
Intellectual Property

Registration Procedure and Protection of Geographical Indication Mark

On 29 December 2016, the Ministry of Commerce (“**MOC**”) issued Prakas No. 422 MOC.IP.P on Registration Procedure and Protection of Geographical Indication Mark (“**Prakas 422**”) to implement Law NS/RKM/0114/006 on Geographical Indication Mark dated 20 January 2014 (“**Law 0114/006**”).

According to the above Prakas, the Department of Intellectual Property Rights (“**DIPR**”) of MOC is the competent authority in registering geographical indication mark, receiving opposition filed against such registration, managing, permitting the use of national sign of geographical indication, and implementing court decisions or decisions of the Council in charge of Geographical Indication Mark.

Any products such as agricultural, agro-alimentary, hand-craft or any other transformed products in a region could be subject to registration for protection as geographical indication mark. The applicant for such registration must be a geographical indication association of producers or operators according to Article 5 of this Prakas and Article 7 of Law 0114/006. This notwithstanding, Article 6 of Prakas 422 allows a geographical indication association within one natural or legal person to apply for geographical indication mark if such geographical indication association is open to other interested producers or operators. The application may be made by the applicant or its mandated agent.

The application and supporting documents are required to be made in Khmer or English language.

The registration shall take effect from the date of filing of the application.

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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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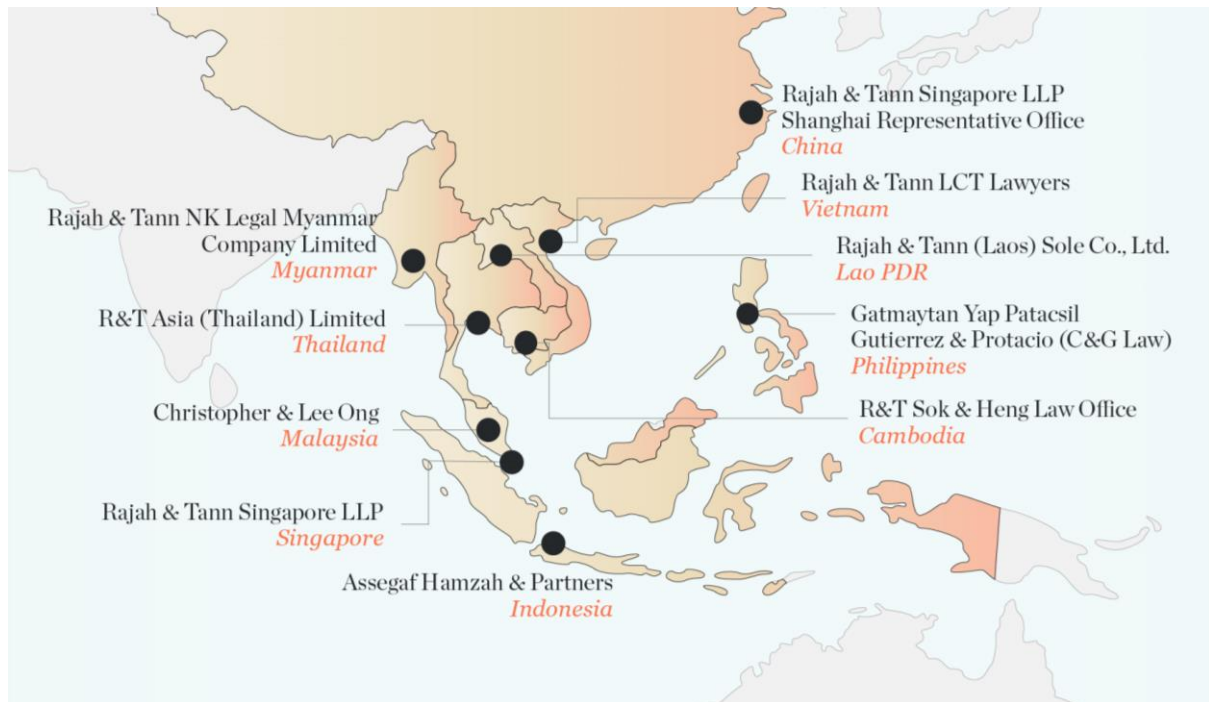
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