

# Report on the IPBA Tokyo 2024 Conference

By Khin Yadanar Htay, the IPBA Tokyo Scholar

I am Khin Yadanar from Myanmar, who is one of the IPBA Tokyo Scholars. I was honored to receive a scholarship from the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) to attend their annual conference in Tokyo, Japan. Please allow me to write my report in a less-formal way because the IPBA Tokyo not only enhanced my professional skills but also helped my personal development in various means.

Personally, it was my first time travelling outside of the ASEAN region and which took me around 8 hours flight from my country – *the longest trip by the flight that I have ever taken in my life*. From my mental health perspective, I was really motivated to engage with many lawyers from different countries, from different age groups, and from different backgrounds, in a single place. Due to the ongoing State of Emergency in my country, I used to feel *sort of* lost not only in my life but also in my career. Truthfully, the IPBA Tokyo became my inspiration to not lose hope and help my mental health to some extent. I also attended some mental health related and next generation related sessions during the Conference, which enlightened me in many perspectives.

## Conference Highlights

The conference covered a wide range of topics related to the impact of digitalization on the legal profession, such as artificial intelligence, data protection, cybercrime, e-commerce, intellectual property, dispute resolution, and ethics. Some of the sessions that I found particularly interesting and informative were:

- On April 24, 2024, there was a court visit led by our wonderful Kazuya-san, *whom I am thankful for his warmest hospitality and got inspired from his hard work*, and interestingly, hearing at Japanese Courts are pretty fast for all type of cases, which is different from those in my country. Then we visited Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Law Firm, which is one of the amazing places that I visited to, and Japanese lawyers motivated me to move forward with my dual-qualified lawyer journey – *almost every Japanese lawyers that I met are dual-qualified, and which I found amazing*.
- On April 25, 2024: Legal Minds Matter: Prioritizing Mental Health in the Legal Profession is my most-liked. There was also discussion where how older generation and younger generation lawyers deal with day-to-day life, how to manage stress and all that. I am of the view that the IPBA Tokyo encourages young people to engage in discussion activities and minimize the gap between the older generation and the younger generation. Not to mention, Gala Dinner and the whole conference was a huge opportunity to extend the business relationship with lawyers from different parts of the world.
- On April 26, 2024: It's a World Intellectual Property Day, and being an IP lawyer, I enjoyed the discussion of "International IP Protection-Challenges in New Era" and learnt some news about protection in IP especially in the AI-generated world. In addition, I also had a chance to meet some international lawyers who are interested in and/or has worked with Myanmar clients.
- On April 27, 2024: The discussion on "the Psychology of Decision Making and Rethinking the Art of Advocacy in International Construction Disputes" became one of my interesting one. It discussed the minds and decision-making process from the lens of arbitrators, and combined

both psychology and dispute resolution perspectives. I made many meaningful new hellos and goodbyes, in both professional and personal ways.

## Conclusion

The IPBA Tokyo 2024 conference was a valuable and rewarding experience for me, as it enhanced my knowledge and skills in the field of law and digitalization and expanded my professional network and horizons. I am very grateful to the IPBA Tokyo for granting me the scholarship and giving me the opportunity to attend this prestigious event. I hope to apply what I learned from the conference to my future studies and career, and to contribute to the development and advancement of the legal profession in the digital age. Last but not least, I very much appreciate the IPBA for being a part of my healing journey.



*This report was written by the Pilot, myself, and co-authored with the Copilot, by Microsoft, and which is one of the skills that I learnt from one of the speakers from Microsoft during the IPBA Tokyo.*