

In memory of  
Nobuo Miyake



1939 – 2023



INTER-PACIFIC  
BAR ASSOCIATION



# Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake

Passed Away on October 27, 2023.

Cover Photo: Joi Ito

Nosei Miyake was the indispensable leader in the creation and development of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA). A prominent Japanese lawyer, he was one of the most active members of the international Japanese bar and a founding member of a successful Tokyo law firm. In the late 1980s he developed a vision of a regional Asia-Pacific bar association. Through countless discussions with bar leaders and lawyers throughout the region he refined this vision, which came to be the “Spirit of Katsuura”, the founding principle of the IPBA. At his home in Katsuura City, Japan, Nosei hosted the first informal IPBA organizational meeting in March 24-25, 1990, with nine attorneys from around the world forming the original Steering Committee. At this site is a permanent tablet on which is engraved the characteristics of the IPBA that define this spirit: friendship, professional ties, candid exchanges of opinions, understanding and tolerance of each other’s opinions, and providing opportunities to express the Spirit of Katsuura.

Nosei went on to spearhead the organization of the first IPBA Annual Conference, held in Tokyo in 1991. Not wishing to take the spotlight, he balked at becoming the first President, instead serving as the first Secretary-General of the IPBA. He then became the IPBA's 11<sup>th</sup> President for the year 2001-2002. During those early years, Nosei's vision, leadership and energy were instrumental in the development of the IPBA. Many IPBA leaders, including the undersigned, were originally inspired by Nosei to join the IPBA. There can be no doubt that he shaped much of the IPBA's growth, and that his commitment to and leadership of the IPBA are unsurpassed.

To properly recognize Nosei's enormous contributions to the IPBA, we have undertaken the publication of this booklet of stories from IPBA members, in memory of our late inspirational leader, and dear friend and colleague, Nosei Miyake. We thank all those who provided stories to help keep his memory alive.

*Kunio Hamada*

Tokyo, Japan

IPBA President (1991-1992)

*Gerold W. Libby*

Los Angeles, California, USA

IPBA President (2008-2009)

Read more about the IPBA founding on the IPBA website: <https://ipba.org/about-us/about-ipba/165/>

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## Thank You, Miyake-Sensei (Nosei)!

It was in the early 1970s at Anderson, Mori & Rabinowitz located in the Zenkyo-ren Building, Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo that I first met Nosei. He was three years behind me in the bar association registration as a practicing attorney. At that time, I did not have much contact with him professionally nor personally. Around the same time, I also met Jerry Libby, Esq. clerking at the law firm. In 1990 I got somehow involved with the preparation for the launching of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association, a new Asian international bar association and the brainchild of Nosei.

I used to be a member of the Business Section of the International Bar Association for many years, but not very satisfied with its attitude regarding Asian members. Attendees from Asia before the 1990s were mostly quite wealthy international lawyers and so-called local lawyers in each region in the area had virtually no chance of attending IBA meetings held in European countries or the United States, because of the travelling distance and the expenses required. Those attending were not called upon in the management of this Section.

I found that Nosei, also then a member of the IBA Business Section, had the same opinion in this regard.

Accordingly, I was much attracted to the proposal of establishing a new international legal organization in Asia available for such local lawyers to attend and participate in the management thereof. On the plane from Tokyo to Honolulu in early 1991 for the preparation of the Constitution of the IPBA, Nosei told me to be silent in the forthcoming meeting, because he would personally manage the meeting on behalf of the Japanese contingent. I was obliged to follow his instructions. I managed to do so but only for the first three (3) minutes of the meeting. Nosei kindly tolerated my various proposals for amendment of the first draft of the constitution, which was prepared by Richard Marshall, Esq.

Nosei was instrumental in recruiting participants from abroad at the inaugural conference in April 1991. Many of the participants from abroad were friends of Nosei. He personally at his own risk booked hundreds of rooms at

the hotel nearby the conference site for accommodation of visitors from abroad. Such booking was a risky undertaking, as nobody was sure about the number of visitors from abroad to the initial conference. I remember that the conference was successful in obtaining the participation of around 500 business lawyers in total from abroad and locally.

One of the characteristic features of the IPBA organization has been exclusion of national and international bar associations as members. The reason for such a feature was to shield the new organization from political intervention by national or international bar associations. This meant that recruiting of the initial members for IPBA had to be made with an individual approach to potential members in and outside of Japan. Nosei was very powerful in persuading his professional friends abroad to join the new organization.

Nosei was innovative in planning new activities for the IPBA. He obtained some funds from a Japanese trading firm to build up a new telecommunication system for international commercial arbitration. The internet system is in operation today, but more than 20 years ago, the effort was quite innovative and challenging. Unfortunately, his efforts did not materialize as a working system at that time.

After spending five years on the bench at the Supreme Court of Japan, I was back in my private practice at Mori, Hamada & Matsumoto from May 2006 through May 2011. At the age of 75, I had to find a new law firm to settle in. Nosei kindly accepted my request and promised to accommodate me as special counsel for his law firm from May 2011. Unfortunately, Nosei suffered brain trouble just before the Kyoto Conference of IPBA in April 2011 and could not attend the Conference. As a result, I missed the opportunity to be a partner of Nosei in private practice. His recovery was very slow and Noriko-san, his charming spouse, was devoted to help him and assisted his struggle for so many years. The last time I saw Nosei assisted by Noriko-san was in late 2022 at his offices and his smile with few words are my last memory of him. Thank you, Miyake-sensei for your contribution to the founding and management of early years of IPBA and international friendship!

*Kunio Hamada*

Tokyo, Japan

IPBA Past President (1991-1992)





## My Friend Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake

I met Nosei Miyake in 1972 when we were both working at the Tokyo law firm, Anderson Mori & Rabinowitz (now Anderson Mori & Tomotsune). Nosei had just returned to Japan after spending several years in the U.S., including studying for an LLM degree from the New York University School of Law. He and I worked very closely on many different matters for a couple of years, before I returned to the U.S. in 1974, and we remained in contact in the years that followed.

In the late 1980s, Nosei informed me that he and others were forming a new Asia-Pacific bar organization. He explained that this new organization would be democratic in structure and philosophy, would be open to lawyer members throughout the Asia-Pacific region or who otherwise had an interest in the region, would stress the importance of collegial, friendly relations among members, and would be non-political. He was very excited about this initiative, and we spoke frequently about reaching out to lawyers in the Asia-Pacific region to encourage them to join. It was apparent to me that this

new project was becoming a passionate undertaking for Nosei.

Meanwhile, in the 1980s I also became involved in international bar association work, through the Section of International Law of the American Bar Association (ABA). In the course of our conversations, Nosei told me that his Asia-Pacific initiative would benefit if the ABA could somehow recognize the new organization, and further, that the new organization was in great need of financial resources. The ABA responded by lending the new organization \$10,000, and according to Nosei, this gesture was significant in giving the new organization credibility. At the time, many in the ABA believed this loan would never actually be repaid. The new organization, of course, became the IPBA, and in time, under Nosei's leadership, the loan was repaid, with interest.

Nosei was indispensable in the initial organization of the IPBA. He energetically convened many meetings of

lawyers throughout the Asia-Pacific region, promoting the ideals of the IPBA and encouraging his many lawyer friends around the world to join it. One of the most important of these meetings was held at Nosei's weekend home in Katsuura, Japan, where he hosted a group of nine lawyers in developing and refining the IPBA's foundational principles. This culminated in the formulation of the "Spirit of Katsuura", a statement of principles reflecting the IPBA's core values which even today is referenced on the IPBA website.

