

Report on Inter Pacific Bar Association 2024 Annual Conference

Date: April 24, 2024, to April 28, 2024

Location: Tokyo, Japan

Introduction:

The Inter Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) 2024 Annual Conference in Tokyo served as a nexus for legal scholars and practitioners from diverse backgrounds to convene, exchange ideas, and forge meaningful connections. As one of the seven scholars privileged to attend, the experience proved both enlightening and enriching, both professionally and culturally.

Immersive Learning and Insightful Discussions:

The conference commenced with a visit to the Court of Tokyo, where esteemed legal experts Kazuya Yamashita, Peter Cassidy, and Ashish Kabra guided us through civil and criminal proceedings, offering invaluable insights into Japan's justice system. Of particular intrigue was the integration of Japanese culture, evident in the traditional wrapping of case files.

Following the court visit, we were honored to engage with the managing partner, partner and associate of Higashimachi LPC, Mr. Satoru Kohdera, Zhiming Mai/Shimei Baku, and Takafumi Mise. Over lunch, they provided comprehensive updates on Japanese Legal Practice Areas, further enhancing our understanding of the legal landscape.

Exploration of Leading Law Firm and Networking Opportunities:

Later, we had the privilege to visit Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Law Firm, a leading legal institution in Tokyo. Fumihide Sugimoto, the Partner/Co-Chair, delivered an insightful presentation on their practice areas, emphasizing their commitment to advancing women's participation in the legal field. A tour of their facilities provided a glimpse into their operational excellence.

Our interactions extended to the Okura Tokyo, where we met with the IPBA Secretariat Randa Morioka, who welcomed us to the Conference and provided us with insight of the Conference. Subsequently, we attended the Women Business Lawyers Reception and IPBA Scholars and New Member Reception, fostering connections with legal practitioners, new IPBA members and IPBA committee members from diverse backgrounds, broadening our perspectives.

Subsequent Days: Knowledge Exchange and Well-being Focus:

The subsequent days were filled with engaging conferences focusing on knowledge sharing and networking. Notable sessions included discussions on cross-border transactions and the impact of AI on the legal profession, addressing pertinent questions regarding the future of legal practice.

Cultural Immersion and Farewell Dinner:

Throughout the conference, delightful lunches and dinners provided ample opportunities to interact with remarkable lawyers from around the globe, fostering collaboration. The highlight was the Farewell Dinner at Happo-En, a celebration of culture and nature, featuring cultural dances, interactive games, and delectable cuisine, encapsulating the spirit of the conference.

Fellow Scholars:

Throughout my journey at the IPBA 2024 Conference in Tokyo, I was fortunate to be accompanied by an exceptional group of fellow scholars. Usukhbayar Battogtokh from Mongolia, Khin Yadanar Htay from Myanmar, Phong Lan Thi Nguyen "Megan" from Vietnam, Sarah Li Hsien Yong from Malaysia, Tian Kai Loh from Singapore, and Svitlana Khadzhynova from Ukraine not only shared their expertise but also offered me unwavering support and guidance. Together, we navigated the intricacies of the conference, exchanged valuable insights, and forged lasting bonds that enriched our collective

experience in Tokyo. Their camaraderie and assistance made the journey unforgettable, embodying the spirit of collaboration and friendship at the heart of the legal profession.

Conclusion:

The IPBA 2024 Annual Conference in Tokyo was a transformative experience, blending cultural immersion with professional development. Engaging with exceptional lawyers from Mongolia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, and Ukraine underscored the global significance of legal collaboration. The conference not only deepened our understanding of legal practices but also cultivated lasting connections and friendships across borders.

-Agya Shrestha