

## **Conference Report: IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference, Tokyo 2024**

First, I would like to extend my gratitude to the IPBA, particularly the Scholarship Committee, for the fantastic opportunity to attend the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo from 24 - 27 April 2024. Being selected as one of the scholars was an honor, and the experience was truly invaluable.

Our trip included a specially designed program for scholars. On 24 April 2024, we were warmly welcomed by Mr. Kazuya Yamashita from Higashimachi LPC and his colleagues, Mr. Peter Cassidy and Mr. Takafumi Mise. Together, we visited a district court and attended real court hearings involving criminal matters. The procedures were relatively similar to our system in Mongolia, making the experience both relatable and insightful. This was followed by enjoying a traditional Japanese bento box with Mr. Satoru Kohdera, a managing partner of Higashimachi LPC.

Later, we visited Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu, where we had the privilege of meeting Mr. Fumihide Sugimoto, Mr. Akihiro Tokura, and Ms. Mayuko Takamura. They kindly took the time to present an overview of their firm and gave us an office tour. Witnessing the remarkable growth of a local law firm turning into a global firm with more than 600 lawyers in just 20 years since their merger was truly inspiring. One standout aspect was their training program, where first-year associates sit with a partner in the same room for the first year, allowing them to learn directly from partners - an approach I find to be an excellent training program. The day concluded with three consecutive receptions, which seemed like a perfect end to a remarkable day.

On 25 April 2024, the conference officially commenced with the opening ceremony and plenary sessions. All the sessions were very interesting, and some were so popular that I found myself sitting in the window aisle due to the room being full—and it was not a small room! The subjects were highly relevant, and the participation of experienced lawyers from around the world made the sessions, including the Q&A sections, particularly engaging. Some of the sessions felt like an exceptional comparative law class.

The sessions continued, complemented by superb social programs. The receptions, gala dinner at the Okura Hotel, and farewell dinner at Happo-En were simply amazing. I also had the pleasure of attending a boat tour and exploring the beautiful Hamarikyū Garden. Additionally, I must mention the fantastic after-parties at Tokyo nightclubs following the dinner receptions. It was clear that we lawyers know how to have a good time!

In conclusion, thanks again to the organizers for putting together such a well-organized event. The balance between the social and academic programs was perfect, and bringing together such a diverse group of outstanding individuals was undoubtedly no small feat. The friendships and connections I made during the conference, along with the post-conference emails from fellow participants, were exciting.

Finally, thank you so much, IPBA, fellow scholars, and beautiful Tokyo; you were all incredible!

Kind regards,

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Mongolia