Those initial organizational efforts culminated in the first IPBA Annual Conference, in Tokyo, in April 1991. Nosei successfully engaged many Japanese lawyers in supporting the event, but I believe most of them would acknowledge that Nosei was the indispensable force in organizing it and making it successful. Among his many contributions to that inaugural Annual Conference, Nosei personally guaranteed occupancy of a very large number of rooms at the Annual Conference venue hotel in Tokyo, at least 250 if I recall correctly. That first Annual Conference was a big success, and it reflected the enthusiasm and spirit of the early IPBA

leaders and other members, for whom Nosei was a unique source of inspiration. Nosei was elected as the first IPBA Secretary-General at that inaugural Annual Conference.

Nosei continued to devote enormous time and personal resources to the IPBA in the years that followed. He was a forceful leader in attending to numerous organizational issues, including the designation of venues for IPBA Annual Conferences. This led to Nosei's leadership role in organizing a second Annual Conference in Tokyo, in 2001, and his election as IPBA President during the 2001-2002 IPBA year.

During this entire time, Nosei successfully led the Tokyo international law firm, Miyake & Yamazaki, in addition to his significant IPBA responsibilities. He was an outstanding lawyer, with a remarkable capacity to quickly grasp the essential points in a complex legal matter, excellent command of English, and tenacious dedication to the interests of his clients. His many clients relied heavily on his advice as he guided them through cross-border transactions and in the resolution of disputes.



Nosei's success in the organization and leadership of the IPBA as well as in his law practice reflected his personal qualities. Anyone who spent more than a few minutes with him quickly recognized his energy, intellect and charisma. Those fortunate enough to get to know him better saw his capacity for friendship and a fundamental sense of fairness and integrity. And perhaps above all, Nosei demonstrated an enthusiasm for life. Whether in an IPBA meeting, meeting with other lawyers or clients, on the golf course, or otherwise socializing, Nosei lived energetically, enthusiastically, and optimistically.

Nosei would have been very excited and proud to have been able to attend the upcoming 2024 IPBA Annual Conference in Tokyo, and the tragedy of his passing is compounded by the fact that he cannot do so. As the

2024 Annual Conference approaches it is clear that it will be a very, very well-organized event, large in scale and professional in substantive content. Nosei undoubtedly would reflect on how far the IPBA has come since the days of its launching. Because of his modesty and humility, Nosei wouldn't take credit for the development of the IPBA since the late 1980s or for the first IPBA Annual Conference in 1991. He would probably deflect recognition of his leadership in those early days. But if he were with us today, he could be justifiably proud of the development of the IPBA. He could know that his creative vision has been realized, and that his indefatigable efforts as a founder have led directly to the successful international bar association that the IPBA is today.

*Gerold W. Libby*

Los Angeles, California, USA  
IPBA Past President (2008-2009)

Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake was a legend, and I am of the view that the IPBA came into existence because of the initiative and vision of Nosei to establish a representative body of legal professionals representing the entire Asia Pacific Region right up to the West Coast of the US.

At the time the initiative was taken there was already a move by some other vested interests to create another organization covering mainly the same Region. As it turned out, the other organization was a façade to showcase the name of a single individual who wanted to be projected as a leader of the bar in this Region.

We foresaw this and when the proposal was mooted by Nosei to establish the IPBA some of the leaders of the profession in this Region fully supported the initiative.

At the relevant time I was the General Secretary of the Bar Association of India, and in 2000 I established the Society of Indian Law Firms. These two institutions fully backed and supported Nosei’s brilliant and timely step to establish the IPBA with its headquarters in Japan. I feel privileged that I was physically present on the occasion of

the founding of the IPBA, and that I also had the privilege of meeting bar leaders such as Nosei and Mr Kumio Hamada.

Nosei firmly believed that the IPBA should develop as an organization of friendship, ties, candid exchanges of opinions, understanding and tolerance of opinions, as rightly pointed out by Mr Kunio Hamada and Gerold Libby in their communication. This missionary work was to express the spirit of Katsuura.

Nosei’s vision and leadership were responsible for the growth of IPBA which has contributed significantly to creating fraternal relationships among the professions in this vast Region. During the comparatively short tenure of three decades, the IPBA has established itself as a unique and respected organization which is proved by the fact that IPBA events are well attended. The New Delhi Conference, which I chaired, had more than one thousand participants from the Region.

Nosei’s contribution to and leadership of the IPBA remain unparalleled.

I have fond memories of my association with Nosei right from the inception of the IPBA till recent times. It was a privilege for me to step into the shoes of Nosei as the IPBA President from 2012 to 2013.

I am glad that a Booklet is being brought out as a tribute to the memory of Nobuo Nosei Miyake.

*Lalit Bhasin*

New Delhi, India

IPBA Past President (2012-2013)



I first met Mr Nobuo Miyake (“Nosei” to his foreign friends) in 2001, when I was a very junior lawyer on a visit to Tokyo and my then boss, Jimmy Yim, arranged for me to make a courtesy visit to Nosei’s law firm. Despite never meeting him previously, Nosei very generously invited me to dinner with his law firm colleagues and we quickly became good friends, with an uncle-nephew type of relationship.

Thereafter, we would catch up every year at the IPBA Conference and whenever I visited Tokyo (as my work frequently took me there). Even after his retirement from legal practice, my wife and I would visit him and his wife Noriko-san at home practically every year.

Nosei was extremely generous to his friends and he had a great zest for life – enjoying good food, golf, mahjong and the “occasional” card game at various establishments! He gave wise counsel to me throughout many challenges in my life and regaled many of us younger lawyers with tales of his adventures growing up in post-war Japan and the many colourful characters he interacted with – from one incident with the Japanese Yakuza, to his many encounters with the U.S. Ambassadors to Japan.

When Jeanette and I got married and mentioned that we would be honeymooning in Hawaii, right after the 2008 Los Angeles IPBA Conference, Nosei insisted that we visit him and Noriko-san in Maui for a few days, at his expense. I attach 2 photos of the wonderful time we had with them on that occasion.

His lasting contribution to the legal fraternity at large is undoubtedly his founding and nurturing of the IPBA. Here is a photo from the “after party” Nosei and Noriko-san held at their suite at the 2004 Seoul IPBA Conference. I expect that you will be able to read first-hand accounts from others who were there with him about the enormous efforts and personal financial risks he undertook to found the IPBA and press on with its inaugural conference in Tokyo in 1991 despite the global uncertainties due to the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War.

Nosei is an original thinker, a man of great integrity and forceful persuasion, a larger-than-life character yet with a kindness and gentleness in the right moments that would have surprised many who didn’t know him well. He enjoyed witty conversations, good humour and had a

gregarious, infectious laughter that brought joy and happiness to everyone around him.

