

New Notice on COVID-19 Reinforcement Measures Restricting Movement and Gatherings

On 23 December 2020, the Prime Minister's Office issued the Notice on Reinforcement Measures for Containment, Prevention and Full Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic ("**Notice**"). The Notice follows the Decree of Prime Minister No. 93/PM dated 3 March 2017, the Order of the Prime Minister No. 06/PM dated 29 March 2020 which is referred to in the Notice, the report of the National Task Force Committee for Prevention and Control of COVID-19 ("**Task Force**") and the instruction of Prime Minister in the Meeting with the Task Force held on 22 December 2020.

The Notice sets out the following restrictions on movement and gatherings which must be implemented during the period from 23 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Lao PDR:

1. International charter flights will be temporarily suspended from the countries with community outbreak of COVID-19, except for emergency flights and those that are necessary, which will be subject to strict monitoring and checking for compliance with safety measures. Passengers from countries with no community outbreak of COVID-19 will be tested for COVID-19. Passengers who transit from countries with community outbreak of COVID-19 shall not be allowed to take such flights.
2. The issuance of tourist and visit visas to individuals who travel from or transit through countries with community outbreak of COVID-19 will continue to be suspended, except with respect to tourists in group tours authorised by the Task Force. Diplomats, staff members of international organisations, experts, investors, business travelers, technicians and foreign laborers who need to enter into Lao PDR to carry out their diplomatic and international duties, business activities or project works may do so with prior approval/consent of the Task Force. Before the Task Force approves their entry into Lao PDR, they must hold a COVID-19 testing certificate via PCR device at least 72 hours before boarding. They must also undertake to undergo self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Lao PDR.
3. All customary and local border checkpoints for entry and exit of individuals and goods will remain closed, except for customary and local border checkpoints authorised by the government for the transportation of goods to and from Lao PDR, which shall be sprayed with disinfectant in accordance with the technical determination issued by the relevant departments/agencies.
4. International border checkpoints remain closed for entry and exit of individuals, except for Lao citizens and foreigners who urgently need to enter or exit Lao PDR. Such entry or exit must be

approved by the Task Force. The transportation of goods through international checkpoint (i.e. entry-exit) may be done in accordance with normal procedures.

5. Concerts, nightclubs, and New Year celebrations are not allowed to be held outside of individual residences. It is highly recommended that celebrations, such as New Year, should be held at ones' own house. Regarding the Over-year Buddha Praying Ceremony, if it shall be held, it must be in strict compliance with the instruction of the Task Force. Wedding ceremonies may also be approved provided they are held in small numbers and conducted following Lao tradition and cultures.
6. The Government will continue to increase the dissemination of information even though Lao PDR has not had any COVID-19 outbreaks, as the neighboring countries and many countries around the world are now facing severe outbreaks. For this reason, Lao citizens and foreigners who are residing in Lao PDR shall take on enhanced responsibilities and implement the measures to prevent, control, contain, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (for the period of 23 December 2020 – 31 January 2021).
7. The Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Public Security and relevant departments/agencies shall carry out strict inspections at the borders of Lao PDR in order to prevent illegal immigrants from entering into or exiting Lao PDR. This is to ensure that there is no risk of bringing any pathogen into the country.
8. Employees of all relevant local department/agencies in each level shall carry out strict inspections in their respective areas of responsibility to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Lao PDR, and report COVID-19 cases to their superiors regularly and in a timely manner.
9. All travelers/commuters entering Lao PDR shall use medical monitoring devices which are able to monitor the movement and activities of such individuals. The Task Force shall be in charge of researching the rules and regulations and calculating the costs and expenses of the aforementioned medical monitoring devices as reference for actual implementation.
10. The Task Force shall enhance and refurbish the existing quarantine areas, whether in central or local areas, as well as add new quarantine areas, for use for isolating and treating the infected in the event of large numbers of people entering Lao PDR, especially Lao laborers departing from foreign countries and returning to Lao PDR.
11. The Task Force shall instruct the relevant departments/agencies and local administrations to increase strict monitoring and inspection of the quarantine areas relating to the compliance measures issued by the Task Force. Violations of the prohibitions shall be dealt with by the Task Force strictly.
12. The Task Force shall set out in detail the COVID-19 insurance requirements for foreigners entering Lao PDR.

