



LEGAL TRENDS, THOUGHTS AND TIMES EXPERIENCE REPORT

Preliminary

It was the most pleasant weather that New Delhi could provide and I arrived there on the eve of 28 February 2012 to attend the 22nd Annual Meeting and Conference of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA). I was attending this conference in the capacity of an IPBA scholar because IPBA had generously granted me a scholarship for which I am undoubtedly indebted to it. Please accept my thanks for providing me this unique and special opportunity. My excitement level was high because I was about to meet more than eight hundred lawyers from all around the world under one single roof.

Day 1: IPBA Scholars Meet

29 February 2012 was the inaugural day of the IPBA Annual Meeting and I had a hectic day lined up before me. First was the meeting with fellow IPBA scholars. I was very glad to have met my friends coming from countries including Mongolia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Lao PR, India and Samoa. I indeed had a splendid time with them and I've shared some of memorable moments of the conference and other social events with them. Second, thanks to Bharucha & Partners and Ms. Kumkum Sen, we were all taken for an observation tour to the Delhi High Court. Although it was very brief tour, the visit was enriching because I was able to see how matters are argued in Indian courts.

Late afternoon that day at Hotel Taj Palace as soon we were introduced as IPBA scholars by Mr. Varya Simpson before the conference attending delegates a frenzy was created. Including me other IPBA scholars were also the center of attraction. I cannot recall how many hands did I shake and number of business cards I exchanged. It was indeed a great honor for me to meet and interact with so many successful lawyers and I was motivated by the encouraging words I received.

Finally in the evening the conference was inaugurated. I was mesmerized by the Indian music and thumping of the drum but more than that I recollect words spoken by the esteemed speakers. The speeches were enlightening and pointed towards the social goals all we lawyers should strive to achieve.

Day 2: Session Discussions

On 1 March 2012, in the morning plenary session, Prof. Gensuke Tokoro exorcised the lawyer in me and made me mull over the question "Where did we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?" I cannot really confidently say I totally grasped his talk but then that is probably because I don't see myself as virus! The later speeches in the

session put some light on the inseparable relationship between the rule of law and the independence of judiciary for the protection and promotion of human rights.

In the latter half of the day, I attended the session on “Dispute Resolution in Mega Construction Contracts”. The discussion in this session on FIDIC contract, its application and its process of dispute resolution increased by understanding of this area.

In the evening, I fully enjoyed the social event organized by IPBA Host Committee at the Kingdom of Dreams, Gurgaon. The Zangora show was extremely enthralling and the vast cuisine and ambience of the Culture Gully fantastic.

Day 3: Enlightening Discussions

The third day (2 March 2012) had in store some of the committee working session discussions that I was looking forward to attend. I participated in the discussion on “Free-Trade Agreements in Asia – What Works & What Does Not?” and from this session I would like to quote Prof. Raj Bhala who said “Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is a misnomer. They are Managed Trade Relationship (MTA)”. I also learnt from the session what qualities that make FTA successful. In afternoon session on “Investment in Dynamic Economies in Challenging Times” the speakers from different jurisdictions including Japan, France, Vietnam, Germany, USA etc talked about the possible ways of advising prospective clients on FDI in their respective jurisdiction.

In evening, I enjoyed the Indian hospitality to the fullest. Hotel Ashok beautifully presented the Indian Mughal tradition and cuisine to us.

Day 4: More Interaction and Encouragement

On Day 4, I received an opportunity to meet eminent corporate lawyers Ms. Zia Mody, Mr. Rajiv Luthra, Mr. Nishith Desai, Ms. Pallavi Shroff of India. I felt much honored to have received a chance to interact with them. In particular, I was energized by their assurance to involve me in legal matters related to Nepal. The morning plenary session also provide me an insight on foreign investment laws of India. The discussions concentrated on India’s success in attracting FDI and it provoked me to think how I could utilize India’s lesson in the context of Nepal.

That day evening the IPBA scholars including me were taken to Pasrich farms for a dinner reception organized by ILA Pasrich & Company. It was very kind of the firm to invite us over the dinner. I was delighted. A musical drama on “tiger protection” performed by Ms. Shivani Wazir Pasrich made me realize why wildlife is so important. I also got to meet and interact with several international legal luminaries including the President and the Vice-President of the International Bar Association.

Vote of Appreciation

I would like to profusely thank IPBA scholarship committee leaders Ms. Varya Simpson, Mr. Amit Acco and Frédéric Ruppert for taking care of us and making sure we got

the most out of the conference. Also thanks to Ms. Yukiko Okazaki for being there whenever any help was needed. The IPBA Host committee did not leave any stone unturned to make this IPBA Annual Conference in New Delhi a success. I wish similar success to forthcoming conference in Seoul and I look forward to receiving continuous support of IPBA and its scholarship committee in the future as well. From my side, I will put sufficient efforts in promoting IPBA and its activities in my jurisdiction.

A Big Thank You

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