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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 2022, we are pleased to share with you our *2021 year-in-review of the Regional Round-up* for our Regional Offices in the Rajah & Tann Asia network.

In each jurisdiction, we recount the key milestones in the path that has been travelled in 2021, as well as consider the terrain of the road that lies ahead in 2022. In the "**Looking Back: 2021**" section, we take stock of the past year and highlight the key legal and regulatory developments affecting each jurisdiction in 2021. In the "**Gazing Into: 2022**" 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 *2021 year-in-review of the Regional Round-up*:

- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Laos](#)
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Looking Back: 2021

In December 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia ("RGC") declared an end of the "**20 February Event**" (the **COVID-19 community spread**). Cambodia has also reopened the country and allowed businesses to resume the carrying out of all business operations. As part of the efforts to rehabilitate the economy from the effects of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the RGC continues to work on relevant regulatory developments.

Some of the key developments involve the enactment of the **law on competition**, and further legal developments in the **commercial gaming industry** including the establishment of a regulator, setting out the minimum capital requirements for casino operators, and the

authorisation of commercial gaming following the enforcement of the **Law on Management of Commercial Gaming** in 2020.

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

Foreign Investment – New Law on Investment

The new Law on Investment dated 15 October 2021 abrogates the old Law on Investment dated 5 August 1994 and its amendment dated 24 March 2003. This new law also provides, *inter alia*, details on incentives for investment projects registered as Qualified Investment Projects. Click [here](#) for more information.

Competition & Antitrust – Cambodia's First Law on Competition

The Law on Competition dated 5 October 2021 expressly bars activities which prevent, restrict, or distort competition in the Cambodian market. Essentially, the Law on Competition addresses three key prohibitions: (i) anti-competitive agreements (horizontal or vertical agreements); (ii) abuse of a dominant position; and (iii) anti-competitive business combinations. Click [here](#) for more information.

Casino & Gaming – Authorisation for Casinos and Luck-Based Games Operation

The Commercial Gambling Management Commission of Cambodia issued Prakas No. 002 dated 21 October 2021 on the procedures, formalities, and conditions for the issuance, transfer, and renewal of licences for casinos and luck-based games. It covers the operations of integrated resorts, casinos, and luck-based games in Cambodia. Click [here](#) for more information.



Casino & Gaming – Establishment of Cambodia's Gaming Regulator

The Commercial Gambling Management Commission of Cambodia ("CGCC") is the governmental body tasked with regulating commercial gaming in the country. The roles and duties of the CGCC are stipulated in Sub-Decree No. 165 dated 26 August 2021 on the organisation and functioning of the CGCC. Click [here](#) for more information.

Casino & Gaming – Minimum Capital Requirements for Casino Operators

New and existing casino operators in Cambodia for both stand-alone casinos and casinos within integrated resorts are obliged to comply with the prescribed minimum capital requirements. Click [here](#) for more information.

Gazing Into: 2022

Following the enactment of Cambodia's **first Law on Competition** and the new **Law on Investment**, some regulations such as **sub-decrees and prakas to implement these two laws** are expected to be issued.



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

- Draft law on **commercial contracts**;
- Draft amendment of the law on **commercial enterprises, commercial rules and register**;
- Draft law on **cybercrime**;
- Draft prakas on **cooling-off period**;
- Draft prakas on **investigation procedures and formalities concerning competition**;
- Draft prakas on formalities and procedures of **negotiated settlement**;
- Draft prakas on **unfair contract clauses**;
- Draft **national consumer protection programme**;
- Draft guideline on **pyramid scheme and multi-level marketing**; and
- Draft prakas on principles of **management, organisation and functioning of trusts**.

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