

29th POLA CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

The Presidents of Law Association in Asia (POLA) held their 29th Meeting in Canberra, Australia on 2-3 August 2018.

Independence of the judiciary and the legal profession

POLA members affirm their commitment to the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession, which are under challenge throughout the region.

The level of interest in these issues at this year's conference indicates a heightened level of awareness and concern amongst senior representatives of the legal profession in Asia.

In response, POLA members:

- stand united in their opposition to threats to the independence of the judiciary and the independence of the legal profession
- will continue to act in support of the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession in their home jurisdictions; and
- where requested, will continue to support other POLA members in their efforts to preserve and enhance these important elements of the rule of law.

Anti-corruption and Transparency

POLA members discussed the important role of anti-corruption and transparency initiatives in supporting the rule of law, and the essential role of the legal profession in implementing anti-corruption and transparency frameworks.

The existence of many different models and approaches throughout the region presents an opportunity for POLA to continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information and mutual cooperation in the development of better laws to prevent corruption and promote transparency.

Business and Human Rights and the Legal Profession

POLA members discussed the critical need for the legal profession to promote awareness and compliance by client groups, especially businesses, of emerging international requirements that cross-border business is conducted ethically and without infringing human rights recognised under international law.

POLA members acknowledged the useful guidance provided in this regard by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and discussed recent developments throughout the region that promote business growth and innovation while also delivering human rights outcomes

Inclusion and Diversity in the Legal Profession

The legal profession is committed to equality as a fundamental attribute of the rule of law. POLA members will continue to promote equality, inclusion and diversity within both the legal profession and the communities served by the legal profession.

Hosting arrangements for future POLA Conferences

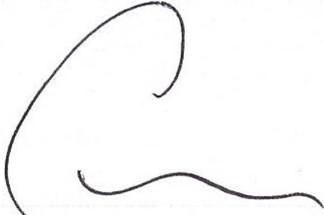
The 2019 Conference will be hosted by the All China Lawyers Association.

The 2020 Conference will be hosted by the Korean Bar Association.

2018

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2 - 3 AUGUST, CANBERRA



Morry Bailes
President
Law Council of Australia



José-Antonio Maurellet, SC
Vice Chairman
Hong Kong Bar Association



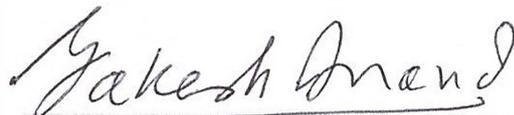
Mohammad Anamul Hoque
Deputy Secretary General
National Bar Association of Bangladesh



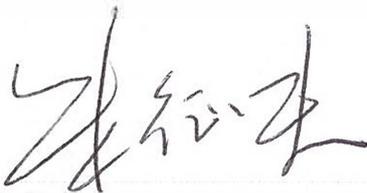
Melissa Pang
President
Law Society of Hong Kong



Neam Koy
Deputy Secretary General
Bar Association of Kingdom of Cambodia



Yakesh Anand
Honorary Secretary General
Bar Association of India



Zhengfu Zhu
Vice President
All China Lawyers Association

Yutaro Kikuchi
President
Japan Federation of Bar Associations



Laurel Vaurasi
President
The Law Society of Fiji

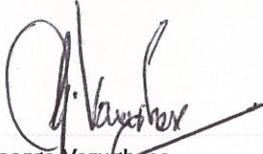
Dr. Hyun Kim
President
Korean Bar Association



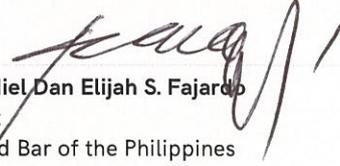
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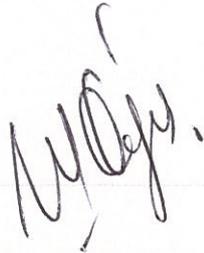
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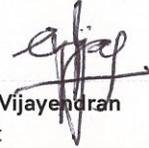
George Varughese
President
The Malaysian Bar



Atty. Abdiel Dan Elijah S. Fajardo
President
Integrated Bar of the Philippines



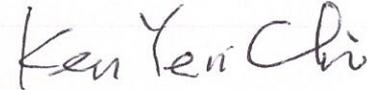
Sharav Oyumaa
Member/Advocate
Association of Mongolian Advocates



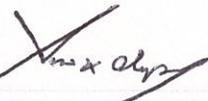
Gregory Vijayendran
President
The Law Society of Singapore



Jargalsaikhan Khunan
President
Mongolian Bar Association



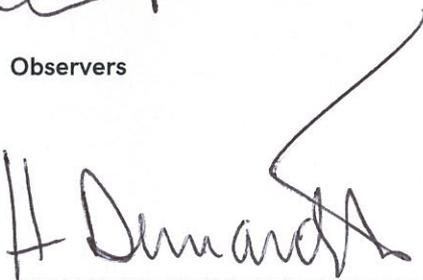
Ken-Yen Chi
President
Taiwan Bar Association



Sunil Dhajaya Bandara Abeyaratne
Representative of President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka



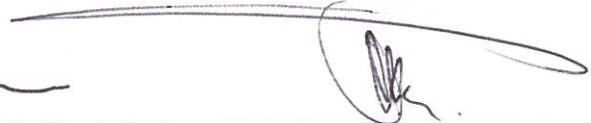
Observers



Horacio Bernardes-Neto
Vice President
International Bar Association



Neil Russ
Regional Coordinator for Australasia
and Southwestern
Pacific Islands
Inter-Pacific Bar Association



Christopher Leong Sau Foo
President
LAWASIA