

Report on attending the 29th Inter-Pacific Bar Association Annual Meeting and Conference as the IPBA Scholar

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I was privileged to attend the 29th IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference (**Conference**) as one of the IPBA Scholar between 25 -27 April, 2019. Overall, my whole experience exceeded my expectation in a way that I'm motivated and driven to be a better professional and contribute more than expected from me to the legal community and development of the law and its practice in Mongolia.

I attended the Conference in its entirety including pre-events designated thoughtfully for us scholars, the opening ceremony, numerous plenary and concurrent sessions, and social events. Thanks to my fellow scholars who are such a dynamic and diverse group of young lawyers, we even managed to enjoy other social and sightseeing activities which helped us to learn more about each other's culture and our respective practice in different areas of law.

The pre-events before the Conference were carefully designated so as to allow us learn about the tools and knowledge in relation to cross border legal practice, increasing importance of technology in the cross border legal practice as well as the insights into Singaporean legal and judiciary system. I especially enjoyed the visit to the Supreme Court of Singapore where we had brief introduction to the history and progress of the Supreme Court of Singapore and had an honour to meet Judge of Appeal Steven Chong. Moreover, our visit to the Singaporean office of Norton Rose Fulbright was also interesting as we learned about the use of technology in legal practice as demonstrated by Norton rose Fulbright's legal practice as well as information about Singapore International Commercial Court. This insight into the increasing impact of International Commercial Courts was further developed when I attended the plenary session on the Rise of International Commercial Courts and its impact on International Arbitration. In Mongolia, we usually recommend international arbitration as the dispute resolution venue for cross border transactions. As such, learning about the potential of the International Commercial Courts being alternative to the international arbitration was useful knowledge for my practice. On the other hand, it made me realise how useful it would be to have a specialised commercial court in Mongolia where many of the judges are not adequately prepared or trained to resolve disputes relating to complex cross border transaction.

The Conference offered many interesting concurrent sessions examining broad range of legal issues. While I attended the concurrent sessions that are relevant to my current key practice areas (mining, environment and infrastructure) and the region I'm practicing, I also enjoyed attending the sessions that are new to me including fintech industry, artificial intelligence in M&A transactions, crowdfunding and ICOs so as to learn about the topics and trends I wouldn't normally encounter with in my day to day practice. Amongst the sessions I attended, the joint session on the topic of Climate, Energy and Technology: New Developments and Directions hosted by the Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the Environmental Law Committee was very insightful about the impacts of climate change in the energy industry. It was especially interesting for me as I have seen that as a nation we are struggling to embrace legal innovations supporting development of non- traditional energy projects despite the increased reluctance towards coal fired energy sources globally.

All the plenary and concurrent sessions I attended were helpful to me in some ways and provided me with tools or knowledge about certain industry or legal practice area, however, one of the highlights of the Conference was its social events through which I met many distinguished individuals and had opportunities to learn about their practice and the region they are practicing law. It was such a fun experience to attend the social events organised by the IPBA and the after events hosted by various law firms. As said by Mr. Gerald A. Sumida, 'the spirit of

collegiality is strong and widespread' and that may be one of the most important advantage of the IPBA based on my experience.

Last but not least, I want to highlight the hardwork of the Scholarship Committee members so that the IPBA scholars are provided with opportunities that would enrich their practice and gain knowledge and tools useful in the future. Attending the Conference was wonderful experience and I would like to extend my gratitude to the IPBA and its members, the Scholarship Committee and sponsors of the scholarship program. My experience of attending the Conference in Singapore was very smooth and rewarding thanks to Mr. Jay LeMoine, Mr. Mahech Rai, Ms. Rhonda Lundin, Ms. Yukiko Okazahi and other members of the Scholarship Committee.

I'm planning to participate in the future events and meetings by the IPBA and join the committees the Environment Law Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,

Amarjargal Batchuluun