

## CLIENT UPDATE 2015 APRIL

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### TOURISM

## Tourism Licensing Goes Online

As of the beginning of 2015, the Royal Government of Cambodia (“**RGC**”) is undergoing swift reforms across numerous commercial sectors. One of the reforms we have seen is trade facilitation reform by enabling the online application for the Preferential and Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin of the Ministry of Commerce.

On 20 April 2015, the Ministry of Tourism (“**MOT**”), which is the RGC agency with the jurisdictional authority in leading and governing the tourism sector throughout Cambodia, launched the Online Tourism Licensing System. The online tourism licensing system aims to ease the facilitation of the licensing process, improve transparency, save time and avoid unofficial payment.

The types of licenses governed by this online licensing system include tourist sport activities, karaoke or KTV, tourist transport, tour operator and travel agency, tourist accommodation, as well as tourist restaurants and food stores. Applicants may choose to apply for tourism licenses either online or manually. However, from 2016 onwards, it will be obligatory for all applications to be done online.

Online application for tourism licenses can be accessed at: [www.cambodiatourismindustry.org](http://www.cambodiatourismindustry.org) and online application for tour guide licenses can be accessed at: [www.touristguide.com](http://www.touristguide.com). The website is quite comprehensive and transparent, as it contains regulations governing each license, lists of required documents, contact information, as well as an internal reviewing process.

It is highly speculated that the MOT will proceed to other reforms. Tourism is the 4<sup>th</sup> priority pillar in the 5<sup>th</sup> mandate of the RGC. In 2014, the tourism industry brought 3,000.00 million US Dollars into the national economy and created approximately 620,000 jobs.

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### Contacts



**Heng Chhay**  
Managing Partner

D (855) 23 963 112/113  
F (855) 23 963 116  
[heng.chhay@rajahtann.com](mailto:heng.chhay@rajahtann.com)



**Tiv Sophonnora**  
Partner

D (855) 23 963 112/113  
F (855) 963 116  
[tiv.sophonnora@rajahtann.com](mailto:tiv.sophonnora@rajahtann.com)

## Our regional presence



## Our regional contacts

### RAJAH & TANN | *Singapore*

**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP**  
9 Battery Road #25-01  
Straits Trading Building  
Singapore 049910  
T +65 6535 3600 F +65 6225 9630  
sg.rajahtannasia.com

### R&T SOK & HENG | *Cambodia*

**R&T Sok & Heng Law Office**  
Vattanac Capital Office Tower, Level 17, No. 66  
Preah Monivong Boulevard, Sangkat Wat Phnom  
Khan Daun Penh, 12202 Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
T +855 23 963 112 / 113 F +855 963 116  
kh.rajahtannasia.com  
*\*in association with Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP*

### RAJAH & TANN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | *China*

**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP  
Shanghai Representative Office**  
Unit 1905-1906, Shui On Plaza, 333 Huai Hai Middle Road  
Shanghai 200021, People's Republic of China  
T +86 21 6120 8818 F +86 21 6120 8820  
cn.rajahtannasia.com

### RAJAH & TANN NK LEGAL | *Myanmar*

**Rajah & Tann NK Legal Myanmar Company Limited**  
Office Suite 007, Inya Lake Hotel No. 37, Kaba Aye  
Pagoda Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar  
T +95 9 73040763 / +95 1 657902 / +95 1 657903  
F +95 1 9665537  
mm.rajahtannasia.com

**ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS** | *Indonesia***Assegaf Hamzah & Partners**

Menara Rajawali 16th Floor  
Jalan DR. Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung Lot #5.1  
Kawasan Mega Kuningan, Jakarta 12950, Indonesia  
T +62 21 2555 7800 F +62 21 2555 7899  
www.ahp.co.id

*\* Assegaf Hamzah & Partners is an independent law firm in Indonesia and a member of the Rajah & Tann Asia network.*

**RAJAH & TANN** | *Lao PDR***Rajah & Tann (Laos) Sole Co., Ltd.**

Phonexay Village, 23 Singha Road, House Number 046/2  
Unit 4, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
T +856 21 454 239 F +856 21 285 261  
la.rajahtannasia.com

**CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG** | *Malaysia***Christopher & Lee Ong**

Level 22, Axiata Tower, No. 9 Jalan Stesen Sentral 5,  
Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
T +60 3 2273 1919 F +60 3 2273 8310  
www.christopherleeong.com

*\*in association with Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP*

**RAJAH & TANN** | *Thailand***Rajah & Tann (Thailand) Limited**

973 President Tower, 12th Floor, Units 12A-12F  
Ploenchit Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
T +66 2 656 1991 F +66 2 656 0833  
th.rajahtannasia.com

**RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS** | *Vietnam***Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers***Ho Chi Minh City Office*

Saigon Centre, Level 13, Unit 2&3  
65 Le Loi Boulevard, District 1, HCMC, Vietnam  
T +84 8 3821 2382 / +84 8 3821 2673 F +84 8 3520 8206

*Hanoi Office*

Lotte Center Hanoi - East Tower, Level 30, Unit 3003,  
54 Lieu Giai St., Ba Dinh Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam  
T +84 4 3267 6127 F +84 4 3267 6128  
www.rajahtannlct.com

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