

The TerraLex Global Meeting 2019 was hosted by Azmi & Associates from 10 April 2019 to 13 April 2019, a 4-day event held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. This was the first ever TerraLex Global Meeting hosted in Malaysia. We, Azmi & Associates, have been the sole member of TerraLex for Malaysia since 2001.

TerraLex is a Florida based, second largest global international network of law firms comprising 19,000 attorneys in more than 150 top Law Firms located in 100 countries covering Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East, USA, Canada, South America, Africa and the Caribbean. The mission of TerraLex is to serve clients' legal needs and business interests through a worldwide network of quality Law Firms that meets high professional standards.

Azmi & Associates hosted the previous TerraLex Regional Meetings on two occasions, in 2008 as well as in 2018, in Kuala Lumpur. This year, our Firm was trusted to become the host of the Global Meeting. It was indeed our pleasure to have carried out the trust and responsibility of hosting the TerraLex Global Meeting 2019.

### **Participation by TerraLex Member Firms**

Eminent lawyers representing member Firms from all over the world congregated in Kuala Lumpur for the TerraLex Global Meeting. Approximately 121 delegates representing 71 Firms from 49 countries participated at the TerraLex Global Meeting 2019.

### **PRE-CONFERENCE GOLF OUTING**

As is customary with the TerraLex delegates, especially amongst the golf enthusiasts, some delegates representing member Firms arrived in Kuala Lumpur a day before, to enjoy Golf at the TPC Kuala Lumpur (formerly known as Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club, a multi-award winning golf club).

The golf outing was organized by the Firm and coordinated by our Project Practice Group's Partner, Mr. Zuhaidi Bin Mohd Shahari together with the assistance from TerraLex HQ team. The outing attracted golfers from TerraLex delegates from more than 10 countries. The delegates enjoyed the Golf Session, which was followed by dinner at Golfer's Terrace, an all-day indoor and alfresco dining in a modern setting overlooking the action of the golf course at TPC Kuala Lumpur.

### **WELCOMING DAY (10 APRIL 2019)**

The welcoming day of the TerraLex Global Meeting 2019 started with registrations of the participating delegates. Representatives of TerraLex HQ and representatives of Azmi & Associates were present at the registration table to welcome the participating delegates. Each participating delegate was handed over a welcoming kit by representatives of Azmi & Associates (as a welcoming gesture by the host firm).

The welcoming kit consisted of a power-bank, a stylized cap and a TerraLex Booklet (containing details of the participating member firms and their delegates and the Program Agenda of the TerraLex Global Meeting). The welcoming kit was much appreciated by the participating delegates.

The Firm was delighted to have our honorable Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, to give his foreword message in the special TerraLex Booklet published to commemorate the special occasion, extending Tun's warm welcome and 'selamat datang' to all the delegates and congratulating Azmi & Associates "as the host firm for this gathering of global lawyers".

Tun Dr Mahathir also commented on the conference that "Regionally Malaysia is in a prime position to benefit economically from global trade and with the current political climate of other nations, it would be good business acumen for businesses and investors to see Malaysia as what it should and will be, the tiger economy of South East Asia". Tun Dr Mahathir also "... wish the delegates a rewarding and enjoyable conference with the best Malaysian hospitality this country has to offer".

### **Welcoming Day Board of Directors Meeting, Managing Partners Roundtable, Women's Global Connection**

The welcoming day officially started with the meeting of the Board of Directors of TerraLex, comprising 26 directors from across various geographic locations, chaired by the Chairman Tim Brown, focusing amongst others on the strategies of growth, expansion of TerraLex, and enhancing collaborative efforts amongst TerraLex members.

Our Senior Partner, Dato' Azmi is also one of the Directors of TerraLex. The Board of Directors Meeting was followed by the Managing Partners Roundtable, attended by the managing partners of the participating member firms. Our Managing Partner, Ahmad Lutfi Abdull Mutalip also attended the roundtable session. The meeting focused on discussions of the surrounding leadership and the management of firms. Later in the afternoon, the Women's Global Connection discussion included what member firms were doing to support minority groups. Gender diversity and its' nexus with performance of law firms was also covered.

### **Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner**

In the evening, welcome reception and dinner was held at the Shangri-La Hotel, it was attended by all the participating delegates representing member firms. The welcome cocktail reception started with a cocktail meet and greet session, and was later followed by dinner.