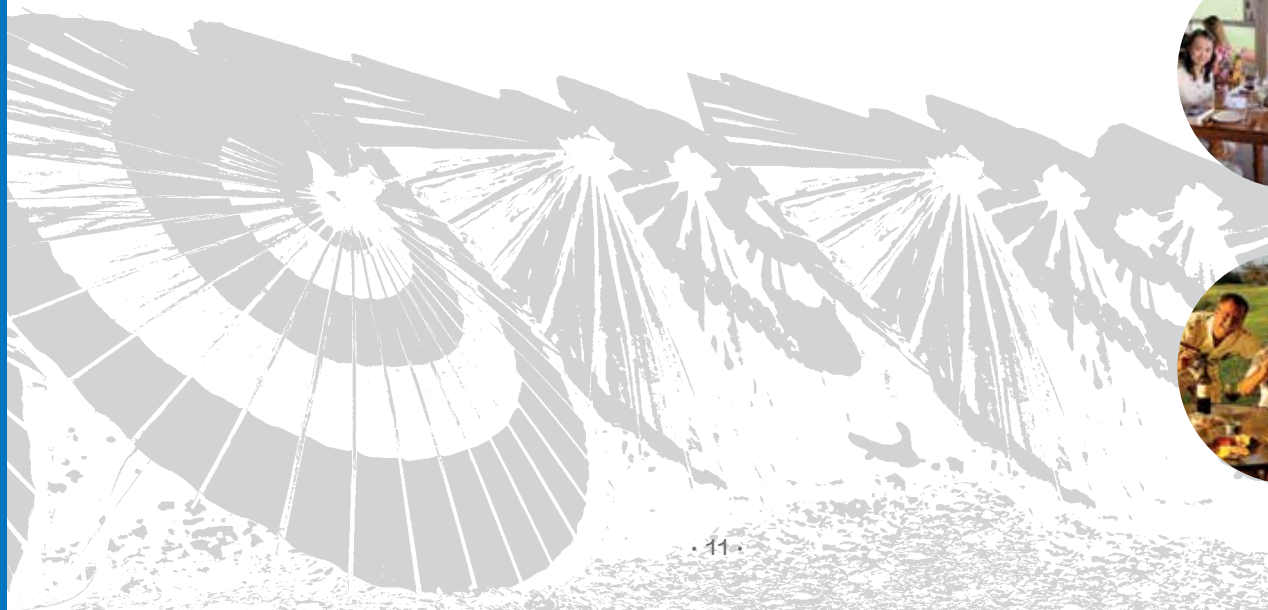
Nosei was *sui generis* and he will be sorely missed. He will never be truly gone, however, so long as we remember him and honour his memory by continuing the work of the IPBA in

the Spirit of Katsuura as Nosei and the other founding members of the IPBA had agreed to do at its inception. Thank you for everything Miyake-sensei, you were an amazing person!

*Suresh Divyanathan*

Singapore

IPBA Membership Committee Chair (2011-2014)



I remember that Nosei Miyake made a large impression on me when we first met and it is fair to say that he never lost that certain aura; throughout my close association with the IPBA he truly embodied the organisation for me.

During my time on the Council (mid 90s to 2010) it became ever more clear to me that Miyake-san was the guiding force of the IPBA. I came to realise that it falls heavily on the shoulders of the Secretary-General to get things done. I wondered why that was – I was struck by the unusual structure of the IPBA with Presidents limited to a term of a single year; something very rare in international organisations. Over time I came to realise that Nosei was intrinsic to the founding of the organisation and I came to understand that his experiences elsewhere had lead him to the certainty of the IPBA to be set up the way it is: inclusive, with a guaranteed infusion of fresh blood and providing opportunities for so many of us to play our part. He specifically set up an organisation in which the limelight would shine mostly on others.

I confess that personally I sometimes found him a somewhat foreboding presence in those early days.

However, over the years I came to know him better and understand his strong sense of social responsibility and his belief in the need for lawyers to play their part in forging the links which help to bind the disparate nations of the earth together.

I first joined the IPBA Council as the Australian Jurisdictional Council Member in the mid-90s when the internet was still in its infancy and technology was considered to be part of Intellectual Property. Lawyers were still in the process of adapting to the new technology; for instance, the IPBA did not have a website!

With the imprimatur of Miyake-san I set about helping to create a new committee and setting up a website. There were of course many of us who saw the same need, and Her Honour Susan Glazebrook (as she now is) very kindly made space available in the Auckland Conference to facilitate both the nascent Technology Committee and a mock arbitration conducted by the Disputes Committee online – all the participants were in different parts of the venue which helped to push things along. But of course, none of it would have happened without the support



of the Secretary-General; Miyake-san was extremely supportive of the creation of the committee which is now the Technology, Media and Telecommunications Committee.

I was also personally gratified when my time as Jurisdictional Council Member came to an end and Miyake-san created the position of what is now Chief Technology Officer (originally, if memory serves, it was simply “Webmaster”) and invited me to continue on the Council in that role. While I don’t think he was himself technologically oriented, there was no doubt that Miyake-san could see clearly what was happening in the world and he was very keen that the IPBA stay up-to-date and build and retain its profile and relevance.

The IPBA has been a very important part of my (not just professional) life and I remain grateful that Nosei Miyake had the courage and commitment to drive the creation of the IPBA. While I could never attempt to create a Haiku, I hope that it is not disrespectful of me to have created a limerick.

### The Man from Katsuura

Armed mainly with the Spirit of Katsuura came Nosei  
And many were the doubters who said a loud “No way”;  
Called him an upstart -  
But he really did start

The friendliest bar in our region: the IPBA



Sydney, Australia

IPBA Past President (2006-2007)

Webmaster (2002-2004)

Jurisdictional Council Member, Australia (1997-2000)

I met Mr Nobuo Miyake at the inaugural meeting of the IPBA in 1991. We met many more times at IPBA meetings over the following years. Our conversations were usually just a greeting and we never became close. Mr Miyake was always busy talking to people at IPBA conferences, especially concerning the operation of the organization itself. He was its *éminence grise*. He did not seem interested in networking for business purposes though he was quick to have a drink and socialize. After all, building friendships was an essential purpose of the association.

With me, Nosei was always reserved, sometimes even aloof—maybe I was too shy, a farm boy from a small country. I reinforced this perception by once asking Nosei about a legal problem. A couple of small farmers in NZ had bought melon seed from a Japanese seed company. The seed was defective. The melon plants grew prolific vines but no fruit at all. The seed company refused a refund. The small farmers couldn't afford to take court action. I sent an email to Mr Miyake's office outlining the situation. Nosei said it was too small a matter and that he had no suggestions. I felt embarrassed that I had even asked him about it. I wondered if he might have been offended, or if he felt uncomfortable with me because it wasn't something he could help me with.

Nosei had a colorful clientele. He surprised the IPBA delegates at a mid-year council meeting in the Philippines by inviting us on a super yacht for a tour of Manila Bay. The super yacht was magnificent. It had a helicopter landing pad, a rack of machine guns and rifles to deal with pirates, gold tap wear in the bathrooms and mirrored ceilings in the bedrooms. The owner would bring friends from Tokyo for a few days of adventure cruising in the islands.

I think it was then that we had our only good conversation. As the New Zealand delegate at the time, I was promoting Auckland as a venue for the annual IPBA general meeting. I talked to Nosei about it. He recommended having a good candidate for chairman who would get support from other large jurisdictions like the US. After further discussion, he thought that the New Zealand tax specialist lawyer, Susan Glazebrook, would be a strong candidate politically and he put his support behind her. So it came to pass.

*Richard Fyers*

Auckland, New Zealand

Jurisdictional Council Member, New Zealand (1992-1995)

## Mr Nobuo Miyake, a Man of Vision

Mr Nobuo (Nosei) Miyake was a visionary, embodying the spirit of the IPBA. He was also a very dear friend. In this tribute I concentrate on his work on cyber arbitration, relying to a large extent on his own words from an article published in 2001.<sup>1</sup>

Mr Miyake was a great believer in the benefits of arbitration to solve international commercial disputes. He noted, however, that the then-current reality was that arbitration was not as widely used as one might have expected, given its advantages as a dispute resolution method.<sup>2</sup> This in his view was because the traditional in-person model of arbitration had a number of disadvantages. The location of the arbitral tribunal and the choice of arbitrators were constrained by the location and bargaining power of the parties. At least one of the parties would be put to the cost and inconvenience of travel. Arbitration,

through any of the major arbitration centres, was expensive compared to national court systems where the judges and the judicial infrastructure were almost entirely paid for by taxpayers. Costs of arbitration were unpredictable, especially those of the arbitrators.<sup>3</sup>

