

## Secretary-Generals of IPBA : Personal Statements

2001-2003 Philip Pillai – Singapore



*IPBA is an association of Inter-Pacific commercial lawyers which was created by Inter-Pacific lawyers for the Inter-Pacific legal community. Because IPBA's genesis paralleled the evolution and development of extensive business and cultural linkages between Pacific basin countries, IPBA is the pre-eminent association of lawyers engaged in and interested in Inter-Pacific legal developments. What distinguishes IPBA is the intense personal and professional friendships that IPBA engenders and its openness to newcomers because IPBA rotates all leadership positions.*

1999-2001 Harumichi Uchida – Tokyo



*IPBA has become the largest and most active association of business lawyers in the Pacific-Rim region. Participation in any program of IPBA will provide a good opportunity to build friendship with leading and promising lawyers in this region. Because of its founding policy IPBA is open to any newcomers. Although I was not an active member upon the foundation of IPBA, I will have the honour to serve as an important officer. This fact proves IPBA's philosophy.*

*To me, IPBA's annual conference has been and will be one of the most meaningful family events each year. To a busy business lawyer, the time spent with family and for meeting old family friends each year at an annual conference is a happy moment. The growth in the Asian economy will start again towards the 21st century. We hope IPBA will play a significant role in providing a forum of the unity of business lawyers who help develop transparent and fair legal systems by which continued growth in the region will be assured.*

1995-1999 Takashi Ejiri – Tokyo



*Our membership is limited to practising lawyers who live or are interested in the Pacific Region and most law firms in Asian jurisdictions have representatives in IPBA. It has strictly maintained the quality of members so that non-payment of membership dues has resulted in the removal from the directory and as a result the size has been at the level of 2,000. Approximately one quarter of the members attend annual meetings but the reasonable size of attendance at annual meetings has enabled members to renew their friendship, which has created the family atmosphere.*

*Since the members have diversified background in the respective jurisdictions and areas of practice, a member can expect the supply of services and referrals of clients from other members and thus IPBA may supply the forum of constituting a de facto network of legal professions.*

*The rotation policy of the leadership reflecting the spirit of democracy has prevented any single member or group dominating the organization and the position as officers/committee chairpersons/Council members are offered equally to all members whether they are native speakers of English or not. Against such policy any member can participate in organizational activities and may be given a leadership position if he or she desires.*

*The organization does not entertain any political matter and is one of the few organizations which has accepted the determination of the local members with respect of the naming of the jurisdiction. In line with the carefully designed fiscal policy the organization has accumulated its own funds to nearly \$1 million. With such a financial basis it will pursue the policy of assisting lawyers from developing countries and young lawyers with the IPBA activities.*