

Chairman
IPBA Scholarship Committee

Date: May 29, 2009

Re: Report the experiences as IPBA scholar in IPBA Manila Conference, 2009

Dear Madam,

First of all I would like to say thank you for selecting me as a IPBA scholarship to attending the 19th Annual Conference held in Manila on 29th April, 2009 to 2nd May, 2009. Among the 5 scholars, I am the only one lawyer from Myanmar (Burma) and I am very proud of it since we have very few opportunities of exposure to international community (i.e. IPBA). Thank you again to giving me the said opportunity. This is the second time I have received the IPBA scholar since I received in Hong Kong SAR in 2002.

Due to the well management and arrangement of IPBA scholarship committee and IPBA Secretarial, I have attended the conference very well. The process of advising of my scholarship was adequate and the information provided by the Secretarial was sufficient with respect to Conference Registration and hotel and travel arrangements.

I have left Manila to attend the conference on 27th April, 2009. In the morning of the 29th April, 2009, two lawyers from the scholar host committee from Manila (JG Law firm) picked us (5 scholars, two from Philippine, one from Sri Lanka, one from Cambodia and me from Myanmar) at the lobby of our staying hotel (Trader's Hotel, Manila), and visited to the Regional Trial Court ("RTC") at Makati City, Metro Manila. One of the Judges for the said RTC hosted us and explained us about the trail and jurisdictions about Philippine. She explained and lectured us very well about Philippine's laws and judiciary. We had a chance to hear one court hearing in RTC. We also visited the one court room for Juvenile.

After two hours visiting in the said court, we left to have the Lunch at the Tower 9 hosted by the JG Law Firm of Philippine. After that we had a chance to visit the one of the prestige law firms (ACCRA) in Philippine.

We had attend the welcome reception for the new members and scholars at the IPBA conference's hotel (Sofitel Hotel) and we had to give a few introduction words by scholars at the said reception at 5:30 p.m. on the same day of 29th April, 2009. Then we enjoyed the welcome dinner at the said hotel.

On 30th April, 2009, we had attended the Opening Ceremony at the Philippine International Convention Center and we were delighted to hear about the keynote speaker of her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. Frankly speaking, I was a little bit boring about the plenary session. Then we had a lunch at the said convention centre. Then I attended two sections of Latest Developments in Anti-Corruption Laws in Asia and The Better way of Resolving Dispute. Then we

attended "Conference Gala" at SMX Convention Centre. We note that the talent of the lawyers in singing and dancing at the conference gala.

On 1st May, 2009, I attended "Dealing with Corruption and Illegal Matters Affecting Cross-Border Investment" and "Privatization of Enterprises in Asia". After Lunch I attended "Issues in Intellectually Property Enforcement and Infringement in the Digitalized Era". Then we attended the Farewell Gala at One Esplande.

On 2nd May, 2009, I attended "Mock Mediation" and "Law Firm Continuity in the Face of Emergency Situations". Then we had lunch and attended the 19th Annual General Meeting of IPBA.

The IPBA Manila conference is a little bit unique, as the digital era, we received the conference transcripts/had-out in CD. The photos during the conference attending could easily buy during the conference. There was, I strongly believe no adequate substitute for "face to face" meeting among the participants. It was because they could personally met, got acquaintance and made friends, with each others, swapping stories, recounting personal experiences and sharing anecdotes. These were the immediate benefits that no internet or other electronic communication systems could "substitute". For me, these conference's experiences would be invaluable. From these, we can also build up and expand the inter-regional friendship.

Due to numerous difficulties in our country, we are yet to organize the formal pro-IPBA activities. Most of the lawyers from our country would like to join the IPBA but they could not pay the member's annual fees even it was US\$ 100. If the IPBA's authorities can reduce the rate for US\$ 100 to US\$ 50, the member will increase and yet, the situation might change as IPBA membership increases.

Thank you again and I hope I will attend the IPBA conferences and participate in the IPBA's activities in near future.

Yours sincerely,
Win Naing
Scholar of 2009 IPBA Manila