During the dinner, our Dato' Azmi gave a welcoming speech extending his warm wishes and greetings to the delegates for participating in the Global Meeting. He further wished the delegates an enjoyable stay in Malaysia and encouraged them to enjoy the multi-cultural atmosphere of Malaysia and experience the unique hospitality of the people of Malaysia.

## **DAY 1 (11 APRIL 2019): OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

The opening day of the TerraLex Global Meeting commenced with Meetings Committee chaired by Eric Zalud (Benesch, USA). This was followed by Opening General Session focusing on business development and the future of TerraLex.

### **Global Client Connector**

An interesting session of the day was the Global Client Connector. At this session, the delegates joined to explore success stories of collaborative TerraLex member firms which had yielded mandates from global companies. The session also discussed on the real-world opportunities available to TerraLex firms and how these opportunities can be converted into mandates. The need for further collaboration amongst member firms was obvious.

### **Practice Group Sessions**

Other sessions of the day included practice group sessions on Global Mergers & Acquisitions; chaired by Tim Anderson (Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) and Lori Green (Nixon Peabody), Intellectual Property session chaired by Mr. Alex Oh from Stoel Rives LLP and Benjamin Jacob from PDGB Avocats.

Our Intellectual Property Practice Group's Partner, Khariul Fazli was the speaker for this session. Next is Labor & Employment session that chaired by Joan Cradden (Brodies LLP) discussing progressive issues such as the #MeToo movement across jurisdiction which was presented by Derek Humphery-Smith (Lander & Rogers) and Legal Tech which was presented by Christopher Deehy (Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon). Energy & Environmental and Tax Wealth Services session which was chaired by Raja Petra (General Counsel of Legal Upstream (International)) enlightened us on Energy law with particular focus on the operation of PETRONAS.

## **Dinner at Malaysian Petroleum Club**

In evening, a dinner for the participating delegates was organized at the Malaysian Petroleum Club (MPC) located in the Malaysia's iconic building, the Twin Towers. The MPC is the center piece of the Malaysian oil and gas industry, associates and the civil service.

Most participating delegates joined the dinner at MPC. The evening began with a private tour of the Petronas Towers Skywalk followed by a delicious western dinner at the Dulang Suite where the delegates mingled and networked.

The delegates enjoyed the meal whilst being incapsulated by the lavish décor at MPC with an astonishing view of the city from the top.

## **DAY 2 (12 APRIL 2019): AZMI & ASSOCIATES AND TERRALEX NETWORKING & CLIENT DELEGATE MEETING: DOING BUSINESS GLOBALLY**

### **Officiation by Dato' Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof**

The TerraLex Global Meeting was formally officiated by Dato' Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof (Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia). Dato' Mohamad Ariff was received and welcomed by the Chairman of TerraLex, Tim Brown and our Dato' Azmi Mohd Ali. The audience were excited to hear the speech of Dato' Mohamad Ariff, which started with a warm welcome. Dato' Mohamad Ariff later enlightened the participants on the potential that Malaysia has and the opportunities our nation has to offer. He also emphasized on the role of lawyers in the global market correlating with Malaysia's legal-political scenario. Dato' Mohamad Ariff ended his speech congratulating Azmi & Associates for hosting the TerraLex Global Meeting 2019 and thanking TerraLex for choosing Kuala Lumpur as the host city for the event this year.

The second day of the meeting concluded with the Women's Global Committee Meeting, chaired by Cynthia Collins (Mile & Stockbridge, USA) and Dorothy Siron (Zhong Lun Law Firm, Hong Kong) and the Nominating Committee Meeting. The Nominating Committee Meeting was chaired by Hal Pos (Parsons Behle & Latimer, USA) and Catharine Biggs Arrowood (Parker Poe, USA).

