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By Shagdarsuren Zuunai, Mongolia

Attn: Chair  
IPBA Scholarship Committee

## IPBA Scholar's Report on participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Kyoto/Osaka, April 21-24, 2011

I would like to begin my report with expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all of the IPBA members, the IPBA Scholarship Committee headed by Varya Simpson and the IPBA Secretariat, Rhonda Lundin and her colleagues, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Kyoto/Osaka and to join such an esteemed association as IPBA.

The 21<sup>st</sup> IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference was an amazing event, where I got the chance to learn from the leading practitioners of the region and to meet many new interesting people, both experienced lawyers and young professionals.

The Scholars were provided with a unique opportunity to start the program with a chance to get acquainted with the Japanese legal system. First was the trip to the Kyoto district court where we observed two criminal cases and afterwards had an informative discussion session with our Japanese hosts in the cafeteria of the courthouse. Afterwards, we headed to Oike Law Office, where Sakata sensei and Nakamura sensei from the same law office gave an introduction on their law firm, Japanese bengoshi lawyers and hosted a delicious bento lunch delivered from a famous restaurant in Kyoto. Their hospitality and friendliness, the genuine desire to make us feel comfortable and spend meaningful time at their office left another deep impression in my heart.

The evening of the first day we had a number of receptions such as Reception for New Members and Scholars, Welcome Reception etc., that allowed us to relax in the new environment and start making friends from the very beginning. I am sure all of the Scholars felt very comfortable and welcome during those sessions, when we also received our certificates and gave short speeches of self-introduction and gratitude. Authentic Japanese cuisine, sake, and maiko-san that graced the evening reception made it an unforgettable cultural event. Believe me, queuing for takoyaki while chatting with the President of the Korean Bar Association was something that not everyone could experience!

The topic of the Annual Meeting and Conference – “Innovation” was a really up-to-date and relevant one. The changing world political order, economic and ecological environment of the planet, all put us in front of an acute need for innovation, not only in the legal profession but in all or almost all other sectors. Only at IPBA Annual Meeting, lawyers of different specialties in one conference hall would have a world famous scientist, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, giving a

lecture on his research on stem cells that could in the future substantially affect the well-being of the entire humanity. US Ambassador John V. Roos's speech also was very thought provoking, giving certain directions in which to look for innovations in different areas of economic activities.

I need to give here a special mention to the place of the Annual Meeting – Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. Although in late April, some sakura was still blossoming and I am sure no other place could be a better choice for the event – truly beautiful and historical. I very much enjoyed the visit to the beautiful temple of Kodai-ji, followed by a dinner at the Garden Oriental Kyoto.

In the following days of the conference I enjoyed the following extremely interesting and informative sessions conducted by the foremost experts of the respective areas: 1. With China as the New No.2 Economy, Can Japan Sustain Itself through Innovation? 2. Role of In-House Counsel in Risk Management, 3. Innovation in Debt & Equity Capital Markets, 4. Innovative Cross-Border Investment Techniques. In the era of globalization, geographical boundaries between businesses are becoming less and less obvious, and lawyers are facing more challenges in harmonizing all kinds of transactions with competing and sometimes contradicting legal systems.

The Annual Meeting was held in Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that affected thousands of Japanese people. All the participants from outside of Japan expressed their deepest moral support for the Japanese people and revival of their livelihood. The Silent Auction was a good example of IPBA's warmhearted action to do so by deed. We believe, Japan will re-emerge from the natural calamity and continue to prosper and flourish again very soon.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all my fellow Scholars for their great friendship, which I have no doubt is to last for our lifetimes. It was an honor to be a member of such distinguished group of young legal talents of the region, my friends from Korea, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, China and Guam (USA).

Once again, I wish to thank to all who helped me to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference 2011 held in Kyoto/Osaka, its organizers and all the participants. I do look forward to participate in many more IPBA activities and hope to see you again soon.

With best regards,

Shagdarsuren Zuunai

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