

MAY 2008

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to write my first President's letter. The new "AIPN year" commenced at the recent Annual Meeting which was held in conjunction with our spring conference at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort. The spring conference was our most successful to date, with a record 186 registered attendees. We also had a record number of sponsors, and their generous contributions helped us maintain the high level of quality we have come to expect of AIPN conferences. Thanks to conference co-chairs, John Bowman and Doug De Filippi, and Vice President of Conferences, Pablo Alliani, who have been planning this conference for almost a year.

It is traditional for the incoming President to thank the outgoing President in the President's first letter but, in my case, I can extend my thanks with an enormous amount of enthusiasm and sincerity, having watched Tim West during the last year. He spent an incredible number of volunteer hours working to improve services to members and did so with tireless energy and good humor. At the beginning of his term, he identified the ten goals which had priority during his year as President. Of the ten goal committees he established, eight met their initial goals and have become standing committees so they can continue to identify and implement additional plans. Only two of the original goals, "Increasing NOC and Host Government Participation" and "Provide Career Development Services" remain to be addressed and they will have high priority this year. In case you have missed them, Tim made a video about each of his goals – they can be found at <http://www.aipn.org/news/presidentsmessage.asp?id=20080430.fly>.

Our Past Presidents and directors continue to astound me with their continuing support of the AIPN. Approximately one-half of all AIPN Past Presidents (13) were in attendance at the spring conference. Rick Goenner, who was the Immediate Past President last year, led the election process for this year's Board and identified over 80 candidates for 15 positions. He also has been active in initiating plans for the AIPN 2009 international conference in Bangkok. Tim Martin, his predecessor, has developed a series of dispute resolution conferences, co-sponsored by the AIPN and various arbitration institutions, and is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the new *Journal of World Energy Law and Business*, the official publication of the AIPN, which was published for the first time this month and made available to AIPN members free of charge. Past President Toufic Nassif is one of the active faculty members of our Negotiation Skills Workshop and spoke at the spring conference on BP's operations in Libya. Jim Barnes, who has served on the Board for 15 years, continues to take on new tasks. In addition to his continuing role as the co-chair of the two-week "Short Course", he has agreed to co-chair the Model Contract Drafting Committee to revise the 2002 JOA. These are just a few examples of our members who have volunteered their services to making the AIPN a better organization.

In recognition of the long term, continuing support and dedication of many of our members, Tim West created the Legacy Award, which was presented for the first time at this year's Gala dinner at the spring conference. Terry Todd and Tim Martin were the first recipients of this award. Eric Fry, who is unceasing in his dedication to our Student Outreach Program and our student members, was awarded the Academic Award. Elisabeth Eljuri, Regional Director for the Latin America Regional Chapter for three years and the new Vice President of Membership, and Victor Obadia, now in his third year as Treasurer, were the joint recipients of the Member of the Year Award. Richard

Aguirre, who chaired the sponsorship committee, which brought in a record number of corporate sponsorships, and who also chaired the goals committee for improving staff skills, was presented with the President's Award. The biggest honor of the evening went to Gordon Barrows for his long-time commitment to the AIPN. He was a founding member in 1981, served as a Director, and made the first presentation at an AIPN meeting. No one has attended more international meetings of the AIPN than Gordon, as the slide show at the spring conference showed. We are now in discussions with Gordon to make his library of laws, regulations and contracts available free of charge to AIPN members. It will be our job to keep the library up-to-date.

I am exceptionally fortunate to have a very strong and committed Board of Directors and an Executive Committee who will support me in my duties over the coming year. They are all highly experienced and dedicated. Together, we aspire to do great things for the AIPN. The Executive Committee includes:

President-Elect	Karen Krug
Vice President-Communications	Costa Fotopoulos
Vice President-Conferences	Pablo Alliani
Vice President-Education	Mike Arruda
Vice President-External Affairs	Chris Moyes
Vice President-Membership	Elisabeth Eljuri
Vice President-Model Contracts	Owen Anderson
Vice President-Planning	Doug Uchikura
Secretary	Don Wendland
Treasurer	Victor Obadiah

The positions of Vice President of External Affairs and Vice President-Planning were both created in the last year, as a result of the recommendations of two of Tim's goal committees.

As our membership becomes more global, we need to find ways to bring activities closer to you and to potential AIPN members. Most of our services to members are delivered on the Regional level and most people are first introduced to the AIPN through a Regional Chapter event. No doubt, you have noticed the heightened amount of activities in the Regions over the last year and you can expect to see an increasing number of Regional events in the coming year. Six of our seven Regional Directors are new this year and are beginning their jobs with great enthusiasm. They are developing executive committees to help them with what is a large task, particularly in those Regions which are spread over many different countries and large geographical areas. This year, we are also adding the position of Alternate Regional Director to assist each Regional Director and possibly succeed to that position in the future. Our Regional Directors are:

Australia-Asia Pacific	Bill Lafferrandre
Canada	Jay Park
CIS	Courtney Fowler
Europe-Africa	Abayomi Akinjide
Latin America	Luis Pacheco
Middle East	Sean Korney
U.S.	Marleen Bergman

In addition, we have eighteen Directors-at-Large on our Board. This Board is truly representative of our global membership – twenty of our Directors are based outside of the United States, where the AIPN first got its start in 1981. They also represent many different disciplines. Please take a moment to review the brief bios of our Directors for 2008-2009, found at <http://www.aipn.org/aboutus/officersanddirectors.asp>.

While we are truly lucky to have assembled such a talented group of people, we can't do it alone. We need you. Please contact me or any Director to volunteer your services on one of our many committees. Together, we can make the AIPN even better than it is today. I hope to write my last President's letter a year from now and recount the many things we were able to accomplish.

All the best,
Pat Allison