

## Value of IPBA

Below we set out some personal statements on the IPBA from the present, past and in some cases future senior officers of the organisation and from some of the other IPBA members who have agreed to share their thoughts on the organisation. These statements show the diversity of members the IPBA has from a variety of jurisdictions and the slightly different perspectives each has on the IPBA. All combine, however, to see the IPBA as being a very important organisation for cultural and professional exchange and friendships.

## Presidents of IPBA: Personal Statements

2003-2004 Ravinder Nath – New Delhi



*In a shrinking world with constant cross-border issues, it is imperative to have a forum for sharing and understanding diverse views; for establishing and nurturing friendships; for fostering mutual respect; or simply for revelling in the brotherhood of our profession. The IPBA admirably fulfills this role and more.*

*Over 2000 members from 62 jurisdictions regularly come together to provide a compact and diverse forum for the legal fraternity. The Inter Pacific region is central in today's world - a region with some of the most vibrant economies and oldest civilizations and home to almost half the world's population. The region is rich and diverse - historically, politically, culturally and socially.*

*Totally democratic and non parochial in approach, IPBA's broad outlook is constantly demonstrated in many ways and healthy practices established over the past several years. It encourages and nurtures young talent, provides financial aid, holds seminars, publishes a Legal Journal and holds its Annual Conferences in different jurisdictions each year besides other programmes.*

*I invite you to be a part of this family.*

2002-2003 Vivien Chan – Hong Kong



*The IPBA is the focus of business lawyers who does cross border work in Asia-Pacific. With the coming of age of in house corporate counsels, they being as much a business lawyer as private practitioners, I hope to spearhead due emphasis on setting up of a corporate counsel committee.*

*The IPBA now offers the women's business lawyers committee, incentives for participation of young lawyers, and a variety of practice areas committees. It offers a diverse choice for lawyers of every age, gender and specialty. In our respective committee and council meetings, we come to assess each of our analytical skills and legal capabilities. We can pride ourselves as having seen and tested our referral sources before we recommend them to our clients and peers.*

*Every year we come away from our annual conference better informed; intellectually rejuvenated and a trifle more connected. Most of all, it is the friendship and the fun shared we come home with, which entices us to look forward to the next annual conference with zest and excitement. I cannot think of a more gainfully enjoyable pretext to extract oneself from the mundane daily concerns of billable hours and billing targets.*

2001-2002

Nobuo Miyake – Tokyo



*As one of the founding members of the IPBA, I have watched with pride and satisfaction as the IPBA has grown to include members from the farthest reaches of the globe with an interest in the vitally important Asia-Pacific region. Although networking is certainly one reason that some people choose to join the IPBA, for me the most important aspect of the IPBA is its role in fostering friendship, fellowship, open discussions, and sensitivity to the diverse cultures and ideas held by our culturally-rich membership. It is my fondest hope that the IPBA will always continue to be the friendly forum for cultural and intellectual exchange that is presently one of its most cherished characteristics.*

2000-2001

John Craig – Toronto



*The IPBA was established to provide a forum for sharing information on legal issues relevant to lawyers working with businesses located in or dealing with the Asia-Pacific region. The Association has been able to attract members of undoubted legal ability with broad experience and expertise in a wide variety of practice areas. As a result, annual and regional conferences provide opportunities for lawyers to considerably enhance their knowledge base and develop relationships and contacts throughout the world, ensuring capable and interested sources for local work and referrals. A significant proportion of the members regularly attend the annual conference and do so with considerable anticipation, not only because of the disparate and fascinating venues where the annual meetings are held but, more importantly, because of the chance to renew relationships and friendships in an informative environment.*

*The Association is a panoply of legal, linguistic and cultural diversity, readily apparent in its officers, the members of Council and in conference presenters and participants. Members represent major law firms and sole practitioners, full service firms and boutiques, general practitioners and specialists. With a clear focus on business and commercial issues, the Association enables members to become well informed and connected, thereby better able to provide more cost effective and efficient services to their clients in or with interests in Asia-Pacific. The annual change in senior officers allows for broad participation in managing the Association, while requiring a focused but limited period of commitment from active lawyers.*

*Words that come to mind when assessing the value of the IPBA include vibrant, pragmatic, informative, connected, enjoyable. It is one of those rare lawyer associations which is focused on, and fulfilling for, the business lawyer.*

1999-2000

Dej-Udom Krairit – Bangkok



*I am pleased and grateful to be given this opportunity to share with you the advantages of joining the Inter-Pacific Bar Association. For those of you who are already members you will have personally experienced the benefits of the IPBA resulting from the fact that the IPBA is a large international association providing contact with many other business and commercial lawyers from Asian and Pacific regions. Continued membership ensures continued networking opportunities with both old and new members providing an avenue for information sharing between members and allowing for the free flow of up-to-date legal and business information, resulting in improvement of our legal professional services to all individual clients, businesses and other interested organisations.*

*For participants who are attending our IPBA conference for the first time you will observe the enthusiasm our members have towards the IPBA and in particular what it is able to offer to new and old members alike. Joining IPBA is an opportunity to join a world-wide organisation providing a wealth of knowledge and information in a diverse range of legal and business areas. For new members this is a chance to meet business and commercial lawyers from over 65 jurisdictions and*

further one's business development. We appreciate the continued support of the current members and always look forward to welcoming new members to the IPBA.

