

Report on my Experience at IPBA 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference, Seoul, South Korea

Being the part of Inter-Pacific Bar Association 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference, as an IPBA Scholar, with stupendously high number of attendees was an experience to cherish. I would like to take the opportunity to thank IPBA and Scholarship Committee for such an extremely rewarding experience.

Day 1: April 17, 2013

No sooner did I arrive Seoul, I met all the fellow scholars and members of scholarship committee during the Scholar Orientation- which provided the scholars with getting-to-know-each other time followed by rehearsal for the presentation related to business etiquette in the respective jurisdictions of the scholars. Comments received from the scholarship committee after the initial presentation were really helpful. During the interaction with fellow scholars, I came to know that some of them visited High Court of Korea and a law firm called Yoon and Yang LLC earlier in the afternoon. It would have been better had I not missed the visit due to my flight schedule, nevertheless, I was all excited to experience different events in the following days.

New Members & IPBA Scholar Reception combined with Woman Business Lawyers Reception warmly welcomed all the scholars, woman lawyers and other delegates. Scholars received their certificate from Mr. Lalit Bashin, the then president of IPBA.

Day 2: April 18, 2013

I was astonished to observe an array of like-minded attendees during the Opening Ceremony. Keynote Speech from the delegates and Plenary Session on 'Hear from the CEOs' were enlightening one.

More often than not, identifying deal-breakers in cross boarder merger and acquisition is a strenuous task. Evolving market practices in Asia in relation to merger and acquisition, as dealt in the session "M&A Negotiation Trends and Practices in Pan-Pacific M&A" was informative. Similarly, Committee session on "The Efficient Arbitral Institution" did provide an insight on the comparative study of arbitral institutions and their role in supervising arbitrations. It also highlighted as to how the arbitration can be made more effective and efficient.

Event Dinner at Dramia offered me a completely new experience. Getting to play the character of ‘Wal’ in a drama was totally enthralling. Even though shooting continued till 10 p.m. and I had to wait till the end to complete my shot, it was all worth it.

Day 3: April 19, 2013

Not only did the session on “Unusual Cross Border Contracts: Unraveling Mysterious Jurisdictions & Dynamic Investment Contracts- Discovering New Challenges & Opportunities” deal with the grey areas of the cross border investment contract but it also shed light on the ambiguities prevalent in the arena of these contracts. This session broadened my knowledge regarding the cross border contracts.

After attending the session, I headed for Gala Dinner. I thoroughly enjoyed the great food, Korean pop music and performance by the Korean artists during Gala Dinner.

Day 4: April 20, 2013

On the last day of the Conference, a session titled "A Cultural Exchange with our IPBA Scholars and Friends: Business Etiquette in a Dynamic World" was scheduled for the IPBA scholars, where scholars from ten different jurisdictions viz. Cambodia, China, Israel, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Vietnam including a guest speaker from South Korea shared current etiquette in their respective jurisdictions regarding meeting foreign legal counsel and conducting business negotiations.

Finally, Annual General Meeting wrapped up the Conference with the appointment of new IPBA officers and committee members. IPBA Scholars were once again introduced among the attendees and words from Mr. Bashin directing scholars to continue contributing the legal fraternity were really encouraging.

In a nutshell, IPBA 23rd Annual Meeting and Conference was a grand success. All the hard efforts put in by the IPBA organizing committee eventually showed its colour. I had a great platform to network with people having similar interests and to broaden my knowledge. My best wishes for the success of the forthcoming edition of IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference.

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