

CLIENT UPDATE 2016 SEPTEMBER

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Cambodia has Acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty as the 151st Member

Since 8 September 2016, Cambodia has acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT") and became the 151st member of the PCT.

PCT is a cost effective system that facilitates an applicant, being a resident or national of the PCT member country, to seek protection of its invention in its own country and simultaneously in other member countries by filing one international patent application. Compared to filing separate applications at each national or original patent office, the applicant filing under PCT may save a lot time and costs.

In addition to international patent application, international search through PCT is also possible. PCT international search provides a high quality search of the relevant patent documents and other technical literature in many languages.

However, please be aware that PCT will only enter into force in Cambodia on 8 December 2016.

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ASEAN Economic Community Portal

With the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (“AEC”) in December 2015, businesses looking to tap the opportunities presented by the integrated markets of the AEC can now get help a click away. Rajah & Tann Asia, United Overseas Bank and RSM Chio Lim Stone Forest, have teamed up to launch “Business in ASEAN”, a portal that provides companies with a single platform that helps businesses navigate the complexities of setting up operations in ASEAN.

By tapping into the professional knowledge and resources of the three organisations through this portal, small- and medium-sized enterprises across the 10-member economic grouping can equip themselves with the tools and know-how to navigate ASEAN’s business landscape. Of particular interest to businesses is the “Ask a Question” feature of the portal which enables companies to pose questions to the three organisations which have an extensive network in the region. The portal can be accessed at <http://www.businessinasean.com/>.

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