
Banking and Finance

10% of Loan Portfolio Must be in Khmer Riel by End of December 2019

On 01 December 2016, the National Bank of Cambodia (“NBC”) issued a new Prakas to promote credit provision in national currency by requiring all banks and financial institutions under its supervision to have at least 10% (ten per cent) of their total loan portfolio provided in Khmer Riel. The Prakas has become effective from its date of issuance for all banks and financial institutions to start arranging the necessary to comply with the new requirement. The final deadline for full compliance by all banks and financial institutions is set to be **31 December 2019**. The requirement under the Prakas also includes the need for banks and financial institutions to embed the required credit provision in Khmer Riel in their corporate policy and business strategy.

The main objective of the Prakas aims to enhance the usage of Khmer Riel in the economy as a mechanism to support the implementation of the national monetary policy by the central bank. Under the Prakas, NBC also reserves the right to further increase the required portion of credit provision in local currency based on future need.

For referencing purpose, the Prakas was issued under number B7-016-334P and dated 01 December 2016 as regards Credit Provision in National Currency of Bank and Financial Institutions.

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ASEAN Economic Community Portal

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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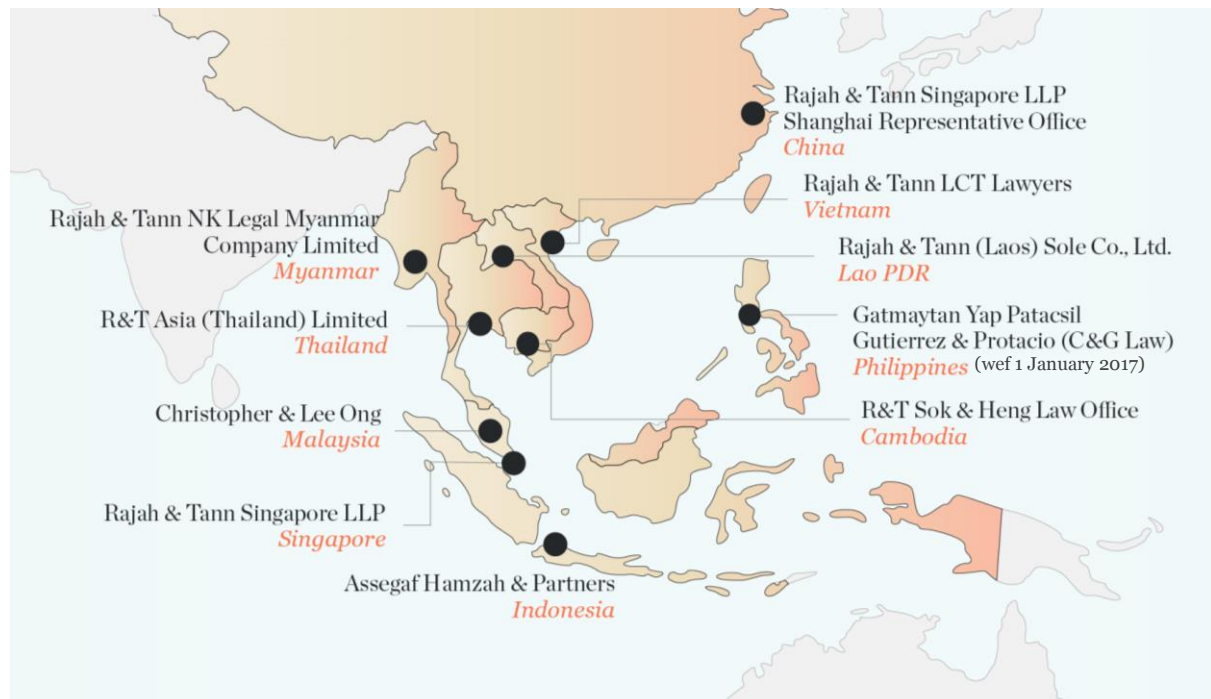
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