceeding. The High Court is very developed compared to Lao court. It looks like a stock exchange because there is an electric board showing the cases being considered. I attended the criminal and civil case hearing. It was not surprising that there was a lot of people because many cases were being considered. The court proceeding is in English language and was so crowded.

At the orientation and introduction of the new scholars on 29 February 2012, I met with and talked to other IPBA scholars and new IPBA members. This is a very important event and I cannot forget to mention it when I talk to Lao lawyers in Laos.

On 1 March 2012, I attended the plenary session. I was impressed with the speeches given by many speakers who are the heads of IBA, UIA, Inter-American Bar Association, IPBA and The Bar Association of India on issues concerning the life, liberty and law. There was also an interesting speech of Prof. Gensuke Tokoro. I remember some words in the end of his speech that “We are likely to behave like viruses, and we will return to the universe, not by a spaceship but in the virus-like structure and form of life”.

There were many committee working sessions that were relevant to my practice areas. However, it is impossible to attend all of them. As a tax adviser, I mainly focused on the tax related sessions. I attended the sessions on Regulatory Challenges Faced by Global Financial Institutions, Recent Developments in Merger Control in the Asia Pacific Region, Tax & Regulatory – Effective Cross Border Finance, Enforcement of Arbitration Awards – Challenges & Opportunities, Recent issues with Cross-Border M&A and Private Equity Investment, Resolution of Trade Secret Disputes, and Recent Issues with Cross-Border Franchising. I have learned a lot about the new tax technique, more importantly, about a location for tax efficient holding company. I have also learned about the different dispute resolution methods that can be used in Laos.

I have a new experience about Indian culture and food from the evening events after the working sessions. The cultural extravaganza at the Kingdom of Dreams, Gurgaon on 1 March 2012 was incredible and unforgettable. I and other new scholars had fun and great time there and everyone enjoyed the show. I had a chance to talk to Vietnamese lawyer who is a partner of law firm in

Vietnam. He gave me an idea about setting up and running the law firm in Vietnam that can be used in Laos. The Gala Dinner at the lawns of Hotel Ashok on 2 March 2012 was very fantastic. It was the first time that I saw a lot of lawyers from Asia, Europe, USA, and South America. There was a variety of Indian food that was spicy and hot, but it was very delicious.

I cannot forget in this report to thank and express my personal gratitude to the IPBA Scholarship Committees for a scholarship. I am particularly grateful to Rhonda Lundin of the IPBA Secretariat for her kind assistance and support before I arrived in New Delhi. I would like to express my gratitude to Ms. Yukiko Okazaki of the IPBA Secretariat for her assistance during my stay in New Delhi.

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