

Dear Colleagues,

From the 2nd to the 5th of May of this year, the Inter-Pacific Bar Association will be holding its 20th Annual Conference in Singapore, the Garden City. The IPBA has been holding or co-sponsoring conferences and seminars in the region and elsewhere since the Manila Conference last year, and all these lead to the Annual Conference, the central event of the Association each year.

I urge each and every one of you to attend the Singapore Conference, principally because the Host Committee (chaired by IPBA President-Elect Lee Suet Fern) has put in place an excellent educational program that revolves around the theme “Climate Change and Legal Practice”. The conference will feature a special question-and-answer session with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, a keynote address of former United States Vice President Al Gore, as well as a plenary session on climate change and the economy, with Professor Tommy Koh as moderator. Singapore President S R Nathan will also personally host a welcome dinner for the delegates and accompanying persons at the Istana, his official residence.

Aside from the committee sessions on various interesting subjects, there will be a special judiciary session (to be moderated by Justice V K Rajah of the Singapore Court of Appeal) where chief justices and justices from various jurisdictions (notably Delaware, New South Wales, New Delhi, New Zealand, Japan and Singapore) will tackle transnational issues confronting judges in the new global financial and business climate.

In addition, a number of entertaining and surprising social programs await the accompanying persons, not to mention the local tours that they can opt to take.

The conference venue is the newly constructed Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resorts located in the central business district of the city. Golf games will be played at Tanah Merah Country Club (pre-conference) and at Sentosa Golf Club (post-conference).

Even though the Singapore Conference has yet to take place, preparations are already under way for the 21st Annual Conference in Kyoto/Osaka and the 22nd Annual Conference in Mumbai. With its unique atmosphere of camaraderie, each conference will be an invaluable opportunity for one and all not only to meet new friends and renew acquaintances but also to keep abreast of developments concerning the legal profession in the Asia-Pacific region.

Let us all go to Singapore and attend the 20th IPBA Annual Conference there!

Rafael A Morales
President