

Participation in the IPBA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Manila, the Philippines from April 29 to May 02, 2009

*Inter-Pacific Bar Association Scholarship Report*  
**SENG Rethy, IPBA Scholar**

First of all, would like to express my sincere thanks to IPBA scholarship program that offered me an excellent opportunity to attend the great annual four day conference from April 29 to May 02, 2009 in Manila, the Philippines. These 4-day conference has provided me with many insight and advantages, opened up to my horizon the way international laws and lawyers interact, provided me an opportunity to get to know each other and to increase my legal knowledge and practical skills and at the same time, motivated me to increase my personal and professional skills to meet the increasing expectation of legal profession.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to JGLAW for their time accompanied me and other scholars to visit the court facility in Makati city and observed the trial as well as have a chance to talk to the judge. I would like also to express thanks to the law office of Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCRALAW) for their warmly welcome to visit their office and their presentation. The court observation, tour of court facilities in Makati city and the visiting of ACCRALAW office in the morning of April 29, 2009 was an excellent opportunity for me to get to know more Pilipino lawyers, to learn how the law office management and to lean the court system in the Philippines.

I am one of the 5 scholars who received a scholarship from the IBPA Scholarship Program to attend the IPBA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Manila from April 29 to may 02, 2009. The conference was attended by hundreds of lawyers/delegates from approximately 75 jurisdictions around the world, giving me great opportunities to meet with lawyers from different countries and different legal background. The conference was managed professionally. More importantly, I was very impressed that the conference was attended during the opening ceremony by Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO-the President of the Republic of the Philippines and made her valuable and meaningful remarks related to legal profession.

Most of the IPBA's Working Session being presented in the Conference are given by top-notch speakers in their fields. The panel of speakers in each session composed of speakers or lawyers from different jurisdictions and provided a very interesting platform for comparative exchange of information and knowledge on how certain legal issues are being addressed in different jurisdictions. The conference also introduce the working session on Law Firm Management and Law Firm Continuity in the Face of Emergency Situations which in my view are very important and useful for beginning lawyers to develop and manage law firm or for more senior lawyers to refresh what they have already known, but not fully implemented yet.

Besides all the great things mentioned above, from my point of view as a lawyer from developing country, there issues I noticed during the Conference. For instance, I noted that the conference attended by mostly partners from huge, medium and small size law firms from both developed and developing countries. Thus, the opportunity to build a networking is enormous. However, I would strongly suggested the IPBA scholarship program should be expanded by increasing the number of scholars and targeting lawyers/young lawyers from developing countries, which presumably have more enthusiasm and drive to involve actively in the IPBA organizations and the working committees, as a medium to show his or her existent in international legal world. Some steps that have been taken by a few working committee, such as including one young lawyer or lawyer from developing country as speaker in the panelists is a good start.

In addition, the welcome reception for new IPBA members, scholars and Women Business Lawyer is a good opportunity to introduce new members to existing members of each working committee that would certainly make the new members feel more welcome and assist the integration of the new members to the IPBA itself.

To sum up, the Conference overall is a great achievement. The social functions, cocktails receptions and luncheons with abundant time for socializing and networking are perfect and complement the whole Conference's agenda, not to mention having new acquaintance from all part of the world, thus provide a memorable experience that I never for get. I wish I have the opportunity to attend the IPBA 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference next year in Singapore.

Phnom Penh, May 20, 2009

**Mr. Rethy Seng**\*

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

---

\* I am a Cambodian practicing attorney admitted to practice law in the Kingdom of Cambodia since 2005. Currently, I am also a Legal Advisor to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Cambodia. I hold a Degree of Master of Law (LL.M), Bachelor of Law (LLB), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Certificate of Aptitude in the Legal Profession (CAPA) from the Lawyer Training Center of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which is the required one-year training certificate prior to be admitted to the BAKC.