

A chance for all chances: Scholar's Report on the 20th IPBA Annual Conference in Singapore (May 2010)

By Nguyen Ngoc Ha, Vietnam - IPBA Scholar

I was really honored to be one of the recipients of this tremendous gift - IPBA Scholarship. Honestly, this was not my first time to receive a scholarship, but my heart thumped with joys and my head filled with eagerness when I was selected as one of the six scholars who will be attending a conference of such a highly regarded as an international association of lawyers over the world - IPBA Conference in Singapore. I dedicate my sincere passion below to the wonderful persons that I met at IPBA Conference.

As always, my genuine thanks come to the IPBA Committee and the Founders of IPBA Scholarship, the greatest donors giving us this marvelous scholarship.

A chance to “upgrade” my will: Personally, IPBA Scholarship regenerated my motivation and strengthened my enthusiasm on returning to my legal job after 2 years studying abroad. On the other hand, from the legal perspective, coming from a developing country where the legislation is still undeveloped that give me much anxiety on thinking of my attendance at the IPBA Conference.

A chance to integrate into the global legal society: The 4 days IPBA Conference was just a short period but it left in me a bunch of impressions. Firstly, the warmest welcome at the session “Reception for IPBA Scholar, Women Business Lawyers and New Member of IPBA” really touched my heart. I note with sincere appreciation to the Committee Members who made the moment of obtaining the Certificate of IPBA Scholarship became solemn and unforgettable. I was overjoyed to be adhered as a membership in reputable organization – IPBA. For this, I think IPBA already fulfill one of its commissions as to “contribute towards the development of the legal profession within the Asia-Pacific Region and the development and improvement of the legal profession's status and organization within the Region”.

A chance to witness and gain: Secondly, in my point of view, the Conference Theme “Climate Change & Legal Practice” itself appeared the most attractive topic among various conference themes of IPBA. That perhaps could explain the reason why more than 1000 lawyers from the diversified jurisdictions gathering in this IPBA Conference. This Conference Theme helped to raise the voice of people around the world with regard to the importance of environment and its influence on the global economy in this turbulent time. The session presented by Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew (Singapore) and Al Gore (Vice President of the United States) appealed me most. It broadened my little understanding about the reciprocal relation of environmental, social, political and economical issues. In tandem with the IPBA Working sessions with various profound subjects, the “out-door” special sessions, typically “Visit to Maxwell Chambers and Singapore Supreme Court”, were also really interesting and remarkable. Moreover, the panel of outstanding speakers on each session was one of the salient points contributing to the success of

the IPBA's Working Session. One another note, the conference materials were indeed informative, the topic of each session was really realistic and worthy. I found myself gained a lot of invaluable knowledge through a chain of profitable topics i.e. M&A Negotiation Trends, Restructuring of distressed corporations – Opportunities for cross border Investment, The case for arbitration on the Asia Pacific and Dispute Management. My mind was enriched with the comprehensive understanding about different concepts, different theories of the common law system through the wonderful presentations imparted by the well-chosen speakers at the IPBA Conference. By way of comparison, initially, I could ease my mind about the distinction on the legal practice between the civil law system and common law system. In addition to the main courses, the 20th IPBA Conference also took advantage on this chance to run its charity activity. This was also the significant point lifting the value of IPBA Conference. I, in fact, was impressed by this meaningful activity of IPBA.

A chance to experience and wise-up: Remarkably, for the first time, IPBA offered an Internship for each scholar in a different prestigious Singapore law firm. This given chance was really precious for all scholars widen our professional skill and update our legal knowledge.

The Internship was served as an optional gift for the IPBA Scholars. I was assigned to Rajah & Tann law firm, one of the most prominent and creditable local firms in Singapore. During this Internship, I had an occasion to experience the professionalism on their working style, management mechanism and somehow I gained understanding on number of legal issues regarding corporate law in Singapore. This Internship flew up my inner confidence that could help me to confront and copy with many challenges ahead I would encounter in the legal environment. This was really a priceless experience.

A chance to strike the new friendship: Thanks to IPBA Scholarship, I got a worthy chance to build up an inter-friendship with the other talented scholars coming from Cambodia, Myanmar, Chile, Fiji, Mexico. Not only exchange our legal experience and opinion, we, but also find out our different culture and economy. Sincerely, I treasure this friendship and desire to stay in a long-term friendship with them.

Throughout this tiny space in my Report, surely, there is not enough for me to express my feelings and thoughts about the IPBA Conference and what I obtained. However, the diversity of legal background, jurisdictions, experiences, opinions of the lawyers I met in the 20th IPBA Conference truly leave a footprint in my memory. For that, I convey once more my insightful thanks to the IPBA Committees, IPBA Secretariat and all the membership of IPBA. The 20th IPBA Conference in Singapore was a real success and IPBA Committees and Leaders are deserved to be praised for completing its goal as set forth in IPBA's goal as to create "an opportunity to get together with lawyers from each IPBA jurisdiction in the Region and each law office in the region that is engaged in a cross-border practice". IPBA bring one chance for all chances indeed.

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