

The President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Let me give you some updates on IPBA activities since my previous message to you.

Mid-Year Officers and Council Meetings

The Mid-Year Officers and Council Meetings were held from October 30 to November 1 at Park Lane Hotel in Hong Kong. The Council passed a number of guidelines, including those on co-sponsorship requests, as well as the hosting of mid-year meetings and regional conferences. The Council also approved a special liaison relationship by the IPBA Committee on Competition Law and the ABA Section on Antitrust Law. Subject to certain guidelines to be formulated, the Council approved in principle a partnership with the International Law Office.

Regional Seminars

Following the Mid-Year Council Meeting was a seminar entitled "Asia – The Eye of the Financial Storm?", which was organized by Allan Leung, Jurisdictional Council Member for Hong Kong, with the assistance of Deputy Program Coordinator Christopher To. This seminar was well attended and quite successful.

Equally successful was the special seminar organized by Jan Kooi, Regional Coordinator for Europe, in Amsterdam on October 2, 2009. The seminar dealt with the legal aspects and customs related to take-overs by Asian companies of European targets.

IPBA Website

The Webmaster, Sylvette Tankiang, has begun implementing Phase II of the IPBA Website Project. This features not only a membership directory accessible only by the members and searchable with photos, but also intra-committee access. There will be an automated reminder for membership renewal, and important e-mail messages sent to IPBA members will contain images and hyperlinks for better clarity. A key-word search will be provided through the contents of the website, save for the membership directory. Pilot will take over from Jadfly the technical control of the website as well as the hosting thereof.

2010 Singapore Conference

The programme for the Singapore Conference is in place. Among its highlights will be the special question-and-answer session with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, and the keynote speech of former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The plenary session will be moderated by Prof. Tommy Koh, with Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, nobel laureate from India, and Mr. Don Henry of the Australian Conservation Foundation, among the speakers.

There will be a special session for the judiciary to discuss transnational issues facing judges in the new global financial and business climate. The Chief Justice of Singapore, the Right

Honourable Chan Sek Keong, will provide a keynote address and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, the Right Honourable Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the Right Honourable Chief Justice James Jacob Spigelman, the Master of the Rolls of England and Wales, Lord Sir Anthony Clarke, and our own Past President Kunio Hamada, a former judge of the Supreme Court of Japan, will speak.

The various Committee sessions are also in place, along with a Corporate Counsel Forum, all in the context of the conference theme “Climate Change and Legal Practice.”

2011 – 2012 Annual Conferences

As we approach the Singapore Conference, preparations are being made for the Kyoto/Osaka Conference scheduled for April 21 – 24, 2011, with Vice President Shiro Kuniya at the helm. The venue will be the Kyoto International Conference Center.

It was decided too that the 22nd Annual Conference would be held in India in 2012. The exact venue in India is still to be chosen, with Mumbai being considered as a probable site. The election of Lalit Bhasin as the next Vice President, effective at the end of the Singapore Annual Conference, was recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Manila Conference Remittance

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Manila Host Committee remitted to the IPBA Secretariat the initial amount of US\$200,000 as surplus from the 19th Annual Conference.

Let me end by urging you once again to attend the forthcoming Annual Conference in Singapore. Let us support the Singapore Host Committee led by our indefatigable President-elect, Suet Fern Lee!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Rafael A. Morales
President