

## **Report on the Participation in the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference<sup>1</sup>**

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Little was said about Cambodian chance in participating in the conference. Having grown up and accredited as Cambodian lawyer, it is my first time being able to join such a fabulous international legal conference. It was through the admiration and appreciation of this international opportunity that I applied and was given a scholarship place to join these illuminating events. Thereafter, this report will be provided with full personal views and outcomes of the conference to my overall personal and career development in the area of communication, broadening of legal capacity and upgrading the likelihood of success in my future career as lawyer from a developing country.

At the outset of the conference, under the pre-facilitation and guidance of the IPBA secretariat, I was able to make my ways to visiting important judicial institution called High Court of Korea (similar to Appeal Court in Cambodia) and Yoon & Yang Law firm. This is a milestone since exposure to both of the places and background host presentation really touched me and well-lit the purpose of joining this year IPBA conference.

At the court, I was briefed about how the court functions, and operates and deals with commercial cases rapidly. This is all making difference from where our Cambodian courts stand now in trying to deal with complex cases. As a lawyer, I am also interested in learning the structure of court houses where I litigate. This court visit provides me some ideas of better environment I want to work in at least if I were to be in any judicial position.

In addition to that, the representative of over 300 lawyers Yoon & Yang Law firm briefed us about the operation and its mission in dealing with different clients of different commercial matters in Korea. One of the facts about this firm that attracted me is that it is the composition of lawyers of diverse fields.

Extending from that, the presentations made by some speakers in several session programs such as the Cross Border Investment, Legal Practice, Dispute Resolution and Arbitration, Corporate Counsel, Women Business Lawyers made me learn a very good knowledge from global society.

Beside from that, one interesting remark is in “What lawyers need to know about social media”, Barrister Helen Tung pinpointed some interesting points rarely talked about in the

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<sup>1</sup> *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference was held from 17- 20 April 2013 at W Hotel & Sheraton Walker hill, Seoul, Korea.*

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process of doing legal business in Cambodia. These points include but not limit to what is social media? Why it is important? What are potential problems and guidance? It is rather an attracting tool for giving legal services to clients and prospects. This is on really a hands-on experience to institute in the context of law businesses back at my home. Over the years, we thought about scope of advertising via Internet of legal business that might be opposing with the expectation of the Cambodian lawyers 'ethics. The previous Cambodia's bar code of ethics does not permit much room for advertising law business. At the end, when executing this social media method appropriately, I believe there will be leading opportunities in firm expansion and better business profitability.

Further to that, the status as IPBA scholar provided me with an opportunity to be a speaker on "Cambodian Cultural Approaches at the consultation table". Not very much was elaborated during the presentation during the shortness of time. However, having done this gave me pleasures of exposing my knowledge and experiences in my jurisdiction to other lawyer counterparts and businessmen. I also appreciate IPBA's enlisting me in the IPBA directory of members where I could be later sought by other businesses and contacts. Last but not least, I was able to give out my business cards and to craft friendship with other IPBA members of different business levels.

Finally, I really hope I could make my way to other IPBA conferences especially the upcoming one held in Vancouver, Canada in May 2014 to expand networks, to learn legal business development and to pursue common IPBA causes. I am grateful to scholarship sponsors, IPBA Scholarship Committee and the Secretariat for making this scholarship possible for me to participate in such a meaningful conference. Inclusively, I enriched my interests and realized skills and knowledge fulfillment in the architect and organization of the conference and the intellectuality of speakers throughout the conference.