



The Secretary-General's Message

Miyuki Ishiguro
Secretary-General

Dear IPBA Members,

I extend heartfelt greetings to all of you in my final message in this Journal as Secretary-General of the IPBA. My term will expire at the conclusion of the Auckland Annual Meeting and Conference on 9 April 2017. Thanks to all the officers and other council members, as well as all IPBA members, for your support during my term.

IPBA Scholarship Program

The seeds of the IPBA Scholarship Program were planted at the Manila Conference in 1996, when the Council approved formation of the Developing Countries Program to provide lawyers from three jurisdictions (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam; Myanmar was added the following year) the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting and Conference without having to pay the registration fee, as well as enjoy complimentary IPBA membership.

Although there were no participants those first two years, there were ten applicants to attend the Auckland Conference in 1998; with four chosen: two from Vietnam, one from Myanmar, and one from Cambodia. The Council understood the importance of this opportunity to provide a chance for lawyers in those jurisdictions to attend our conference, and increased the budget for the next year in order to bring more lawyers to Bangkok 1999. They also added a category of "Young Lawyers" from any jurisdiction, under the age of 30.

In August of that year, the IPBA received a generous donation from J.K. Lin, the son of Past President M.S. Lin (1993-1994), Taiwan, to be used toward financing future participants of the program.

Through this donation, the M.S. Scholarship Program brought its first participants to the Annual Meeting and Conference in Bangkok in 1999. That first year, we brought 23 lawyers from various jurisdictions, and since then 4 to 15 Scholars have been chosen annually.

Over the years, a total of 166 Scholars have been selected from thousands of applicants. In addition to the above, we will welcome seven Scholars to the Conference this year, one each from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia (Lawyers from Developing Countries), Russia, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and India (Young Lawyers, 35 and under).

Initially the program was overseen by members of a special committee, Officers and other Council members who volunteered to take the lead. In 2009 it became one of the 23 specialist committees and a Chair and Vice-Chairs were appointed by the Council. The Committee is led now by Chair Jay LeMoine, with assistance from past Chairs Varya Simpson and Tatsu Nakayama, along with Vice-Chair Hiroko Nakayama. They have their work cut out for them, as competition is getting increasingly fierce: there were over 60 applications to review this year!

The program currently provides round-trip airfare, accommodation during the conference, a conference fee waiver, and a 3-Year Term Membership in the IPBA.

The IPBA Secretariat provides support in publicising the program each year to all IPBA members and to other legal associations; gathering the applications;

congratulating all selected Scholars and informing those not chosen to keep trying; and the logistics of bringing the Scholars to the conference by budgeting the airfare and accommodations together with me. In recent years, the Scholarship Committee has been organising a half-day special event for the Scholars whereby they are taken to the local court and then have a tour and lunch at a local law firm. The Scholars are introduced to the delegates at the conference at the IPBA New Member and Scholarship Reception on the opening night.

When the funds started to run out, the IPBA leaders got creative in raising money to keep the program afloat. At some conferences, a hat was passed around and delegates threw in whatever change they had in their pockets at the time. The Secretariat also collected donations from members at the same time as their membership dues were paid. At the Kyoto/Osaka 2011 conference, a Silent Auction was held with the intent to use those proceeds to fund the Scholarship Program. However, the funds were instead donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society to help with relief efforts for The Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, which occurred just before the conference. As a result of the fund diversion, IPBA members in Japan started the Japan Fund for the purposes of maintaining the Scholarship Program. After that, the Vancouver 2014 host committee earmarked C\$50,000 from the conference surplus to be used for scholarships. And now, the family of M.S. Lin has again kindly offered to donate the large sum of US\$200,000 to fund the program. The IPBA will forever be grateful to all the support from individual members and all members collectively.

With the current funding available for the program, we are in a position to continue it for at least another 20 years.

Friendship Agreements

As the IPBA reputation grows around the world, the association is approached more often these days by other associations with similar philosophies to band together and support each other's activities. It is not a rivalry that brings us together, but a collaboration that enhances both sides.

IPBA Scholars by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Number of Scholars	Jurisdiction	Number of Scholars
Argentina	2	Mongolia	8
Bangladesh	1	Myanmar	17
Brazil	2	Nepal	7
Cambodia	14	New Zealand	3
Canada	2	Pakistan	1
Chile	2	Palau	2
China	8	Philippines	4
Ethiopia	1	Poland	1
Fiji	6	Russia	2
Hong Kong	3	Samoa	3
India	8	Singapore	2
Indonesia	14	Sri Lanka	8
Israel	2	Tahiti	1
Korea	2	Thailand	1
Lao PDR	5	USA (Guam)	1
Malaysia	4	Vietnam	17
Mexico	2		

So far we have MOUs with the following entities:

- AIJA (Association Internationale de Jeunes Avocats) in 2010, extended twice
- APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) in 2011
- LAWASIA in 2014 (at the Vancouver conference in May)