

Report on the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo, 24 – 27 April 202

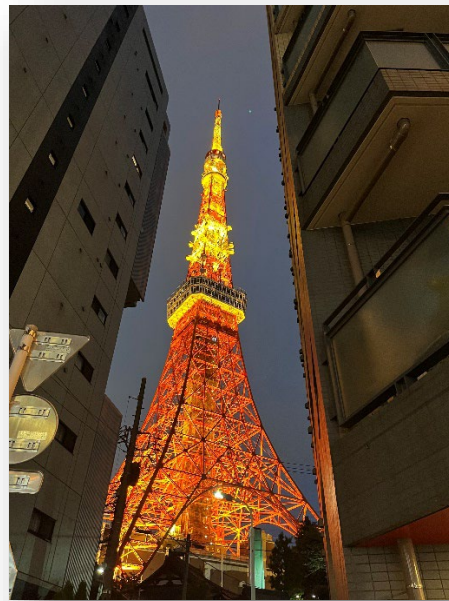
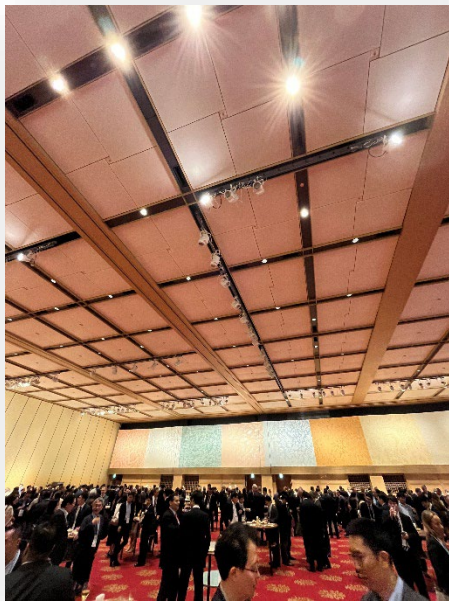
by Ms. Svitlana Khadzhyanova

I participated in the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo from 24-27 April 2024, as a recipient of the IPBA Scholarship.

Firstly, it was a great honour for me to be one of the scholarship holders and to be selected from such a large pool of candidates. I must say that being the first and only representative from Ukraine was a great honour and privilege for me to represent my country. I am very grateful to the IPBA Scholarship Committee and Mr Mahesh Rai for their choice and faith in me.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to The IPBA Secretariat, namely Ms. Randa Morioka and Ms. Yukiko Okazaki, for their help and care during such a difficult journey from a country at war to another part of the world (I should note that it took me about 50 hours to travel from Kyiv to Tokyo in one way).

But even such a difficult journey is quickly forgotten, and you don't feel exhausted when you get to the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference among such wonderful people.



For me, as an IPBA Scholar, the annual conference started a little earlier than for other participants. On the morning of 24 April 2024, I had the opportunity to meet the other scholarship holders. We spent this day together, as well as with the wonderful Mr. Kazuya Yamashita, Mr. Peter Cassidy, and Mr. Takafumi Mise, who were our assistants in immersing ourselves in the legal world of Japan. This immersion was accompanied by fascinating stories about the judicial and legal system in the country of each of the fellows, how each of us started our career paths, and the prospects, opportunities, and challenges we faced. During the day, we visited the Tokyo District Court, where we had the chance to attend several court hearings. It was incredibly interesting to be a part of and see the "backstage" of the trial.



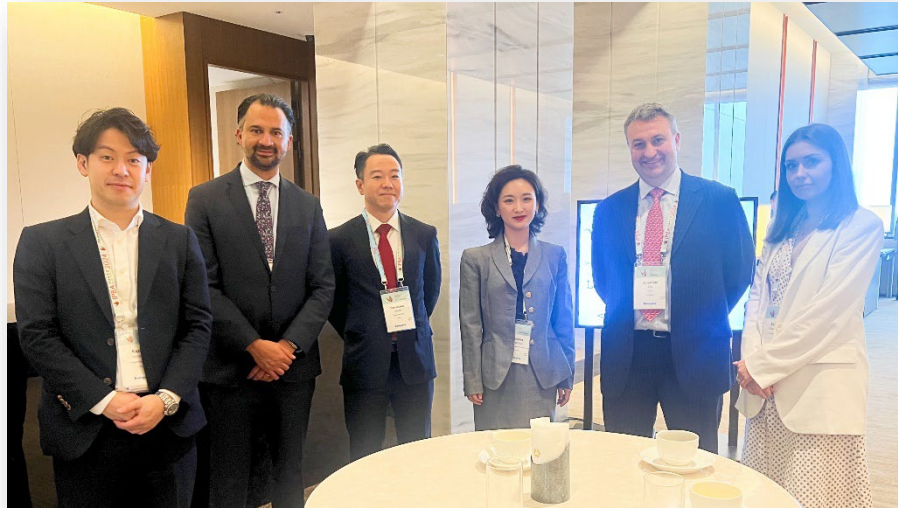
Next, our journey through the legal world of Japan led us to one of the largest firms in Japan, Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Law Firm, where dear Mr. Fumihide Sugimoto and Mr. Akihiro Tokura kindly told us about the company's success story, their corporate rules and traditions.

In the evening, the main event, for which about 1500 participants came from all over the world, began - the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference. To say that the

scale and scope of the conference impressed me is an understatement. The impressive aspect lies not only in the sheer number of participants but also in the skillful and high-level organization of the event. It was genuinely remarkable!



The next few days were filled with an incredible number of fascinating panels, discussions, meetings, and conversations. At the end of the day, you feel so tired and inspired that you can't sleep because your thoughts are whirling around in your head. So much energy, enthusiasm, upcoming projects, and collaboration fills you that you can feel it pulsating under your skin.



Choosing the sessions was the most difficult part of these days for me, as each of them seemed extremely interesting and relevant to me today. For example, one of them was the discussion "Legal Minds Matter: Prioritising Mental Health in the Legal Profession" dedicated to psychological health among lawyers was one of the most interesting and relevant, where the entire room was engaged in the discussion for an hour.



At the end of the conference, I have got new friends, ideas, contacts, and potential opportunities. This experience is one of the brightest in my life and I will always remember these days with a smile and a little sadness because you can't get this time back... But during the conference, I heard several times how participants come back every year because you become part of the IPBA family.

The slogan of the IPBA Annual Conference in 2024 was "New World, New Wisdom". I definitely discovered a new world for myself, and I urge you to have the wisdom not to miss this chance for yourself!