The solution to all of these issues in his view was cyber arbitration. He proposed a cyber arbitration service run by the IPBA which would take full advantage of the internet, multi-point video conferencing and automated computer systems. This system would enable arbitrators to be freely chosen without concern for where they were located (and of course he promoted the IPBA with its then membership of nearly 2000 business lawyers from 69 different jurisdictions as a convenient source of arbitrators). He saw his model as providing economic efficiency, convenience,

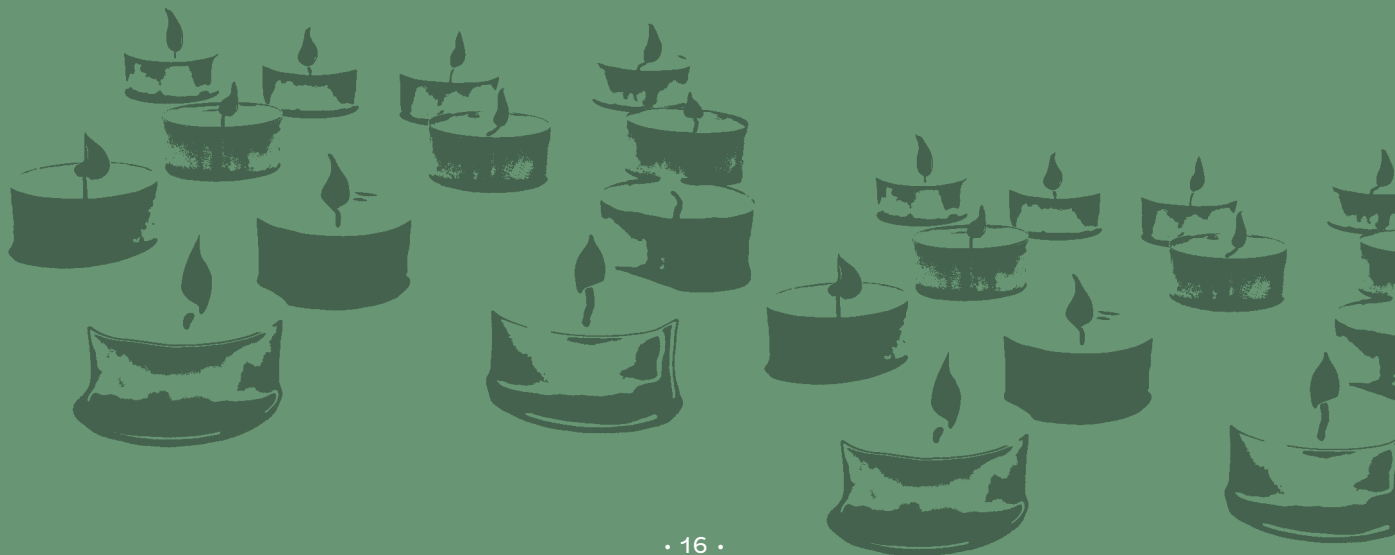


cost predictability, security, confidentiality and flexibility. He also highlighted that it was environmentally friendly.<sup>4</sup>

Three years before he wrote his article, Mr Miyake had arranged a demonstration of cyber arbitration at the 1998 annual IPBA conference in New Zealand.<sup>5</sup> The demonstration showed the feasibility of cyber arbitration but was hampered by the cost of creating high-speed connections and the limits of the video conferencing technology then available. The internet

was seen as having the promise of lowering the cost of communications but in 1998 it was incapable of ensuring adequate and reliable connectivity.<sup>6</sup>

Mr Miyake was a man ahead of his time. His vision of cyber arbitration as the prevailing methodology for resolving international commercial disputes has not yet been realised, although the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated trends in that direction and has sparked much debate about possible issues arising.<sup>7</sup>



I cannot end this tribute without expressing my sincere appreciation for Mr Miyake's wise counsel and support in my time as President-Elect (responsible for organising the 1998 IPBA Annual Conference in Auckland) and as President. It was also a great honour at the 2001 IPBA conference in Tokyo to be invited to a tea ceremony

performed by Mrs Noriko Miyake, followed by a magnificent *kaiseki* lunch.

And I finish with a whakatauki (proverb): *Kua hinga te totara i te wao nui a Tane*.<sup>8</sup>

*Dame Susan Glazebrook*

Auckland, New Zealand

IPBA Past President (1998-1999)

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<sup>1</sup> Nobua Miyake, "IPBA Cyber Arbitration" (October 2001) NZLJ 393.

<sup>2</sup> Miyake, above n 1, at 393.

<sup>3</sup> Miyake, above n 1, at 394.

<sup>4</sup> Miyake, above n 1 at 394-6.

<sup>5</sup> This demonstration is mentioned in Luke Nottage ed *International Commercial and Investor-State Arbitration: Australia and Japan in Regional and Global Contexts* (2021) at 42.

<sup>6</sup> Joichi Ito, "Technology, Security and Cyber Arbitration" article prepared for the IPBA newsletter 4 February 1999. Mr Ito was the technical advisor for the cyber arbitration programs held in Auckland in 1998 and in Bangkok in 1999. His article also discusses the importance of cyber security.

<sup>7</sup> See, for example, Belen Olmo Giupponi, "'Virtual' Dispute Resolution in International Arbitration: Mapping its Advantages and Main Caveats in the Face of COVID-19" in Lalani & ors *The Impact of Covid on International Disputes* (2022).

<sup>8</sup> A totara (large New Zealand native tree) has fallen in the forest of Tane (the god of forests and birds). This is a proverb used by Māori (the indigenous peoples of New Zealand) when someone of importance has passed away.

It is with much sadness but with great honor to add my notes to IPBA Founder, Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake’s Book of Remembrances.

I have known Miyake-sensei and Mrs Noriko Miyake for about 50 years, since long before I became a lawyer. Miyake-sensei was a big reason why I chose to become a lawyer. Miyake-sensei represented my father and his business for many years starting shortly after Miyake-sensei started his own firm. I still recall Miyake-sensei telling me that my father needed to be represented by a real Japanese lawyer (and not by American lawyers who were waived into the Japanese Bar during the occupation).

When Miyake-sensei first told me about IPBA being organized, he told me that I had to join. I, of course, said “yes” and in 1991 I became a charter member of the IPBA while practising law in Los Angeles. Much to my surprise, I was assigned IPBA membership number 0001, which I took to be a mandate to be a lifelong promoter and supporter of the IPBA.

During the following 33 years, I had the pleasure of attending about 15 IPBA Annual Conferences with

Miyake-sensei and Mrs Miyake, visiting and experiencing many exciting cities and events, and most importantly, making new long-time friends from all over the world. While practising in Tokyo for about 17 years before moving back to Honolulu in 2019, I was active as a director of the IPBA Japan Committee, as a member of the Organizing Committee of the 2011 Annual Conference in Kyoto, and I am now a member of the Organizing Committee of the 2024 Annual Conference in Tokyo.

Although Miyake-sensei will not be attending this year’s Annual Conference, his spirit will be alive and well through all of his friends and other IPBA members who will continue the “Spirit of Katsuura” legacy for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Jampel".

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
IPBA Member Number One



## Miyake-Sensei : a Gentleman, Mentor and Role Model

I find solace in reflecting upon the meaningful, professional relationship I shared with Mr Nosei Miyake. Personally, and respectfully, I prefer referring to him as, “Miyake-sensei.” As I recall my memories of Miyake-sensei, I reflect on invaluable benefits that I have gained, both professionally and personally, during my privileged association with him.

Upon establishing Dherakupt International Law Office Ltd. (DRKI) in 2004, I came to know, and began to make connections with, Miyake & Yamazaki Co., Ltd. in Bangkok, established by Miyake-sensei in 1994 as a branch office of Miyake & Yamazaki’s Tokyo Office. Miyake-sensei and I, without meeting in person, agreed to forge a strategic alliance between DRKI and Miyake & Yamazaki’s Tokyo Office, one that would include Miyake & Yamazaki Bangkok Office, too. This alliance, part of his legacy, lasts until now.

