

Date: 29th June 2015

To: The Scholarship Committee  
Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)  
By email: ipba@ipba.org

From: Pho Sotheaphal  
Attorney-At-Law and Partner, SP & Partners  
IPBA Scholar 2015

Re: Report on Participation in the 25th IPBA Annual Meeting & Conference

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Dear Sirs,

Greetings from Cambodia!

It was a great pleasure and privilege for me to be able to attend the 25th IPBA conference in Hong Kong in May, with the scholarship from the IPBA. I am grateful to the IPBA members for the scholarship funds that have given me an opportunity to participate in the one-week event. I am most appreciative to the Scholarship Committee, particularly Mr. Amit Acco and Mr. Tatsuki Nakayama, for selecting me as one of the only ten Scholars and also for taking good care of us during our stay in Hong Kong. I am also most thankful to Ms. Rhonda Lundin and the IPBA Secretariat for the fine coordination and assistance.

In the legal profession, developing close personal and professional relationship such as participating in IPBA meetings is very important. The IPBA scholarship, which brought me to meet with a lot of lawyers from the Asia-Pacific region and all over the world, offered me a good opportunity to build a network with law practicing colleagues.

The first day of the schedule for the Scholars gave me a first impression of how a real big law firm looked like and a chance to learn briefly about the legal system of Hong Kong and the “one country, two systems” principle.

The visit to the High Court of Hong Kong was an instructive experience. It gave me a taste of judicial proceedings in a common law jurisdiction, while the country I am from is a civil law jurisdiction.

I was impressed by the knowledge and talent of the speakers presented through their remarks during the concurrent committee sessions, which comprised a variety of topics for the participants to choose and attend according to their interest. The conference events that I attended were:

- Scholars orientation meeting
- Women business lawyers’ reception
- New members and scholars’ reception
- Speed dating
- Welcome reception (which was the first time for me to see a horse race!)
- Opening ceremony
- Plenary session

- Committee session on “Fighting Corruption At All Levels: from International Governance to Regional Collaboration”
- Committee session on “M&A Auctions”
- Committee session on “Arbitration in Emerging Economies”
- Committee session on “Corporates, Court Processes & Anti-Bribery & Corruption Legislation”
- Committee session on “Bar Programmes’ and Law Firms’ Contribution & Commitment to Young Lawyers’ Careers” (it was a privilege for me to be chosen as a panelist and to share information about my country!)
- Committee session on “Border Enforcement Measures for Intellectual Property Rights”
- Gala dinner (which was a fun time and the time I had the honour of receiving a scholarship certificate!)
- Committee session on “Hot Topics in International Employment Law, 2015 and Beyond: Hiring, Employing, and Terminating in Compliance with Local Law and Without Employment Disputes”

Since I came back from the conference, I have exchanged greetings messages with the IPBA friends. We are also connected via LinkedIn and other network sources. Back in the country, I have described the benefits and good experience from the conference to my Cambodian colleagues, who have shared the excitement and expressed their interest in joining the association.

I hope to be able to join the 26th IPBA conference in Kuala Lumpur and to see you all once again next year.

Thanks again Amit, Tatsu and Rhonda! You have given me an eye-opening experience indeed.

Respectfully,

Pho Sotheaphal