

LawLines

A Rajah & Tann Publication
Volume 3 Issue 2

World Bank, Singapore Institute Of Directors And Rajah & Tann ... Co-Host Corporate Governance Conference



6 April 2001 was an eventful day at the Institute of Public Administration and Management. It saw a gathering of leading global corporate governance luminaries and directors and chief executive officers from the largest corporations in Singapore and the region to discuss key corporate governance issues. The event was timely, as the Code of Corporate Governance was adopted in Singapore on 4 April 2001.

The Conference was put together in conjunction with the World Bank, the Singapore Institute of Directors, Egon Zehnder International, Morgan Stanley, Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Rajah & Tann.

The event featured two panel discussions led by experienced partners from Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Rajah & Tann, and internationally recognised corporate governance experts and Asian business leaders such as Ira Millstein, Chairman of the World Bank / OECD-sponsored private sector advisory group of the Global Corporate Governance Forum and Senior Partner of Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Peter Dey, Chairman of Morgan Stanley Canada; Chew Heng Ching, President of the Singapore Institute of Directors; John Lim, Director of Pan-United Corp Limited and Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Institute of Directors; Dr Rozali Mohamed Ali, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Bank Bumiputra Commerce Bank Berhad; Mr Andrew Brandler, Chief Executive Officer of China Light Ltd; and Dato Megat Najmuddin Khas, President of the Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance.

With this distinguished panel line up, the conference naturally drew top brass directors, chief executive officers and other key advisers of businesses and multinational corporations in Singapore and the region. For those around the region who were unable to fly in for the occasion, the conference was transmitted live via the World Bank Group's interactive, multi-channel network from Singapore to Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta and Manila.

The Conference saw a number of important practical issues being highlighted, with discussions becoming very animated at some points. It was particularly useful to have views expressed by the multi-jurisdictional panel as well as participants.

More Rajah & Tann and Weil, Gotshal & Manges Joint Seminars

The Rajah & Tann and Weil, Gotshal & Manges strategic alliance heralded the launch of a joint seminar series, with the aim to bring clients, in convivial settings, the benefit of expertise of leading lawyers from both firms, as well as industry experts from the United States and various multinational organisations on cutting edge legal issues facing key economic industry sectors today.

The Digital Marketplace - An International Symposium

The first in this seminar series, entitled 'The Digital Marketplace - An International Symposium' kicked off on 14 March 2001 at the Shangri La Hotel Singapore. The seminar was a resounding success, and it drew a large audience.

There were eight sessions in total, covering a range of topical issues on aspects of E-Commerce Law. The papers were presented by Rajesh Sreenivasan and Sundareswara Sharma from Rajah & Tann, Michael Epstein, Matthew Powers, George Metaxas and Richard Harris from Weil, Gotshal & Manges, and Rupert Utley and Soh Pui Ming from Arthur Andersen.

Some highlights of the sessions included a discussion on Business Process Patents. Matthew Powers from Weil Gotshal & Manges, who presented this paper, discussed the wide range of business processes that can be patented in the United States since it was allowed in 1998 and the consequences of this new phenomenon. He punctuated his discussion with real life examples, the most famous one being the recent case of Amazon.com suing Barnes and Noble for the violation of their 'one-click' patent. Matthew then offered practical advice to businesses that they not only maintain documented evidence of the business methods they use to prevent it from being patented by a competitor, but that they also keep an eye on the patents applied for by their competitors – a defensive as well as offensive strategy.

Rajesh Sreenivasan from Rajah & Tann presented a paper on Forensics and Computer Crime, including matters concerning the collection of evidence from computers, the preservation of evidence to retain its character as well as its genuineness for the courts and the admissibility of computer generated output. This was followed by an interesting first-hand account by Rupert Utley, currently the Director of Business Fraud and Investigation Services at Arthur Andersen and a former police officer who served in the computer fraud units in London and Hong Kong for 16 years, on how to catch an electronic thief.

Unraveling The Commercial Value Of The Life Sciences - The Asia Pacific Seminar 2001

Next in the series was a seminar focussing on life sciences. Entitled 'Unraveling The Commercial Value Of The Life Sciences - The Asia Pacific Seminar 2001', this seminar was held on 9 May.

This seminar also brought together internationally recognised legal and business professionals who specialise in adding value to companies in the life sciences industry. The speakers included Yeo Wee Kiong, Daniel Seng and Arnold Tan of Rajah & Tann, Paul Claydon, Michael Epstein and Matthew Powers from Weil, Gotshal & Manges, and Choo Eng Chuan and Richard Williams of Arthur Andersen.

Well attended by legal advisers, financiers, senior representatives of biotechnology companies, research scientists, government groups, members of universities and institutes, and hospital and healthcare workers interested in the

industry, the seminar also featured a lively Biotechnology Business Environment panel discussion comprising national and international experts from business, science and industry including Professor Chris Tan, Director of the Singapore Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology.

Forthcoming Seminars

Rajah & Tann and Weil, Gotshal & Manges have an active program lined up for the second half of the year and clients can look forward to the benefit of further expert discussion in the following areas of law:

- International Arbitration – this will be held in New York on 13 June 2001;
- Corporate Finance and Banking; and
- Business Restructuring and Insolvency.

For more information, please contact Rajah & Tann's Knowledge Management Group at (65) 2321-142 or e-mail us at knowledgebase@sg.rajahtann.com.

This article was extracted from LawLines Volume III, Issue II - June 2001.

Rajah & Tann is one of the largest law firms in Singapore. It is a full service firm and as a member of the Andersen Worldwide international network of law firms is able to tap into 34 countries.

Rajah & Tann is firmly committed to the provision of high quality legal services and places strong emphasis on promptness, accessibility and reliability in dealings with clients. At the same time, the firm strives towards a practical yet creative approach in dealing with business and commercial problems.

The information contained in this newsletter is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief at the time of writing. Specific professional advice should be sought before any action is taken. In this regard, you may call the lawyer you normally deal with in Rajah & Tann or e-mail the Knowledge Management team at knowledgebase@sg.rajahtann.com
(c) Rajah & Tann Knowledge Management. All rights reserved.