It was not long before Miyake-sensei eagerly invited me to become a member of the IPBA. He encouraged me to serve as a Jurisdictional Council Member (Thailand) from 2010 to 2013. I enthusiastically accepted this invitation, recognizing the significance of the opportunity and Miyake-sensei’s passion for the organization.

My involvement in the IPBA not only allowed me to honor a shared professional commitment with Miyake-sensei, but also provided me with the invaluable chance to build relationships with fellow lawyers from other jurisdictions, marking a significant chapter in my professional journey. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Miyake-sensei for his encouragement as I met these milestones.

As I deepened my relationship with Miyake-sensei, I heard of his many success stories



through Kobayashi-sensei, his Japanese Partner stationed in the Bangkok Office. Among his successes, other IPBA members, many of whom were native English speakers, often marveled over how Miyake-sensei had developed a natural, mellifluous command of the English language. Members also lauded him as a pioneer in the IPBA for his successful relationship with APEC, which I heard was more difficult work than imagined.

Miyake-sensei, personally, was a gentleman, and, professionally, a superb lawyer, mentor and role-model. Our collaboration has been marked by mutual respect, shared goals and a commitment to excellence. I am sincerely grateful for the benefits bestowed on me through our association. His wisdom and experience have left an indelible mark on me, personally and professionally.

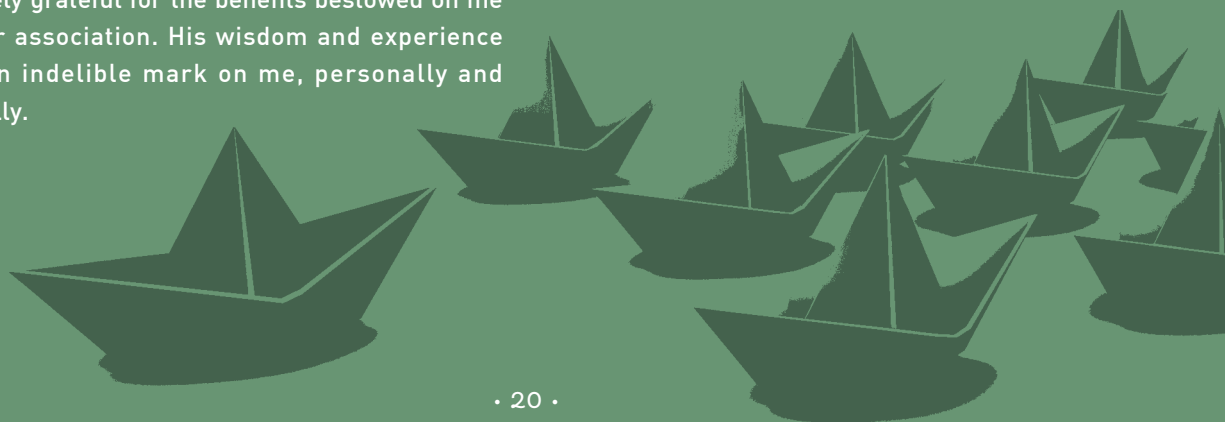
Those who met Miyake-sensei were immediately captivated by his charisma. Needless to say, I'm one of them. May we find strength in the grand memories of Miyake-sensei and continue to honor the legacy left behind.

With whole-hearted gratitude,

*Dr Anuphan Kitnitchiva*

Bangkok, Thailand

IPBA Jurisdictional Council Member, Thailand (2010-2013)



## “Nosei”: a Man Who Spearheaded Cyber-Arbitration in 1999-2000

Whenever I participated in e-arbitral tribunal proceedings (an e-meeting platform started over 20 years ago in Asia), the one man whose personality always came to mind was Mr Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake. Nosei introduced the (pilot project) cyber-arbitration proceeding platform for different participant locations, i.e., Tokyo, Singapore and Bangkok. All who attended the conferences learned that the project went very well. This form of cyber arbitration was the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, and is currently used in most arbitration proceedings, minimizing time and costs. I believe many Past Presidents and IPBA committees and friends still recall many incredible things contributed by Nosei to the IPBA, whether being a regular member, council member, Secretary-General, Vice-President and President of IPBA in 2001-2002, his contribution is much more than words.

Nosei always came up with new ideas. Not only cyber-arbitration, Nosei actively and positively modified the IPBA’s way of working, enhancing the IPBA’s activities

into several matters and related committees and subcommittees, finding new venues for meetings, and finding new members to join the IPBA until his last day.

I’m honored to have had an opportunity to work closely with him both before and after 1999-2000, and I always enjoyed chatting with him when we met in Tokyo, Bangkok, Singapore or elsewhere. My deep respect and gratitude to Nosei’s great contribution of his know-how to the IPBA. May this continue to positively affect new IPBA generations forever.

*Prof Dejj-Udom Krairit, Esq.*

Bangkok, Thailand  
IPBA Past President (1999-2000)

## The Leader with Strong Commitment

From the beginning of my 42-year career, Mr Miyake gave me an unforgettable impression. In various cases, he worked with one of the founding partners of Oh-Ebashi LPC & Partners, Mr Tadashi Ishikawa. Mr Ishikawa is a lawyer full of confidence; however, he always said he could not surpass Mr Miyake.

I attended the very first 1991 IPBA Annual Conference in Tokyo, and since then attended every annual conference with Mr Miyake. With his advice, I became a member of the Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee. After serving as the Chair of the committee, I assumed the position of Committee Coordinator 2005 to 2007, and the President of the IPBA from 2011 to 2012. When I was the Chair of the Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee, he proposed a new

type of arbitration, “online arbitration”. He invited Mr Joichi Ito, who is well-known for advanced technology-oriented programs (he served as the Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Laboratory). Mr Miyake said that he took care of Joichi from Joichi’s senior high school days. The online arbitration project at the IPBA did not proceed well, as the project was a little bit premature in the 1990s. However, it showed Mr Miyake’s front-runner spirit for innovation.

When I was the Committee Coordinator, Mr Miyake frequently asked me if each committee had a Japanese speaker, vice-chair and/or chair. He recognized that Japanese people are generally shy and reluctant to be leaders in committee activities. He always urged us to take key roles in the IPBA. I clearly remember



his comment after my speech as Committee Coordinator at the IPBA conference. He specifically used the word “commitment” to the IPBA. He sometimes compared the IPBA to the IBA. He emphasized the merits of the IPBA: a comfortable size for members’ personal relationships and pursuit of expertise as professionals through candid communications among participants.

I was once with Mr Miyake in New York to attend a conference of the American Bar Association (ABA) as guest speakers. We stayed at the Plaza Hotel and engaged in arguments

for many hours over beer and wine. He had visions and belief in the legal profession, while enjoying talks on a variety of matters.

I have found some nostalgic photos taken in Beijing in 1994 when IPBA delegates (including Mr Miyake, the first Secretary-General of IPBA; Mr Kunio Hamada, the first IPBA President; Mr Carl Anduri Jr., the fifth IPBA President; and me) visited China.

He was truly an irreplaceable leader of the IPBA.

*Shiro Kuniya*

Osaka, Japan

IPBA Past President (2011-2012)

Chair, IPBA APEC Committee (2015-2017)

IPBA Committee Coordinator (2005-2007)



## The Spirit of Katsuura

At every IPBA Conference, there was always a parallel IPBA meeting. It was lively and informal, intellectually stimulating, with open discussions, lots of laughter, good spirits and camaraderie, some alcohol and a lot of cigarette smoke. These meetings took place in the evening in Nosei Miyake's hotel room suite. At each of these meetings was his wife, Noriko. Noriko was the 'yin' to Nosei's 'yang': warm, clever, full of opinions of her own; she stood alongside him and completed him.