### **Practice Group Sessions**

The Committee Meetings were followed by Practice Group Meetings on:

- Insurance session was chaired by Dan Goldfine and Lewis Roca of Rothgerber Christie LLP, USA) and attended by our Insurance Partner, Philip Teoh as one of the panelists alongside Dorothy Siron (Zhong Lun), and Teresa Huang (Lee, Tsai & Partners) and Pedro Jose F. Bernardo (Kelvin Chia).
- Bankruptcy/Insolvency session was chaired by respective Group Leaders of the members firms and discussed on issue of Current Trending which was presented by Michael Liu (Hylands Law Firm) and Michael Barrie (Benesch).
- Global Trade session which was attended by Pierre Brochet (Registered Foreign Lawyer of Azmi & Associates) and Mohd Shah bin Hashim (President of Integrity Business Alliance) and Norzaimah Binti Maarof (Group CEO, UiTM Holdings) as the panelists.
- Asia Pacific Merger & Acquisition which was chaired by Richard Smith (Duncan Cotterill, New Zealand) and Don K. Mun (Yoon & Yang, Korea), discussing on the collaboration to make TerraLex a force in the APAC Region, amongst others.
- Finance & Banking session where our Managing Partner, Ahmad Lutfi Abdull Mutalip acted as moderator and one of the panelists. He was joined by Datuk Dr. Mohd Daud Bakar (Chairman, Shariah Advisory Council, Central Bank of Malaysia and Founder/Executive Chairman, Amanie Group) and Mohd Suhaimi Abdul Hamid (Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Saadiq Malaysia).

## **Client Delegate Roundtable**

The most anticipated session of the day was the Client Delegate Roundtable. Azmi & Associates had invited local clients to hear from TerraLex network firms on cutting-edge topics related to doing business globally. The topics focused on new trends or recent legal/business developments. The session was chaired by Doreen Edelman (Partner; Chair, Global Trade and Policy, Lowenstein Sandler LLP). Our Senior Partner, Dato' Azmi was one of the panelists at the session alongside with the panelists from Nixon Peabody, Hylands Law, Kelvin Chia Partnership and ACCRA Law. Senior officers representing our corporate clients attended the session. The session served a great opportunity for the audience to learn first-hand about what was going on in other jurisdictions and hear about the range of network firms' capabilities to fulfil clients' needs.

## Special Addresses

Two further interesting sessions of the day were the special addresses delivered by Mohammad Ridzuan Abdul Aziz (Country Director, Worldremit (Malaysia) and Head of Business for Thailand and Indonesia) on “Digital Economy”, and Mr. M. Nazri Muhd, (Founder/CEO, MyFinB) who spoke on “LegalTech: How Artificial Intelligence can transform your business”.

## Host Firm Dinner at Glasshouse

For the evening, Azmi & Associates co-organized the host firm dinner at the Glasshouse, a spacious urban architectural marvel nestled amidst the raw hilltop surroundings of Seputeh, right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

The delegates enjoyed a 5-star experience of a traditional Malaysian meal followed by traditional Malaysian entertainment including the various local traditional dances representing various multi-cultural ethnicities of the nation to complete a memorable night for the delegates. Again, Dato’ Azmi gave another parting speech for the delegates representing the host firm.

## DAY 3: FINAL DAY OUTING AND NETWORKING

For the third and final day of the TerraLex Annual Global Meeting, there was an outing to Batu Caves Temple in Gombak and the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory. The morning started with delegates exploring the lime stone caves and climbing the iconic 272 steps up to the opening and exploring the temple within.

The day continued with an informative tour of the history of pewter in Malaysia at the Royal Selangor factory, delegates also got to try their hand at creating their own decorative pewter bowls at the ‘School of Hard Knocks’, an activity enjoyed by all.

The evening concluded with a tasteful reception at Fook, a contemporary Chinese restaurant in the heart of the city. Delegates got the chance to unwind and relax for the evening and exchange thoughts on the overall experience of the past three days over exquisite pan delicacies. Dato’ Azmi was also there to accompany delegates befitting his position as the chair/senior partner of the host firm.

## Media Coverage

As the meeting was a meeting of global legal network, and the first of its kind for TerraLex in South East Asia, it was no surprise that the event was covered by local media, including the likes of News Strait Times, Bernama, Nanyang Siang Pau, Sinar and TV Alhijrah.

## **Conclusion**

The present era of globalization, trade and transactions transcending beyond borders, it would be essential for companies to have access and leverage on lawyers with global reach and connection to assist them in their activities. This is the value proposition of TerraLex as the second largest global legal network. The firm is a proud exclusive member of TerraLex for Malaysia for the last 19 years. The global network of TerraLex is obvious!