

Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I write.

Many of you were at the Annual Conference in Singapore and we were honoured and delighted that you were able to attend. The Conference was outstanding, with excellent programmes and great speakers. Best of all, we all enjoyed that friendship and collegiality that the IPBA is so well known for. Thank you again for coming and for making the Singapore Annual Conference a great success.

There were some disappointments with the lack of readiness of the venue and our Singapore Host Committee would like to apologise again for all the venue shortcomings. Some of you may also have followed that there were legal issues between the conference venue and IPBA 2010 Singapore after the Conference. I am pleased to report that these have been fully settled and a public expression of regret over the many shortcomings at our Conference has also been issued by Marina Bay Sands.

**POLA Conference in Kuala Lumpur** From 27 to 28 July this year, I attended the 21st Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (POLA) Conference in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Bar Association hosted this Conference and the very topical and interesting theme was "Rule of Law and Corporate Governance". A highlight of this Conference was a visit to the Malaysian Palace of Justice at Putrajaya where we had an entertaining talk followed by a candid question and answer session by Tun Dato Seri Zaki Tun Azmi, the Chief Justice of Malaysia, who regaled delegates with his impressive efforts to improve efficiency as Malaysian courts. Several IPBA members also attended this Conference, including Shiro Kuniya, our President-Elect from Japan.

**IPBA Mid-Year Council Meeting in Stuttgart and IPBA Seminar in Stuttgart** This year's IPBA Mid-Year Council Meeting returns to support our membership in Europe after a long hiatus. It will be held from 16 to 17 October at the offices of Gleiss Lutz and the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

On October 18, 2010, following our IPBA Mid-Year Council Meeting, the IPBA will be organising a seminar in Stuttgart on "Asian counterparts in corporate transactions - Asian and European perspectives". This seminar will be held at the Chamber of Commerce for the Region Stuttgart and will be followed by a lunch at the Chamber of commerce with meeting with Germany business leaders and lawyers, including the Stuttgart Corporate Law and Stuttgart Arbitration Circles. We do warmly welcome you.

**IPBA Joint Programme at IBA Annual Conference in Vancouver** The IPBA will be hosting an exciting joint programme at this year's IBA Conference in Vancouver. The focus will be "Foreign Investment by State-owned Enterprises and National Security Considerations of Target Countries" and will be held on Tuesday afternoon, 5 October 2010.

This session has been the result of considerable effort of our IPBA Canadian membership, in particular Robert Quon, William Scott and Cliff Sosnow and I do hope you will attend, as a gesture of support and because the topic is fascinating.

**IPBA as Supporting Organisation** This year, IPBA is being asked more frequently than ever to be a Supporting Organisation for legal and business conferences and seminars around Asia and beyond. In addition to our long-standing relationships with the HKIAC, the ABF, and the IFLR, we have established new ties with innoXcell and Ethical Beacon, among others, to promote the events to our IPBA members via e-mails, our web site, and this publication. In return, IPBA members, may participate in the events at special discounted rates. You will find a list of upcoming collaborative events on page 10.

**IPBA Kyoto Annual Conference 2011** The IPBA returns to Japan for its 21st Conference to the ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto, which is nestled among picturesque mountains and placid rivers. It is also the centre of innumerable cultural treasures and traditional crafts. The IPBA will mark the new decade of 2011 with sessions on innovation in the Asia-Pacific region and the various legal, business and policy issues related thereto. This conference will also be a rare opportunity to study issues concerning intellectual property law, biotechnology law and other issues on innovation.

Key speakers at this Conference will include John Roos, the United States Ambassador to Japan; Professor Hiroshi Matsumoto, the President of Kyoto University; Shinya Yamanaka, MD, PhD, a brilliant Japanese physician involved in stem cell research; and Yasuchika Hasegawa, President and CEO of Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

The Conference will be held from 21 to 24 April next year, dates which you should mark in your diary.

Please support the Host Committee led by President-Elect Shiro Kuniya by registering early for our Annual Conference. It promises to be a special not-to-be-missed event in the IPBA Calendar. See you there.

Best wishes,

Lee Suet-Fern President