

Dear Colleagues,

Tempus fugit! Four months have elapsed since the Annual Conference in Manila, and I have attended two conferences as a representative of the IPBA. Let me give you a write-up of these conferences, as well as those being organized or supported by the IPBA this year. I will also be informing you below of the forthcoming Mid-Year Council Meeting and, of course, our 20th Annual Conference in Singapore next year.

Qatar Law Forum

I was in Doha on May 29 – 31, for the Qatar Law Forum, held under the patronage of the Emir of the State of Qatar. The Law Forum's programme, developed with the assistance of Harvard Law School, revolved around the theme "Global Commitment to the Rule of Law." It encompassed a diverse range of topics, with core subjects such as justice and globalization. The opening session focused on global governance, while another session addressed the rule of law in the face of global financial challenges. I had the opportunity to participate in a dialogue among leaders of bar and law associations, on the topic "The Legal Profession Today: Local and International Practice."

POLA Conference

I attended next the Presidents of Law Associations (POLA) Conference in Seoul on July 3 – 4. Hosted by the Korean Bar Association, the conference adopted the theme "Global Economic Crisis and the Rule of Law." I was a panelist in the session "Bridging the Gap: Market Autonomy and Regulation." Several IPBA members were also in attendance, including former IPBA President Sang-Kyu Rhi, and Jurisdiction Council Member Young-Moo Shin, as well Kevin Kim and Mee Hyon Lee, who both acted as session moderators.

Mid-Year Council Meeting; Regional Conference in Hong Kong

The IPBA Mid-Year Council Meeting is scheduled on October 30 to November 2 in Hong Kong at Park Lane Hotel. Following this meeting is a regional seminar on the topic "Asia – The Eye of the Financial Storm." You are all invited to attend this seminar, which will have a distinguished panel of experts discussing a myriad of legal issues relevant to practitioners and clients alike, in the context of the current global economic downturn.

IPBA Seminar in Amsterdam

Jan Kooi, IPBA Regional Coordinator for Europe, is in the thick of organizing an IPBA seminar in Amsterdam on October 2. This seminar will deal *inter alia* with take-overs by Asian companies of European targets. You are also encouraged to attend this seminar, which will be held at Deloitte Conference Centre in Orly Plaza, Amsterdam.

IPBA as Supporting Organization

The IPBA will be a supporting organization in the IP Business Forum 2009 being organized by LexisNexis Hong Kong. This will be held on November 6 – 7 in New Delhi. The IPBA will also support Asia Business Forum's conference in Jakarta on November 23 – 24 on "Negotiating and Drafting Commercial Contracts Indonesia."

Also worth attending is the "ADR in Asia Conference 2009" in Four Seasons Hotel, Hong Kong, on September 15. The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre has organized this event, together with the IPBA and the Hong Kong Corporate Counsel Association.

IPBA Singapore Conference

Needless to say, please do not forget the forthcoming 20th IPBA Annual Conference in Singapore on May 2 – 5 next year. Let us all support the Singapore Host Committee, led by President-Elect Suet Fern Lee, by registering for this conference the theme of which is "Climate Change and Legal Practice." A keynote speaker in this conference will be former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Kindly visit the website www.ipba2010.org for more information on the conference.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Rafael A. Morales
President
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