

## **REPORT ON ATTENDANCE TO INTER-PACIFIC BAR ASSOCIATION 23rd ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE**

**Attn: Chair  
IPBA Scholarship Committee**

Ho Chi Minh City, 30 May 2013

Dear Madam,

I am Thai Trung Kien, Attorney-at-Law at Bross & Partners Partnership Law Company in Vietnam. I benefited from the scholarship of IPBA for attending its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference in Seoul (Korea) from 17 to 20 April 2013. It was the first time I attended this event that, in reality, became a traditional meeting of international lawyers from all over the world. During the conference, I participated, with enthusiasm, in activities including seminars and social events, such as:

- Scholar Orientation Session;
- New Members & IPBA Scholar Reception and Woman Business Lawyers Reception;
- Welcome Reception;
- Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session Hear from the CEOs;
- Cross-Border Investment Sessions on "M&A Negotiation Trends and Practices in Pan-Pacific M&A" and "Unusual Cross Border Contracts: Unraveling Mysterious Jurisdiction & Dynamic Investment Contracts - Discovering New Challenges & Opportunities"
- International Trade /Taxation Session on "Transfer Pricing & Customs Duty";
- Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Session on "BIT Claims";
- Scholarship Session "A Cultural Exchange with our IPBA Scholars and Friends: Business Etiquette in a Dynamic World";
- Annual General Meeting;
- Event Dinner at Dramia, Gala Dinner (K-pop Dinner) and Young Lawyers' Night.

Through guidelines, presentations and discussions, I had chances to get knowledge about organisation of an international legal conference, ideas and experiences interchange between lawyers and law firms and updates on worldwide legal profession. This international meeting of lawyers was a great experience for me for following reasons:

## **1. Expanding the network**

1.1. During the conference, I met with colleagues who:

**a) Came from diversified legal cultures and markets:** In the IPBA 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference, there were lawyers practising in all continents. For example, in Cross-Border Investment Sessions and International Trade /Taxation Session, we heard legal updates and professional experiences from East Asia, South-East Asia, South Asia, North America, Latin America, etc., when lawyers talked about economic and social situation, legal requirements, client's needs and working protocols and methods, etc. in the countries where they practised. Such sharing was interesting and useful in the context where business lawyers, including my law firm and myself, were assisting clients to complete their international transactions in this current dynamic global economy;

**b) Were specialised in various practices areas:** I met with corporate lawyers, advocates, arbitrators, in-house lawyers, enterprise leaders, etc. They were dealing with investment, corporate matters, litigation, real estate, intellectual properties and many other specialities. As corporate lawyer, through my official presentations and personal discussions, I had chance to share about what I was doing in my professional practice and also to get knowledge on transactions to which international lawyers provided legal supports.

**c) Occupied various positions in the professions:** I met with Partners, Senior Associates and young lawyers in many law firms and corporations. Opened discussions between colleagues gave me, as young lawyer in the current dynamic business environment, larger vision about career development, including personal commitments on my own one.

1.2. With attendance of a great number of lawyers from all over the world, IPBA 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference was an impressive meeting of

legal professionals. I had chance to make acquaintance with a lot of lawyers, talked with them about the profession and keep in touch with them. Up to now, I have developed links and always been in connection with many professionals that I met at the Seoul conference. We have exchanged information and discussed cooperation. In reality, IPBA 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference was successful in creating and maintaining links and cooperation between lawyers and law firm members of the Association, for which connections that I got through this meeting may be good examples.

## **2. Expanding the horizon**

In the IPBA 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference, the organisation board set specialised seminars on various legal and professional matters:

- 2.1. **Practice areas:** During four days, a huge quantity of thorough information about legal practice, including investment, corporate matters, litigation, real estate, intellectual properties and many other specialities, was discussed in plenary sessions and seminars. There were also personal discussions between lawyers during coffee breaks and social events. The planning and schedule were strict but practical. I got a lot of legal updates in attending these activities. Such useful information will surely help me to enlarge my knowledge and improve my professional skills.
- 2.2. **Experience sharing:** IPBA organised several sessions on exercise and development of the legal profession, such as seminar on Woman Business Lawyers, or the discussion on diversified legal cultures to which IPBA scholars including myself contributed presentations. This training was a good education for me as a young lawyer in getting information and skills of the profession in an international panorama and developing my career.

## **3. Improving professional skills**

In this conference, IPBA authorised scholars to make official speeches many times, in different levels: between scholars and member of the Scholarship Committee in the Scholar Orientation Session, at the New Members & IPBA Scholar Reception and especially at the Scholarship Session "A Cultural Exchange with our IPBA Scholars and Friends: Business Etiquette in a Dynamic World". In such a meeting of international lawyers, I had chance to introduce myself, my law firm as well as my experiences in this profession. In preparing my

presentations, I received many comments and advices from senior lawyers. It is evident that such exercise helped me to be more confident and more skilled in speaking in international conferences, presenting information and arguments and participating in discussions in a professional way, as well as keeping in touch with international colleagues.

#### **4. Fellowship**

During the conference, as young lawyer, scholar and new member of the Association, I got advices, sharing and encouragements from IPBA President, President-Elect and Vice President, members of the Scholarship Committee, IPBA scholars and many other lawyers. I also received practical supports from IPBA administrative staff. I understood that IPBA was not only a professional association, but more than that, a family in which fellowship was one of the most important values. This may explain why there was such an impressive number of attendees at this conference and we, as members of the Association, talk to each other currently about meeting in IPBA next events. After the conference, I am always pleased to tell my Vietnamese colleagues efficient and continuous supports that IPBA is bringing to its members, especially young lawyers. I believe that fellowship will ensure connections, sharing and cooperation between members of the Association, to which I am pleased to contribute my knowledge and experience obtained through my professional practice.

#### **5. Recommendations**

With my experiences as IPBA scholar, I would like to recommend that IPBA grants scholarship to more young lawyers, especially the ones in developing countries. This financial and professional support will help young lawyers to have a perfect chance to attend IPBA annual conference and improve their professional skills. It would also be better if during the Scholar Orientation Session, IPBA explains more about how scholars and new members may contribute to activities of the Association, especially in their proper countries. In addition, an official meeting between scholars and members of the Scholarship Committee at the end of the annual conference may be good for talking about experiences gotten by scholars through seminars and events during the conference.

By this occasion, I would like to extend my best thanks to IPBA, its Scholarship Committee, its staff and all lawyers members of the Association for your sharing and supports in favour of young lawyers throughout the world. I am willing to participate in IPBA next professional activities with my

personal competence and sharing my experience obtained within the Association, especially this perfect 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference, with lawyers in my network.

Wishing success to our IPBA!

Yours faithfully,

**Thai Trung Kien**  
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**IPBA 2013 Scholar**