

# President's newsletter

March 2007

Happy Chinese New Year to all IPBA members! It's already shaping up to be a busy 2007, with plenty of professional and networking events happening around the region.

We're of course edging closer to the most important event on the IPBA calendar - the 17th Annual Meeting and Conference which will take place in Beijing from April 20-23. The theme of this year's Plenary session is *'The Lawyer's Role in Promoting Harmonious Development of the Asia and Pacific Region'*. We are fortunate to have on the session panel some of the key decision-makers and officials from several of China's major government and business bodies including the State Council, the National Development and Reform Commission, and Justice Department, the People's Bank of China and the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

In addition to the Plenary session and the many and varied Committee sessions, this year's Organising Committee has put together a very special social program which will take in some of China's best-known and loved attractions including the Great Wall and the Peking Opera. On behalf of all members, I'd like to thank the IPBA President Elect Gao Zongze and the Host Committee for their efforts to date in arranging this year's Conference, which promises to be a memorable event.

If you have not yet registered to attend the Conference, I urge you to do so. Visit [http://www.ipba.org/calendar/documents/registration\\_brochure\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ipba.org/calendar/documents/registration_brochure_2007.pdf) for the registration brochure and [www.ipba2007.com](http://www.ipba2007.com) for further details of the Conference program.

## Asia M&A conference

I'd like to extend my thanks to Wilson Chu for his work in organising the highly successful third annual M&A conference held in Hong Kong earlier this year, which achieved a record attendance. I was fortunate to be in Hong Kong for the conference and found the presentations to be of a uniformly high standard (I intend to liaise with Wilson with a view to having some of the best presentations published on the website.) The annual M&A conference has undoubtedly cemented its position as a key event on the calendar for M&A lawyers around the region, which is a credit to the M&A Practice Committee.

## ABA Spring Meeting

One of my aims as IPBA President has been to strengthen our networks and relationships with similar associations around the globe. The ABA is one such association. The ABA Section of International Law will be hosting its Spring Meeting in Washington DC from May 1-5 and members of the IPBA are encouraged to attend. The Spring Meeting offers a good networking opportunity and the chance to hear from leading lawyers on the latest developments in international law. For further details, visit <http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/spring07/home.html>.

## IPBA Manual

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Sylvette Tankiang, who has been working with members of the IPBA Council to update the IPBA Manual. The Manual serves as a 'guide' to the IPBA's operations and functions, including the key responsibilities of the various IPBA position holders. We hope to have the updated Manual available during the year. Many thanks to Sylvette for her efforts to date.

## New website functionality

Thanks are also due to our webmaster Joyce Tan, who is in the process of reviewing plans to upgrade the website. This includes the introduction of a new function to enable members to renew their membership registrations online. A position paper is being prepared and will be addressed over the next couple of months. We will keep you posted on developments.

I look forward to seeing you all in Beijing.

Best wishes



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