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Conference Report: IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference, New Delhi 2026

It is hard to put into words what an unforgettable week I spent at the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) Annual Meeting and Conference 2026 in New Delhi.

Attending as the 2026 IPBA Scholar – the only lawyer from Europe and likely the youngest in this year's group – was a real privilege. My time in India provided an opportunity to network with legal professionals from across the globe and gain invaluable insights into the rapidly evolving international legal landscape.

On the first day of the scholarship programme, we went to the Delhi High Court with the other scholars. It was an extraordinary experience, which allowed me to see how the local judicial system, so different from the Polish one, operates. It was also a great opportunity for me to exchange views with local lawyers and learn about the specifics of their work. We then went to one of India's largest law firms, where I had the chance to discuss with its partners the differences in practising law in India and Poland. The next item on the agenda was the scholarship certificate presentation ceremony, which – alongside the Welcome Reception – was an unforgettable experience.

The following day, I had the pleasure of attending several interesting sessions. The first of these was the *'Diversity and Inclusion in International Arbitration: Reality or Mere Rhetoric'* panel organised by the Dispute Resolution & Arbitration Committee, during which we heard very valuable insights into the work of legal representatives in arbitration proceedings across different jurisdictions. I then took part in a very valuable panel organised by the AI Committee (Ad Hoc) entitled *"The Opportunity of AI for the Legal Industry"*. This was a particularly interesting event for me, as I am also involved in implementing AI at my firm and personally believe that artificial intelligence is currently revolutionising the entire legal industry. After the panel, I informed the AI Committee chair of my wish to get involved in the committee's initiatives at future conferences. In the evening, we attended the Gala Dinner, where we had the chance to get to know the beautiful Indian culture better.

On the penultimate day of the conference, I attended a panel organised by the Cross-Border Investment Committee entitled *'How the Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Affects the Practice of M&A'*, followed by a session organised by the Next Generation Committee and the Legal Practice Committee entitled *'Partner Compensation Models: Balancing Tradition and Innovation'*, during which, interestingly, the topic of AI was also raised.

However, given my specialisation, the most interesting event was the panel organised by the Competition Law Committee entitled *'Jurisdictional Updates'*. During this session, I had the pleasure of listening to presentations on the development of competition law in jurisdictions ranging from Chile to Singapore. I also had the opportunity to share my own observations on

Polish competition law with the participants. As with the AI Committee, I informed the committee chair of my willingness to participate actively in its work during future editions of the conference. The day culminated in a wonderful Bollywood-style dinner, during which we were able to continue exchanging experiences to the rhythm of well-known Indian music.

On the final day of the conference, I was delighted to attend a panel entitled '*Adoption of AI at Law Firms – What it takes to be AI Ready and Resilient*', organised by the Next Generation Committee. Importantly, despite the large number of people who were keen to ask questions, I managed to contribute to the discussion on the future of law firms in the era of modern technology. I raised a significant issue there, which in my view is the prospect of a significant reduction in the number of trainees employed by law firms, as their work is already being replaced to some extent by artificial intelligence tools. I pointed out that this carries the risk of creating a generation gap, which could negatively impact the training of future generations of lawyers and the further development of our profession.

I was also delighted to take part in the Annual General Meeting that concluded the event, during which the organisation's activities to date were summarised and key issues were discussed ahead of the next edition of the conference, which will take place in 2027 in Sydney (Australia).

I consider my participation in the IPBA 2026 conference in New Delhi to be one of those unforgettable events in my professional life. Thanks to the scholarship I received, I had the opportunity to meet lawyers from all over the world and forge relationships that will undoubtedly last for many years to come. At the same time, partly through my activity on LinkedIn, I have encouraged colleagues in the industry to take part in future editions of the scholarship programme, which will certainly lead to increased interest in the organisation's activities in Poland. I believe that the conference in New Delhi is just the beginning of my journey with the IPBA and that in the future I will be able to make a significant contribution to the development of this organisation.