

**The IPBA Secretariat**

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Re: Report of IPBA 2015 experience

Dear IPBA Secretary,

Being part of IPBA 2015 Hong Kong as Scholar, I have a profound and unforgettable experience in connecting to law practitioners in different jurisdictions and sharing knowledge and preserving cross-border friendship in the long run.

On the flight to Hong Kong on 5 May 2015, it was fortune that I met one Scholar from Laos and one IPBA member who was Swedish. We chatted with each other and my first IPBA friends turned out to be unexpected. We arrived in Hong Kong at 9pm, it was raining and I was lost a bit before we arrived at the Cosmo Hotel by taxi. The hotel was clean, organized, and well-equipped with everything we need, especially using smartphone for free provided by the hotel during our stay. I will never forget this moment. We helped and took care of each other until we finally arrived safely at the hotel.

On the first day, I had breakfast together with Scholars because we, Scholar, stayed in the same hotel. I figure out and recognized all of their face. We shook hands and discussed our first day schedule at IPBA. I almost met them all during the breakfast. We went to visit High Court of Hong Kong after the breakfast, which were accompanied by Mr. Tatsuki Nakayama. Thanks to this visit, I am now familiar with court-rooms, role of lawyers (barrister and solicitors), and so on. Hong Kong is full of law firms. Most of worldwide law firms have an office in Hong Kong. We had a chance to visit one of the long-standing law firms in Hong Kong, Deacon. It was a great time attending a presentation about Hong Kong law system by a Hong Kong law firm. We had lunch at Deacon and it seemed we did not have enough time to make friends and chatted about our law practice in each jurisdiction.

We met the IPBA Secretary and Committee Scholarship in the afternoon. They are helpful and nice people who always tried to support us in the best way possible during our stay in Hong Kong. We were introduced one by one to IPBA members during IPBA Scholar Reception, I was proud of spelling my full name in front of international lawyers and officially being a IPBA member from now on. Our first day ended up having a wonderful dinner at the Hong Kong Jockey Club where we enjoyed watching horse race, taking photos, and chatting with other lawyers. I exchange a lot of my name card and talked with foreign lawyers about myself and Vietnam. I loved the first day of IPBA schedule. I explored Hong Kong by bus and IPBA in person.

The second day began with the Welcoming Opening by Mr. Scott, the chairman of IPBA. We had an amazing lunch at the Grand Hall of Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Center. I attended the session on cross-border investment in the afternoon. We had a chance to explore Hong Kong by going to have dinner at Golf Club which was situated on the mountain. We enjoyed Hong Kong traditional foods, watched drama performance by Hong Kong children. Fireworks made the dinner much more colorful. I walked around and chatted with my friends, Scholars and made new friends.

On the third day, I attended the sessions on tax issues. The presenters coming from different jurisdiction talked about beneficial ownership and limitation of dividends. Attendants also raised

questions and shared their own view and experiences in their home country. I found it very useful. I learned a lot – how to make productive presentations and speak confidently in front of many people. Gala Dinner was the most-impressive event I have ever attended. We watched musical performance by the orchestra consisting of handicapped and less fortunate children. Next, we watched wonderful performance by the Hong Kong Police Band. I am so honored to receive the Certificate for Scholar granted by Mr. Scott, the Chairman of IPBA. After we return home and we have always born in mind that we are now friends and keep in touch for future professional cooperation and assistance.

Attending IPBA 2015 helped to extend and improve my knowledge and experiences in attending international forums. My professional networking in the Pacific region has been extended as well. Now if I happen to go somewhere, like Poland, Russia, Ethiopia, Hong Kong or Canada, I just contact those whom I met during IPBA for professional help or just for a drink. It must be an amazing thing in life, everything now is connected globally. What I have stumbled into is that when I return and talked to my friends about IPBA event, they are so excited about what IPBA have been doing and have asked me how to get IPBA scholarship. I shared my legal experiences and knowledge gained when attending IPBA international forums and encouraged my colleagues to attend IPBA 2016 in Malaysia.

I will remember IPBA 2015 Hong Kong as one of the most exciting experience in connecting to people around the world and learning to work with foreign lawyers in different jurisdictions. Thanks to IPBA, I am now part of IPBA family and community. Wish IPBA a greater success and ever-increasing expansion beyond the Pacific Region.

Bui Tien Long