My first IPBA conference was in 1994 in Singapore. I missed the 1995 one in San Francisco but soon became a regular attendee. One could not attend an IPBA conference then and not meet Nosei. He was everywhere - interested, warm, effervescent, enthused and a leader and cheerleader in the best sense of the word. In the 1990s I was already quite deeply involved at the International Bar Association (IBA) but I soon discovered at the IPBA a smaller, warmer group focused on my own areas of practice - business law in the Asia

Pacific region. The IPBA conferences themselves were a brilliant interchange of laws, practices and experiences on a whole host of business law topics in the region. However, the real attraction was the fabulous lawyers who turned up - all super smart and accomplished, international, and warm and generous. Nosei was gathering an extraordinary group of people at the IPBA and was building an organisation that was genuinely collegial and open.

I soon joined Nosei's evening smoke-filled gatherings and it was here where I discovered more about the IPBA. It was here that I first heard of the 'Spirit of Katsuura', the important principles that are the core of the IPBA's founding and which still guide the organisation today. Amidst much warmth and laughter, I learnt so much about the IPBA and its values but also the quality of the mind and man that was Nosei Miyake. Nosei and I soon had regular chats at every conference and he was invariably open and candid, thoughtful, generous, gracious but also probing and inquisitive.



Over the years, encouraged and supported by Nosei's enthusiasm and that of now a huge number of friends I had made at the IPBA, I took on various leadership positions. Eventually, this led to the organisation of the IPBA conference in Singapore in 2010. As ever, Nosei was our cheerleader and I felt the huge pressure to make it a success because of him.

Sadly, the following year Nosei had his stroke and missed the Kyoto conference. We all missed him acutely, but I knew his spirit was there. I went to see Nosei later and witnessed his unsurprising indomitable spirit in the face of his illness.

It was my huge privilege to have had a second phase in my relationship with Nosei and to get to know Noriko better. As a result of wholly unexpected and unfortunate circumstances in Singapore, my husband was spending quite a lot of time in Japan. We discovered our flat was very close to Nosei and Noriko's in Roppongi, Tokyo, and connected. Despite his health issues, Nosei remained a proud and independent man, and Noriko was brave and strong for him. Their coping, their strength and good humour in the face of adversity and incapacity, was

an honour to stand witness to and a tribute to both of them as individuals and a couple. We would meet and of course we talked about the IPBA and I also learnt more about his home in Katsuura which sadly was no longer accessible to him, the meetings that culminated in the formulation of the 'Spirit of Katsuura', how much he missed his golf and how much he still enjoyed his karaoke!

I am sure that Nosei would be pleased and proud of the organisation the IPBA has become. He was a man of vision who had the courage, intellect, humanity, leadership and indefatigable energy to transform that vision into a reality. The spirit of Katsuura lives on and thrives.

Nosei touched the lives of many. I miss him dearly.

*Lee Suet Fern*

Singapore

IPBA Past President (2010-2011)

Membership Committee Chair (2006-2008)

Chair, Banking, Finance & Securities Committee (2001-2003)

## Mr Nobuo Miyake Always Lives in My Heart

I felt very sorry to learn from the IPBA Secretariat in Tokyo that Mr Nobuo Miyake (三宅能生), the first Secretary-General of the IPBA, passed away in October 2023. Mr Miyake visited China many times and made great contributions to promoting the 2007 Annual Meeting & Conference in Beijing. He is the founder and soul of the IPBA.

I remember that I met him for the first time at the Annual Meeting and Conference in Sydney in 2005. I had a drink with Mr Yu Ning, Ms Feng Xiumei, Ms Lan Hong, Ms Song Rui, lawyer Zhang Hongjiu of the All-China Lawyers Association and Mr Miyake. He was in high

spirits and raised his arms calling, 'See you in Beijing in 2007!' In 2006, he was invited to participate in the China-Japan-Korea Lawyers Go Competition in Hainan, China, and enjoyed playing chess with Mr Wang Wenzheng, the senior President of the Shanghai Bar Association. In 2007, when the IPBA held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference in Beijing, I met him again, and my joy could not be expressed in words.

As the founder of the IPBA, Mr Miyake said many times that the IPBA is the international lawyer association to be established in Asia, and that Asian lawyers should have the right to speak in Asian legal affairs. This is his ideal and a vivid portrayal of the association in 32 years of practice.

Today, we can comfort Mr Miyake that the Spirit of Katsuura of the IPBA is more and more recognized by lawyers in all countries and regions of the world. We Are Together, the song with elements of Katsuura, was not only

the first of its kind along the Huangpu River in Shanghai in April 2021 during the outbreak of Covid-19, but was also heard at the 30<sup>th</sup> IPBA Annual Meeting & Conference where it spread to the whole world, with more than 600 lawyers from 30 countries and regions attending live and remotely. After the Annual Meeting & Conference in Dubai in 2023, the IPBA is scheduled to hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference in Tokyo in April 2024.

My beloved, inspiring and warm-hearted man Mr Miyake, you will always live in my heart!

*Zhiziang Jack Li*

Shanghai, China

IPBA Past President (2020-2022)

Jurisdictional Council Member, China (2017-2018)



# My Boss, Miyake-Sensei

I was an associate lawyer at Miyake & Yamazaki, which was founded by Mr Miyake, for eight years. With this experience, let me touch on my personal stories with him.

## 1. Japan's best international lawyer

After returning to Japan from studying in the U.S. in 1970's, Mr Miyake joined the Japanese international law firm, currently known as Anderson Mori & Tomotsune. His boss was Rabinowitz Esq., a pioneer in the field of international lawyers. Most pioneering Japanese international lawyers were disciples of him. Later, when asked which Japanese lawyer was the best, Mr Rabinowitz replied, "Miyake."

## 2. How to do your job

In order to explain a certain difficult legal scheme to the Financial Services Agency, I once sent a fax to the Agency. Mr Miyake got angry and said, "Don't assume you've done your job by just sending a fax. You can take a cab and get to the Agency in five minutes. Look at the officer in charge in the eye and bow to him."

## 3. How to get a job

After finishing a case for a U.S. client, the client asked us to send the paper materials we had used, for their records. I prepared the paperwork to be sent and showed them to Mr Miyake. He said, "You idiot, this is the time to sort them more in detail, insert colored papers, index each of them, and send them with care." I followed his advice and sent them to the client. After a while, we received a heartfelt appreciation letter from the client. Mr Miyake said, "This is how you build trust and get a job."

## 4. How to train young lawyers

Mr Miyake occasionally dictated in English and made young associate lawyers write it down. Mr Miyake once dictated, "...We look forward to see you..." Indeed, he said "...to see you". I nonetheless wrote down "... to seeing you" and submitted it to him. He said nothing. Later, the young lawyers looked at each other and said, "Mr Miyake was deliberately dictating a wrong thing and testing us."

## 5. Never praise

I was reporting to Mr Miyake for eight years, and I was praised only once by him. No, I was never praised. I was recognized only once. I remember it well because it happened only once. On the train from Tokyo to Katsuura, where Mr Miyake's villa was located, I said to him, "*People who can attend the reunion are those who were active in their school days and are still active in their own field.*" He replied, "Yes." That's it. In other conversations, he always dared to disagree and play the Devil's advocate to make his young men think for themselves.

## 6. How to wear a suit

On the occasion of the 2011 Kyoto IPBA promotional tour to Indonesia, the 70-year-old Miyake was talking to the Japanese ambassador to Indonesia, who was about 20 years younger than him, so around 50 years old. A heavy Mr Miyake was sitting on the sofa and talking to the Ambassador for an hour, with the front buttons of his suit buttoned up the entire time. I learned how to wear a suit for official occasions.