1998-1999

Susan Glazebrook – Auckland



The IPBA is a unique organisation in that its roots are squarely in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also an organisation focused solely on business law and business lawyers. As such it provides unique opportunities to network with lawyers involved in cross border work in the region, which in turn leads to the building up of valuable referral sources. It also affords the ability to keep abreast with legal developments in the region, through its conferences, the IPBA journal and other publications. The most important aspect of IPBA, however, is the opportunity it affords to make friends from around the world.

1997-1998

Cecil Abraham – Kuala Lumpur



The IPBA is a young but vibrant organisation which brings together leading business lawyers in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Annual Conference, which is the highlight of the IPBA annually, is of a manageable size thereby enabling the members to get to know one another on a personal level. The friendships that are made at the IPBA Annual Conferences and Regional Seminars, last for life. There is also a great deal of camaraderie within the IPBA which is unequalled. The size of the membership of the IPBA is, in my view, one of the essential benefits of being a member of the IPBA.

The IPBA has a unique and novel concept of choosing its President from the membership of the country in which the Annual Conference is held, thereby giving members the opportunity to attain a leadership position in a manner which is unrivalled in comparison with other legal organisations.

The IPBA is a young organisation but is spreading its wings to all areas of the Asia-Pacific Region and addresses the concerns of business lawyers in the region in a meaningful and pragmatic manner. I wholeheartedly recommend that you become a member of the IPBA to enjoy the benefits of membership.

1996-1997

Teodoro Regala – Manila



Great satisfaction, enlightenment and enjoyment are the hallmarks of my membership in the IPBA. Since the initial conference in Tokyo in 1991, I have attended every annual meeting and conference not only to fulfil my duties as a member of the Council, but also because I have found participation in the IPBA activities rewarding and satisfying. One gets to meet not only lawyers from the Asia-Pacific region, but also lawyers from elsewhere who have an interest in our region. Attendance in the IPBA conferences affords one the opportunity to learn more about developments in the region - legal, political, economic and social. Along the way, friendships grow and develop.

Working on matters affecting clients is considerably enhanced by a personal relationship with the lawyer involved. Mutual respect and understanding of the different cultural and legal traditions of its members is fostered as lawyers get to know each other better through IPBA-sponsored activities.

One of the great joys I derive from attending IPBA-sponsored activities, and the annual conference in particular, is the camaraderie among fellow business lawyers, developed by not only attending committee meetings, cocktails and dinners but also on the golf course. When I visit cities throughout the Asia Pacific region (and even elsewhere) whether on client-related matters or on personal holiday, I invariably find myself calling up IPBA members practising therein to get together for lunch, dinner or just drinks. The fellowship is simply great.

1995-1996

Carl Anduri – Lafayette



*When the lawyers from throughout the Asia-Pacific region who were part of the initial organising committee took the first steps to form the IPBA, our goal was to bring together business and commercial lawyers from throughout the region in a way that would be personally beneficial to the region's lawyers and that, in a larger sense, would also help build the Asia-Pacific legal community. Participation in IPBA activities, particularly attendance at the annual meeting, provides an enjoyable way to keep up to date on developments in the region, both legal and economic. Participation in these activities also develops relationships that facilitate working together on client matters. But most satisfying have been the friendships that have developed with lawyers throughout the region. In addition to providing an opportunity for lawyers in the region to get together, the IPBA's purposes since its inception have included contributing to the development of the legal profession in the Asia-Pacific region and promoting the rule of law. While the IPBA has made great strides towards these goals during its first ten years, I hope the IPBA can become more focused on accomplishing these objectives and can serve as a catalyst to expand opportunities to all lawyers in the region. If the IPBA can accomplish these goals, it will bring great satisfaction to all members.*

1994-1995

Pathmanaban Selvadurai – Singapore



*The formation of IPBA at the inaugural conference at Tokyo in 1991 fulfilled a growing aspiration among business and commercial lawyers practising in the Asian Pacific region. The phenomenal economic growth experienced by the East Asian countries inevitably resulted in more intimate co-operation among business lawyers of these countries in the context of the international legal work which they did. The IPBA was formed to provide a forum with an organisational structure which reflected the peculiar cultural character of a region with different legal systems. I am glad that IPBA has and continues to evolve as an institution in which lawyers from both sides of the Pacific take an intimate interest in its governance and its programs.*

1992-1993

Richard Marshall – Sydney



*As one of the founders of the IPBA, our main aim for the IPBA was to bring together business and commercial lawyers in a forum that enabled lawyers who either practice, or live, in the region, to keep in touch with the tremendous changes that were, and are still, occurring. Participation in IPBA activities, particularly attendance at the annual meeting, enables members to keep up to date on current developments in the Region and also network with other lawyers who have similar interests or clients. Above all, I value the true friendships that I have been able to develop with lawyers over the past 10 years.*

1991-1992

Kunio Hamada – Tokyo



*Belonging to the IPBA has provided a very useful network of friendly and competent colleagues in the Region to help our practice of law in an international context. Association with other members, their spouses and others has enabled us to enjoy friendship and given the opportunity to learn each other's culture and national characteristics and individual personality and idiosyncrasy. The opportunity to participate in organisational and committee as well as social activities serves to enhance our professional competency as well as international friendship.*