Client Update: Lao PDR

2021 JANUARY

-
13. The Task Force shall continue to liaise with neighboring countries and International Organizations to monitor and research into vaccines to prevent COVID-19 as currently, such vaccines are under trial for use in Lao PDR. It is anticipated that such vaccines shall be made available for use as soon as possible. The Task Force shall create provisions and plans to use such vaccines on the general population.

Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) for views from our lawyers across the region on common issues and legal implications brought about by COVID-19. For specific inquiries, please reach out to your relationship partner or send an email to our [COVID-19 Legal Team](#).

Contacts



Lee Hock Chye
Managing Partner

T +60 3 2273 1919
hock.chye.lee@christopherleeong.com



Khanti Syackhaphom
Legal Advisor

T +856 20 2244 0890
khanti.syackhaphom@rajahtann.com



Suntisouk Vandala
Associate

T +856 20 7752 9039
suntisouk.vandala@rajahtann.com



Boutsada Keomoungkhoun
Associate

T +856 20 7718 8664
boutsada.keomoungkhoun@rajahtann.com

Our Regional Contacts

RAJAH & TANN | *Singapore*

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

T +65 6535 3600
sg.rajahtannasia.com

R&T SOK & HENG | *Cambodia*

R&T Sok & Heng Law Office

T +855 23 963 112 / 113
F +855 23 963 116
kh.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海

SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | *China*

**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
Shanghai Representative Office**

T +86 21 6120 8818
F +86 21 6120 8820
cn.rajahtannasia.com

ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | *Indonesia*

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners

Jakarta Office

T +62 21 2555 7800
F +62 21 2555 7899

Surabaya Office

T +62 31 5116 4550
F +62 31 5116 4560
www.ahp.co.id

RAJAH & TANN | *Lao PDR*

Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.

T +856 21 454 239
F +856 21 285 261
la.rajahtannasia.com

CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | *Malaysia*

Christopher & Lee Ong

T +60 3 2273 1919
F +60 3 2273 8310
www.christopherleeong.com

RAJAH & TANN | *Myanmar*

Rajah & Tann Myanmar Company Limited

T +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346
F +95 1 9345 348
mm.rajahtannasia.com

GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL

GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | *Philippines*

Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law)

T +632 8894 0377 to 79 / +632 8894 4931 to 32
F +632 8552 1977 to 78
www.cagatlaw.com

