

Dear IPBA Members:

From May 2-5, 2010, the IPBA will hold its Annual Conference and Meeting in Singapore under the theme of *Climate Change and Legal Practice*, which will be the first time in Asia that business lawyers will be addressing this critical set of global issues in Asia. The conference program, with its impressive list of speakers who are leaders in these matters, will be a substantial contribution to the discussion and analysis of the legal dimensions of climate change and their implications for the Pacific and Asian Region. The Copenhagen international conference on climate change in December 2009 was a great disappointment to many who had hoped that definitive action would be taken on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Yet, despite the outcome of that meeting, the impacts of climate change continue unabated and how countries must respond remains a major challenge that our IPBA Conference will address.

The IPBA Annual Conference and Meeting is the most visible and well-known program that the IPBA holds. But there are also many programs and initiatives that the IPBA undertakes that involve, and support, our members in their professional interests and legal practice. These include regional seminars and programs, including substantive programs held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of the IPBA Council, which is generally held in late October in different IPBA jurisdictions. Equally key are the substantive and organizational opportunities that the IPBA provides for its members to contribute to the development and strengthening of the IPBA, while at the same time furthering their professional knowledge and expertise, expanding and deepening professional and personal relationships, promoting the rule of law in business in general, and enjoying and enhancing the collegiality among members which is one of the hallmarks of the IPBA.

The IPBA was originally established to have as members practicing lawyers involved in transnational business activities within the Pacific and Asian Region. Its membership therefore does not include legal organizations or law firms. As such, the IPBA's strength and inspiration have always been drawn from its members, and the personal relationships and friendships that emanate from this membership continue to distinguish the IPBA from other organizations. Members therefore can take advantage of opportunities, and contribute to the IPBA's and their own development, in several ways. These include:

IPBA Committees – This is where much of the substantive work of the IPBA occurs. Most IPBA Committees deal with legal practice areas and develop and conduct programs at the IPBA Annual Conference and the Mid-Year Council meetings as well as in other venues. Other Committees administer special programs, like the IPBA Scholarship Committee and Legal Training and Development Committee, or provide special networking fora, like the Women Business Lawyers Committee. In addition, the Publications Committee prepares the *IPBA Journal*, which is the official publication of the IPBA. Opportunities include serving as speakers as well as Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members.

IPBA Council – This is the administrative body of the IPBA and is responsible for its direction and acts on behalf of the IPBA on matters not specifically reserved to the Annual Meeting of the IPBA members. It comprises Council Members from each of the IPBA jurisdictions (i.e., a jurisdiction with an autonomous and distinctive legal system which has at least 25 IPBA members; these are the Jurisdictional Council Members), six At-Large Council

Members (who represent regions that are not jurisdictions but wish to contribute to, and benefit from, the IPBA), the IPBA Officers and Deputy Officers, the Committee Chairs, and the IPBA Regional Coordinators.

The IPBA members elect the Council members at the IPBA Annual Meeting, which is held in conjunction with the IPBA Annual Conference. There is a nomination process set forth in the *IPBA Constitution* which seeks to ensure the highest quality of the IPBA leadership. Serving on the Council provides unique opportunities not only to be part of the leadership of an important and influential international legal organization but also to gain experience in the governance of the organization, develop close working relationships with colleague Council members, and contribute to the promotion of the rule of law and the institutionalization of legal institutions within the Asian and Pacific Region.

IPBA Jurisdictional Leadership Committees – The IPBA has recently organized several Jurisdictional Leadership Committees within several key jurisdictions. Each Committee has IPBA members who are prominent leaders within that jurisdiction and work with the IPBA Jurisdictional Council Member to promote IPBA programs and activities within that jurisdiction and on a regional basis. This is particularly important and valuable for geographically large jurisdictions. Serving on such a Committee can also provide important opportunities to work with leading members of the legal profession, contribute to IPBA programs within that jurisdiction and beyond, develop lasting collegial professional and personal relationships, and lead to other opportunities to serve in leadership positions within the IPBA.

From its founding in 1991, the IPBA has grown and flourished because of the quality, dedication and spirit of lawyers from, and otherwise committed to, the Pacific and Asian Region, and has uniquely benefited from a strong, diverse, supportive and forward-looking leadership on all levels of the organization. In 2006 the IPBA adopted its Strategic Plan after a lengthy and inclusive process that reaffirmed the IPBA's founding principles and its commitment to be the leading association for business lawyers who share an interest in this Region. The Strategic Plan at the same time underscored the systematic development of successive generations of new leaders within this Region and how the IPBA could continue to provide such leaders.

To this important end, we invite all IPBA members to become actively engaged in the IPBA's programs and to express your desire to take advantage of the opportunities for growth and development, strengthening of our spirit of collegiality, and participation as a leader within the IPBA. We also strongly encourage all IPBA members to invite their business lawyer colleagues, friends and associates to join the IPBA and be part of this important initiative. As we approach 2011 as the 20th anniversary of the founding of the IPBA, we look forward with confidence to a strong and vigorous IPBA with a dedicated membership that continues to provide a visionary leadership in the Pacific and Asian Region.

With all best wishes,

Gerald A. Sumida
Secretary General

March 26, 2010