## 7. Tipping in hotels

I was scolded severely by Mr Miyake when I did not give a

tip to a boy at an overseas hotel.

## 8. History is made at night

At IPBA conferences, many IPBA friends – around 10 to 15 people – gathered in the suite that Mr Miyake reserved for the after-party. There they would have fun by arm-wrestling, having sit-up contests, etc. By doing so, he later said, "*I'm looking at people. History is made at night. The personnel of international organizations is determined by how they behave after midnight.*"

## 9. Being attentive

At the dinner table, Mr Miyake never allowed a glass to be empty. He always paid attention to the empty glasses of the attendees and poured alcohol by himself. He appeared to be a large-minded man, but was a man of careful attention.

## 10. Relationship with secretaries

His attitude toward secretaries was, "*Don't be so high and mighty to your secretary; we're the same person, just in different roles.*" This was the case with all the senior partners at Miyake & Yamazaki.

### 11. Good golfer

Mr Miyake was a good golfer. At 70 years of age, he averaged a score of about 90. He taught me *“You should only aim a challenging shot when you are sure that in 10 tries you have better than 9 chances of making it.”* I have followed many of his other teachings, but I have not been able to follow his golf tips.

### 12. Bushido / Samurai

Just before he had a brain stroke in 2011, in Mr Miyake’s hotel room somewhere in an ASEAN country, he kindly gave me a book of Lee Teng-hui’s *“Bushido”* that he had finished reading. It became a memento. He was a Samurai indeed.

*Tatsu Nakayama*

Tokyo, Japan

Membership Committee Chair (2018-2020)

Chair, Scholarship Committee (2015-2016)





Mr Nobuo (Nosei) Miyake was one of the most important, influential, and strong friends I've had the opportunity to meet in the IPBA. During my first IPBA Mid-Year Meeting in Hawaii, as a rookie amongst the founders, seniors and leaders of IPBA, he was one of the Past Presidents that encouraged me to propose that Indonesia hold the IPBA Annual Meeting. He personally

contacted me to update me and support me with strong words of encouragement. I cannot imagine how the Bali IPBA Annual Meeting would have succeeded without him. This world, and especially the IPBA, is less for the loss of him, but I believe his spirit will always be there throughout the life of the IPBA.

*Helen Ongko*

Jakarta, Indonesia

Jurisdictional Council Member, Indonesia (1999-2002)



I cannot talk of Nosei without including Teddy Regala. They were my big brothers in the IPBA. And I used to tell them whenever they would argue, and this was not infrequent, that they were like the mythological twin brothers Romulus and Remus, founders of Rome. Like the twin brothers, they were impassioned whenever a matter close to their heart, like IPBA in their case, was involved. Nosei was the more impassioned one, saying he loved IPBA and wanted the organization to grow!

Both great men brought with them a sense of humor and did not take themselves seriously, and tried to outdo each other. While they could tease each other, they could also take in whatever the other dished out.

I remember Nosei challenging Teddy at a karaoke place to sing, knowing Teddy could not carry a tune! But Teddy did not allow Nosei to claim victory, and so completed his song...all off key, of course. And then the two good friends laughingly embraced each other!

Once Nosei chanced upon a small gathering of lady lawyers and overheard me saying that we must try to get our lady lawyers more involved and assure them that

the IPBA regards them as true assets, bringing to IPBA not only knowledge and experience but most importantly love. Nosei tapped me on the shoulder and said “Teddy taught you well”.

I will always remember Nosei for his kindness.

*Alceli Angela J. Quirino*

Manila, Philippines  
Jurisdictional Council Member, Philippines (2008-2014)



Nosei Miyake did not have to tell me his philosophy of life. Nosei lived life from his heart. I saw his beliefs in his actions. Nosei believed in democracy, friendship, inclusiveness, doing what's right, and that, if a cause is not worth giving everything, it is not worth anything. Those are Nosei's beliefs, and his philosophy of life is incorporated in the foundational essence and continuing existence of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association.

Nosei is my friend. We became friends because he acted in a straightforward manner, based on his philosophy and inherent beliefs. I saw his actions. I heard him talk. I felt his values. Nosei's door was open, and he invited me to enter his life. I walked into a room, built on common ground, and filled with integrity and comradery. Those were the seeds for the Spirit of Katsuura, which grew into the Inter-Pacific Bar Association.

Nosei is a Samurai. He lived by the principles of the Samurai Bushido Code: Righteousness, Loyalty, Honor, Respect, Honesty, Courage,

and Consistency. He asked me, and many other lawyers from around the World, to join him, to follow those principles, and to become warriors of the Clan known as the Inter-Pacific Bar Association.

Nosei is quietly watching us. Our adventure is not over. Our meeting in March of 1990 in Nosei's country cottage in Katsuura was only the beginning. My friendship with Nosei continues. The Spirit of Katsuura is alive. Our Clan welcomes all warriors who share our principles. Nosei is smiling!

*Mark Shklov*

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

At-Large Council Member

(1991-1994 Hawaii; 2011-2017 Hawaii and Pacific)

IPBA Steering Committee





I first met Nosei Miyake at the 1992 Annual Meeting in Sydney, having learned of the IPBA shortly after its Tokyo 1991 inaugural meeting. I was introduced to Nosei by my partner, Robert Young, one of the nine “founders” who were at the March 24-25, 1990 organizing meeting at Nosei’s vacation cottage in Katsuura, Chiba Prefecture.

Over the years, as I got more involved in the IPBA as a Committee Chair, Officer and USA Jurisdictional Council Member, and having attended every IPBA annual meeting prior to Shanghai (except for the meeting in Taipei), I became much better acquainted with Nosei. He was without doubt the moving force behind the IPBA’s growth and relevance to the many business and commercial lawyers throughout the world with interests in the Asia-Pacific Region. Nosei was a truly dynamic and inspiring leader.

Although there are many remembrances during the more than 30 years that I knew Nosei, among the most prominent was the evening spent with Nosei and other IPBA members at a Kyoto geisha house. This evening event was arranged by Nosei as part of a mid-year Council meeting in Osaka. The group (spouses included)

was entertained for a few hours, with an ample supply of food, sake and beer. A great time and one to remember. Suffice it to say, this was not the first time Nosei visited a geisha house!

I also remember fondly the evening my wife and I spent talking and drinking with Nosei quite late into the night. Nosei shared with us his boyhood love of American movies, especially Westerns with cowboys and Indians. Fortunately, neither of us had to drive home. We were able to make it to our respective hotel rooms.

*Ken Stuart*

**New York, New York, USA**  
Chair, Banking Finance & Securities Committee (1999-2001)  
Committee Coordinator (2003-2005)  
Jurisdictional Council Member, USA (2009-2015)

It was around the year of 1997 when I began to have a close relationship with Mr Miyake (known as Nosei to his friends) in connection with the IPBA. Although I participated in the organizing conferences for the IPBA as an officer in charge of international relations for the Japan Bar Association, I was not actively involved in its foundation. After that, I continued to participate in sessions and receptions at each year's annual conference, but I was just an easy-going participant who often enjoyed sightseeing with my wife and playing golf with friends from overseas. The turning point came when I had a serious conversation with Mr Miyake about the future of the IPBA at an annual conference in around 1997.