RAJAH & TANN | *Thailand*

R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited

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

T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673
F +84 28 3520 8206

Hanoi Office

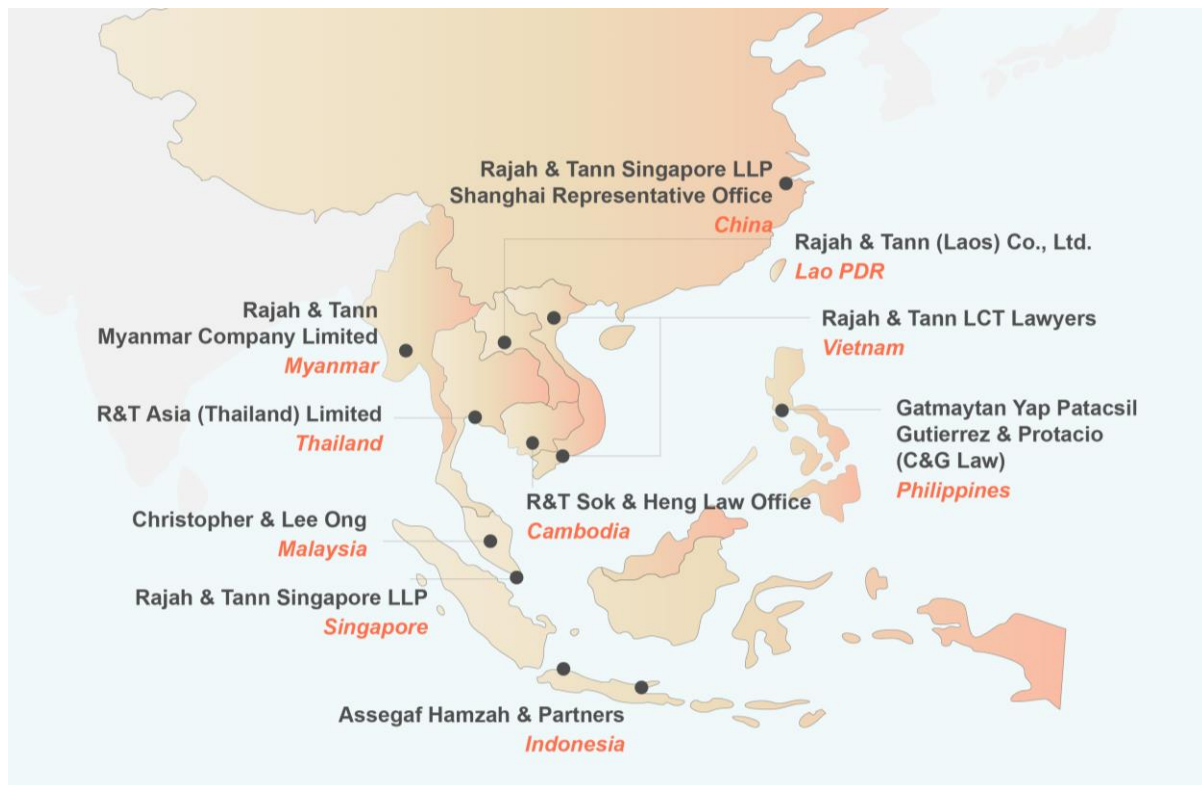
T +84 24 3267 6127
F +84 24 3267 6128
www.rajahtannlct.com

Rajah & Tann Asia is a network of legal practices based in Asia.

Member firms are independently constituted and regulated in accordance with relevant local legal requirements. Services provided by a member firm are governed by the terms of engagement between the member firm and the client.

This update is solely intended to provide general information and does not provide any advice or create any relationship, whether legally binding or otherwise. Rajah & Tann Asia and its member firms do not accept, and fully disclaim, responsibility for any loss or damage which may result from accessing or relying on this update.

Our Regional Presence



Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd provides high quality advice to clients right across the commercial spectrum in Lao. It is involved in a range of contentious and non-contentious matters in, amongst others, domestic and foreign direct investment, licensing & approval, general corporate, regulatory & compliance, employment, and banking & finance. We firmly believe that winning performance depends on a truly co-operative and collaborative approach to the practice of law.

Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd is part of Rajah & Tann Asia, a network of local law firms in Singapore, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Our Asian network also includes regional desks focused on Brunei, Japan and South Asia.

The contents of this Update are owned by Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd and subject to copyright protection under the laws of Lao People's Democratic Republic and, through international treaties, other countries. No part of this Update may be reproduced, licensed, sold, published, transmitted, modified, adapted, publicly displayed, broadcast (including storage in any medium by electronic means whether or not transiently for any purpose save as permitted herein) without the prior written permission of Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.

Please note also that whilst the information in this Update is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief at the time of writing, it is only intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter and should not be treated as a substitute for specific professional advice for any particular course of action as such information may not suit your specific business and operational requirements. It is to your advantage to seek legal advice for your specific situation. In this regard, you may call the lawyer you normally deal with in Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.