

Message from the President

December 2006

It has been a very busy year on many fronts and I'm sure that many IPBA members are looking forward to a break, however short, before a new year gets underway. We are eagerly looking forward to the next major events on the IPBA's calendar, particularly the 2007 Beijing conference as well as the M&A conference in Hong Kong. As the year draws to a close, I'd like to reflect on some of the developments within the IPBA and our plans for 2007.

London meeting

Over 50 IPBA Council members gathered in London in the last weekend of October for the Mid-Year Council Meeting. It was a most enjoyable and productive time and I'd like to thank those Council members who were able to attend.

Among the highlights of the meeting was the submission of the report of the Strategic Long-Term Planning Committee. As many of you will recall, this Committee was formed two years ago with the aim of critically reviewing the IPBA's processes and procedures and identifying where improvements could be made. The Committee members have been working very hard ever since through a number of initiatives including holding all-day workshops with the Council in Colombo in October last year and in Sydney in May this year.

As a result of the Committee's vision, the IPBA will embark on a number of administrative improvements in 2007 that will enable it to run more efficiently. I would like to officially acknowledge the contribution of all Committee members: **Suet-Fern Lee, June Vipamaneerut, Joe Wood, Jerry Sumida, Koichiro Nakamoto, Chris Dawson** and **David Laverly**. I must also acknowledge the amount of work done by the **IPBA Secretariat** in producing documents and supporting the efforts of the committee members. Thank you for your dedication and for making recommendations that will make the IPBA a stronger organisation that is better able to serve its members.

Appointments 2007

I am pleased to report that the Council approved the following nominees for positions with the IPBA in 2007 which were put forward by the Nominating Committee:

Officers

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| Vice President: | Rafael A. Morales SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan, Manila |
| Secretary-General: | Arthur Loke Arthur Loke & Partners, Singapore |
| Deputy Secretary-General: | Gerald A. Sumida Carlsmith Ball LLP, Honolulu |
| Program Coordinator: | Jose Rosell Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, Paris |
| Deputy Program Coordinator: | Kevin Y. Qian AllBright Law Offices, Shanghai |
| Committee Coordinator: | Cedric C. Chao Morrison & Foerster LLP, San Francisco |
| Deputy Committee Coordinator: | Urs Lustenberger Lustenberger Glaus & Partner, Zurich |

Jurisdictional Council Members

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| Canada: | William A. Scott, Stikeman Elliott LLP, Toronto |
| France: | Jean-Claude Beaujour, Hobson, Paris (Re-appointment) |
| Germany: | Axel Reeg, Reeg Rechtsanwälte, Mannheim (Re-appointment) |
| Korea: | Young-Moo Shin, Shin & Kim, Seoul |
| New Zealand: | Denis Michael McNamara, Simpson Grierson, Auckland (Re-appointment) |
| Thailand: | Suchart Thammakitagkul, Bangkok |

At-Large Council Members

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| South America: | Jaime Irrazabal, Philippi, Yrarrazaval, Pulido & Brunner, Santiago |
| Philippines: | Valeriano R. Del Rosario, Del Rosario Hechanova Bagamasbad & Raboca, Makati |

On behalf of the this year's office-bearers, I'd like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to all nominees.

IPBA Membership and Fees

Another report received by the Council was that of the President's Commission on Law Firm Membership and Fees. My thanks to the following people who made up this Commission: **Jerry Libby, Krishan Singhania, Melva Valdez, Punjaporn Kosolkigiwong, Christopher Dawson, Alan Fujimoto, Koichiro Nakamoto** and **Ken Stuart**.

The Commission found that there was no need or reason to change the present structure, which is based squarely on individual memberships. However, the Commission did feel that it was time that the IPBA raised the level of membership dues, which have not moved for the bulk of members since the IPBA was formed in 1991. The exception has been Japanese members and members who pay via credit card, whose membership dues are received by the IPBA in Yen, resulting in differences between their and others' dues amounts caused by exchange rate fluctuations. You will shortly receive your invoice for renewals and members in developed countries will note that the rate has been moved to US\$195 which the Commission believed was a very modest increase given the length of time since the fee was first set and also in relation to other organisations of our type. The rates for members from developing countries had an even smaller increase to US\$100 per year.

Following the Council meeting, we held a joint seminar with the Law Society of England & Wales and the Bar Council at which the opportunities and challenges of lawyers being able to work across jurisdictions were discussed. This was followed by a lunch sponsored by the Bar Council in the Old Hall of Lincolns Inn which dates back to the 13th century.

During the London conference, Council members were also fortunate to enjoy some wonderful social events including a visit behind the scenes at the Tower of London, which offered an uncrowded viewing of the Crown Jewels and of the 700-year-old Ceremony of the Keys which marks the locking of the Tower each night.

Great thanks are due to **Dick Shadbolt**, the Jurisdictional Council Member for the UK who did a superb job of organising the Meeting. Thanks also to **Patrick Sherrington**, Councillor at Large for Europe, who made available the offices and the facilities of Lovells for the meetings over the weekend, including not only helpful staff but also wonderful meals and free run of the facilities. **Roger Best** at Clifford Chance and **David Dickinson** at Simmons & Simmons also hosted dinners for Council members at their offices and I extend my thanks to them also. And finally, my thanks to **Edward Corbett** of Corbett & Co and to

Gordon Jaynes who along with those firms already mentioned, sponsored the visit to the Tower of London.

IPBA Scholarship - Your support needed

Members should by now have received a letter asking them to lend their support to the IPBA Scholarship program, an important initiative that enables lawyers from developing countries the opportunity to attend the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference. I encourage all members to consider contributing to the IPBA Scholarship Fund and supporting a very worthwhile initiative.

Beijing 2007

Preparations for the 2007 Annual Conference are well underway and I encourage all IPBA members to register early and take advantage of the early bird registration rate. I know that Robin Lonergan, Jose Rosell and the Program Committee are working hard to maintain the high quality of the conference program enjoyed in Sydney and I have no doubt that the conference will again be a rewarding experience for IPBA members from a personal, professional and cultural perspective. I look forward to seeing you in April 2007 for what promises to be an exciting, not-to-be-missed event.

Best wishes

Jim FitzSimons

President