The year of IPBA's foundation (1991), Mr Hamada was elected President, and Mr Miyake was appointed Secretary-General. After that term, the Presidency was held by a member from the country hosting the annual convention and therefore changed every year. But the Secretary-General position was taken by Mr Miyake, who served for two terms for four years, and for the following four years, Mr Ejiri, a member from Japan, succeeded him as Secretary-General. During these terms, the IPBA grew as a leading international legal

association in the Asia-Pacific region and began to have a significant presence. As a result, some IPBA members started to question the idea of a Japanese member continuing to serve as Secretary-General and controlling the IPBA's activities. This was an inevitable move for an international legal organization. However, Mr Miyake strongly believed that in order to protect the IPBA's founding spirit and philosophy, it was essential for members in Japan, where it was founded, to inherit that spirit and philosophy and play a leading role. Therefore, with the belief that a Japanese member should be selected to succeed retiring Mr Ejiri, Mr Miyake took active measures, formulated strategies, and played a leading role in securing a Japanese Secretary-General.

To be honest, when I became a candidate for successor, I was not a member who seriously felt a sense of mission to uphold the founding principles of the IPBA and further develop it. As mentioned above, my relationship with Mr Miyake was formed at an annual conference, at Japanese member's social gatherings; playing golf, at drinking parties, and over relaxed conversations, where we never had serious or heated conversations about the future of the IPBA.

I followed Mr Miyake's instruction in discussions and debates with "reformist" critics who opposed succession by another Japanese member for Secretary-General. I played the role of a taciturn hardliner on this issue. I put on a scary face and stayed silent. Mr Miyake was like a choreographer for me. Mr Miyake used powerful and persuasive English to conduct negotiations and debates. I admired his passion, power, and language skills.

As a conclusion to the battle my succession was accepted, but only for two years. Based on the agreement reached, I succeeded Mr Eijiri as Secretary-General for two years and was followed by Mr Nakamoto for two years, after which a non-Japanese member took over the position of Secretary-General. I believe that Mr Miyake's strategy led the IPBA through peaceful processes in becoming a true international organization, while maintaining the Spirit of Katsuura. I was impressed by his foresight. During this process, I was also impressed by Mr Miyake's English capability to threaten, taunt, and soothe. According to him, he learned this capability from playing poker with American students, while he was studying at a US law school. Although I am bitter about losing out on such English skills, I explain to my friends

that while I focused on studying law abroad, Mr Miyake focused on playing poker.

As I write down my thoughts in memory of Mr Miyake, I would like to express my admiration for Mr Miyake once again.

I am deeply grateful for the guidance I received from Mr Miyake as a mentor in the IPBA. I remember the happiness given by Mr Miyake when we shared large amounts of whiskey and wine, chatted, talked about our dreams, exchanged wild words, and bet on our golf matches.

Now, I pray for the repose of the soul of Mr Miyake, who passed on the philosophy and the principle of the IPBA to his juniors, loved the IPBA as if it were his own child, and raised us up with his passion.

*Harumichi Uchida*

Tokyo, Japan

Secretary-General (1999-2001)

Jurisdictional Council Member, Japan (1997-1999)

Chair, Competition Law Committee (2011-2013)

I met Nosei-san in 1998 during the IPBA Manila Conference. I was part of the Young Lawyer Members and our group was tasked with entertaining the young foreign participants. Nosei-san welcomed the young lawyers warmly when the late Teddy Regala introduced him to us. From then on, I would meet him at IPBA conferences every year. On most occasions, our

conversations took place when we met in the mornings in smoking areas of the conference venues. He would regale me with stories about the early years of IPBA and the Spirit of Katsuura. Rest now, Nosei-san. I cannot thank you enough for your invaluable efforts in the establishment of IPBA and in instilling the Spirit of Katsuura which we continuously adhere to up to now.

*Melva Valdez*

**Manila, Philippines**

Membership Committee Chair (2022-2024)

Chair, Women Business Lawyers Committee (2015-2019)

Chair, Legal Development & Training Committee (2009-2011)

Jurisdictional Council Member, Philippines (2005-2008)



## Tribute to Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake

I had the great privilege of meeting Nobuo “Nosei” Miyake for the first time at the inaugural IPBA Conference in late April 1991 in Tokyo. In January 1991, a number of Singapore firms were invited to send delegates to the inaugural Tokyo Conference for the founding of a new commercial lawyers’ organization for the Asia Pacific region. I was most fortunate to have been invited to attend the occasion. In time, the conference would prove to be one of the most important platforms and organizations for commercial lawyers around the world, and particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. At this inaugural meeting, over 300 commercial lawyers from the region came together for the first time. Nosei, the 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary-General and principal organizer of the conference, was one of the main drivers of this new organization which had a number of notable lawyers from the region. A year earlier, he had invited a few top commercial

lawyers from the region to his vacation home in Katsuura, Chiba to brainstorm and formulate the structure and organization of the IPBA.

At that time the International Bar Association, though known to us in Asia, was not present in Asia. Thus, the IPBA filled that void and the Spirit of Katsuura focused on friendship and mutual respect. The Tokyo conference was a major success and a fantastic gathering; the programs were interesting, there were many social programs, a welcome reception and a closing dinner. After the closing of the 3-day conference came post-conference golf. Its structure and spirit were quite unlike any other commercial law organization then. This 1<sup>st</sup> conference became the model for all future annual IPBA conferences as it went from one city to another from year to year. The genius of the IPBA, in line with its spirit to fulfil the mission of mutual respect, was to have the



annual conference go to a different Asia-Pacific city every year and with a new President elected at the end of each conference – so that as many lawyers as possible can take part in its organization and leadership.

Whilst Nosei's leadership at the conference was palpable, what struck me most was Nosei's warm welcome towards everyone present. Also, whilst the Japanese delegation was the largest at these conferences, Nosei was the unofficial leader of the Japanese delegation. This is quite remarkable because his firm was not anywhere near the size of the big 4 or 5 Japanese firms.

Over the years, as we went from one annual conference to another, many lasting friendships were formed through the conferences and I enjoyed a deep and abiding friendship with him. Through our joint love for the law, golf, karaoke, dinners and merry making, we went everywhere. At golf we enjoyed betting against each other competitively. I have a photo where H Hara from Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu and I were paying him big bets. We lost to him as he was a much better player and most importantly, he had steady hands at putting.

In 1994, it was Singapore's turn to host its first IPBA conference. I was only 35 years old when he encouraged me to organize it with his help. But because I was too young to be made president, Pathma Selvadurai became President while I organized the Singapore conference. As the IPBA was Nosei's baby, he was very proud of me for organizing the Singapore conference held at the Shangri-La Hotel. It proved to be a great success, with an attendance of over 450 lawyers, and it turned a good profit for the fledgling organization. Of course, that attendance is nothing compared to the attendance these days.

Over the years, Nosei and I also travelled with our wives to various wonderful places for vacation. We visited Maui, Hawaii, Hunter Valley off Sydney, Whistler in Vancouver, Boracay in the Philippines, Phuket, Bali and of course when I visited Tokyo, he would bring me to Katsuura – his vacation home, where the spirit of the IPBA was formed. We would play golf, dine on the freshest seafood and drink merrily. He was always so generous with me.

Now that he has left us, those days seem so far away. Writing this note has brought-up so many mixed feelings

for me. In recalling those beautiful days, I relive once more the joy and happiness we shared together. But more than a tinge of sadness overcomes me when I think of him. As the song goes, "Those were the days".

Today, the IPBA is a commercial law organization of immense significance. Its reputation and membership have grown by numerous folds and have spread throughout the world, well beyond the Asia Pacific region which was its original focus. But the structure of the annual conference, and its going from city to city each year with a 4-day conference with its various social and legal programs still remain the mainstay after 33 years. The IPBA and the Katsuura spirit is Nosei's eternal gift to the lawyers of the world.

Sayonara, Nosei-Sensei and may we play another game when we meet again.

*Jimmy Jim, SC*

Singapore  
Jurisdictional Council Member, Singapore (1993-1996)





◊ 2024 ◊