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REGIONAL ROUND-UP 2020: CAMBODIA



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Introduction



Throughout the year, we have been keeping you up to date on noteworthy developments across the region with our Regional Round-up Publications. As we enter 2021, we are pleased to share with you our inaugural year-in-review edition of the Regional Round-up for our Regional Offices in the Rajah & Tann Asia network.

In each jurisdiction, we recount the milestones in the path that has been travelled in 2020, as well as consider the terrain of the road that lies ahead in 2021. In the "Looking Back: 2020" section, we take stock of the past year and highlight the key legal and regulatory developments affecting each jurisdiction in 2020. In the "Gazing Into: 2021" section, we look ahead to some key areas of development that you should take note of in the year to come, referencing the legal and business trends shaping up potential legislative and regulatory changes in each jurisdiction.

We hope that this year-in-review edition of the Regional Round-up provide some perspective and insight into the legal landscape of the jurisdictions across the region. As always, please feel free to contact our lawyers in our Regional Offices if you have any queries or for further discussions.

Please click on the links below to access the full collection of our country-specific Regional Round-up 2020:

- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)
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Looking Back: 2020

*The **COVID-19 pandemic** has undoubtedly affected and changed the way we perform work and conduct business transactions. In 2020, the Royal Government of Cambodia ("**RGC**") has issued several regulations and granted tax exemptions to mitigate the public health and economic consequences of the pandemic.*

*Meanwhile, the RGC still continues to work on the regulatory developments regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic implications. Some of the key developments involve the evolution toward **E-Government** such as putting in place online platforms for business registration and/or approval, the adoption of regulations that strengthen the licensing requirements for telecommunications business operations, and the enactment of the law on commercial gambling.*



Summaries of the key developments related to the above areas are provided below.

Online Business Registration Portal

The Online Business Registration Portal or Single Portal was officially launched to facilitate and modernise the registration procedure for new businesses, by requiring the submission of a set of application documents, with a cost-effective and speedy approval process. Click [here](#) for more information.

Licences for Commercial Games

On 14 November 2020, the Law on Management of Commercial Gambling was promulgated. The law requires commercial gaming businesses including casino games, betting games, luck-based games, other determined commercial games, and persons engaged in gaming operations to request for a commercial gaming licence. Click [here](#) for more information.

Telecommunication Activities

Online business operators are required to apply for an online business permit/licence to carry out their business operations. Click [here](#) for more information.

Furthermore, all telecommunication operators undertaking any activity related to mergers and acquisitions, or pledging rights granted by the Telecommunications Regulator of Cambodia ("**TRC**") as security are required to seek approval from TRC. They must also notify TRC of any composition change of their management teams. Click [here](#) for more information.

Gazing Into: 2021

The new **draft Law on Investment** has been prepared and is aimed to be adopted in 2021. The draft law will further address RGC's international obligations towards investors by way of multilateral and bilateral agreements (which contain provisions on national treatment, most-favoured nation treatment, and investment guarantee), rights and obligations of investors, the strengthening of the one window services (i.e. elimination of approval processes, reduction of registration time, putting in place online platforms), the determination of the industries subject to incentives, and real tax incentives and additional investment incentives.

In addition, the following draft laws are in the pipeline:

- Draft law on **commercial contract**;
- Draft law on **cybercrime**; and
- Draft law on **competition**.



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