

The ‘One Belt, One Road’ Legal Service Centre

By Stevenson, Wong & Co.



Stevenson, Wong & Co.
史蒂文生黃律師事務所

In association with | AllBright Law Offices | 锦天城律师事务所

As a dynamic, forward-looking law firm, Stevenson, Wong & Co. provides effective solutions for clients on different business and legal issues.

Executive Summary

China's 'One belt one road' ('OBOR') initiative was first introduced by President Xi Jinping during his visits to Central and Southeast Asia in September and October 2013. OBOR focuses on connectivity and cooperation among countries along two main routes, the land-based 'Silk road economic belt' and oceangoing 'Maritime silk road' which run through Asia, Europe and Africa. The strategy seeks to promote cooperation between countries in those continents and is also prompted by China's effort and initiative to alleviate China's overproduction in areas such as steel manufacturing and infrastructure construction.

In 2016 Stevenson, Wong & Co., as one of the leading firms in Hong Kong, established a OBOR Legal Service Centre. By virtue of our association with AllBright Law offices, one of the leading full service law firms in PRC and global network with INTERLAW, an international organization that provides access to independent law firms in more than 150 cities around the world, Stevenson, Wong & Co. has a global platform to help its clients solve legal issues and achieve their objectives. The OBOR Legal Service Centre has been set up to help clients with legal advice and investment decisions when doing business within and between the OBOR countries in Southeast Asia, a strategically important region under the OBOR initiative. Led by the firm's senior partners and experienced lawyers, the OBOR Legal Service Centre of Stevenson, Wong & Co. has invited six law firms based in OBOR participating Southeast Asia countries to collaboratively provide

assistance to clients. They are: Blumenthal, Richter & Sumet of Thailand, Colin Ng & Partners LLP (CNP) of Singapore, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill of Malaysia, Mochtar Karuwin Komar of Indonesia, Quasha, Ancheta, Peña & Nolasco of The Philippines and Vision & Associates of Vietnam. Each firm is a leading independent law firm in their respective jurisdiction providing a comprehensive range of services and enjoying a high reputation among their clients.

The mission of the Southeast Asia Legal Service Centre of Stevenson, Wong & Co. is to provide efficient legal services to clients seeking opportunities for participation in or investment advice about OBOR related projects in Southeast Asia utilising the accumulated knowledge and experience of all participating law firms.

‘One Belt, One Road’ in a nutshell

Background of the ancient Silk Road

More than two millennia ago the diligent and courageous people of Eurasia explored and opened up several routes of trade and cultural exchanges that linked the major civilizations of Asia, Europe and Africa, collectively called the Silk Road by later generations. For thousands of years, the Silk Road Spirit has been passed from generation to generation, promoting the progress of human civilization, and contributing greatly to the prosperity of the countries along the Silk Road. In the 21st century, in a new era marked by the theme of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, it is important to carry on the Silk Road Spirit in face of the weak recovery of the global economy, and complex international and regional situations.

The ‘One Road One Belt’ national strategy

As a result, in late 2013, President Xi Jinping raised the initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (‘**One Belt One Road**’ or ‘**OBOR**’), which have attracted attention from all over the world.



The OBOR Initiative is a systematic project, to be jointly built through consultation to meet the interests of all countries along the Belt and the Road. Details released so far by China’s official media outlets show that the “Belt” is a planned network of overland road and rail routes, oil and natural gas pipelines, and other infrastructure projects that will stretch from Xi’an in central China, through Central Asia, and ultimately reach as far as Moscow, Rotterdam, and Venice. And “Road” has its maritime equivalent: a network of planned ports and other coastal infrastructure projects that dot the map from South and Southeast Asia to East Africa and the northern Mediterranean Sea.

In order to further promote the implementation of OBOR, in 2015, the Chinese government drafted and published the Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (‘**Visions and Actions Plan**’) to systematically introduce the program and its scope. Planning includes efforts that extend well beyond infrastructure construction, such as promoting greater financial integration and use of the RMB by foreign countries, creating an “Information Silk Road” linking regional information and communications technology networks, and lowering barriers to cross-border trade and investment in the region. New regional institutions, such as the \$ 100 billion Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and \$ 40 billion New Silk Road Fund (NSRF),

are also designed in part to complement and support the Belt and Road's development.

A number of Chinese companies have already started their global expansion and cooperation with countries under the OBOR initiative. Projects in manufacturing, construction, and import and export trade have been launched in relevant OBOR countries; new strategic cooperations have been announced, and new sites have been established.

Furthermore, the Chinese government have continued to complement regulatory and diplomatic foundations to support the OBOR initiative. Domestically, under the structure of the Visions and Actions Plan, 2015 witnessed other regulatory agencies issuing new supporting rules and regulations. Latest regulations include the National State Administration of Taxation releasing the 'Notice Regarding the Tax Services and Administration to Implement the Development Strategy of the 'One Belt One Road'' and improvements contemplated for the OBOR route and the Ministry of Transport drafting supporting administrative regulations. In addition, some Chinese provinces have also published local guidance notes regarding the OBOR initiative; examples include Guangdong Province in June 2015, Hunan Province in August, and Henan Province in December. The plans stressed the geographical benefits and comparative advantages of each province.

At international level, the Chinese Foreign Ministry have been actively interacting with relevant counterparties along the OBOR; joint international agreements or memoranda have been issued with

countries as diverse as India, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Russia.



Successfully utilising OBOR opportunities

With both domestic and international initiatives, a large portion of China's future foreign investment and trade are expected to take place in OBOR countries. Key industries for the OBOR initiative include: infrastructure construction, energy and power; transportation and logistics; science and innovative research; and financial development. Success of this initiative requires co-operation between Chinese enterprises and foreign counterparties in a raft of sectors and regions, covering small scale trade and investment, to the delivery of large scale multi-jurisdictional game-changing infrastructure.

The OBOR Legal Service Centre

Strategic Significance of Southeast Asia

Under the structure of Visions and Actions Plan, Southeast Asia is a crucial area of the Initiative. Developing the infrastructure of the countries along the route is a key priority. The area has rich resources but lacks the necessary funds for construction, which has further encumbered its economic development, financial markets and advancement of industry.

The OBOR Initiative strives to promote the infrastructure, technology and investment opportunities in Southeast Asia. By giving full play to its geographic advantage, China seeks to speed up the opening-up and development of this region, creating new systems and mechanisms of economy, and step up scientific and technological innovation. Border trade, tourism and culture cooperation will also be greatly promoted.



The Vision and Mission of OBOR Legal Service Centre

Stevenson, Wong & Co.'s OBOR Legal Service Centre was established with the vision to provide Hong Kong and Chinese

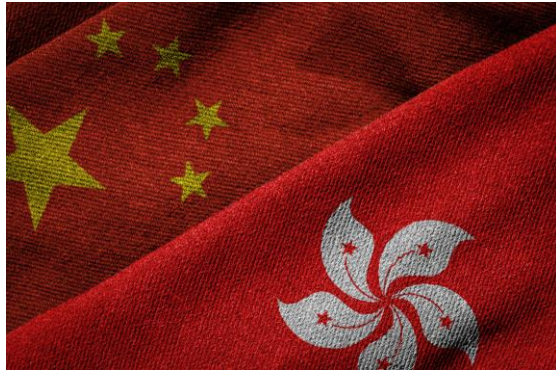
enterprises who wish to invest in Southeast Asia countries alongside the OBOR with comprehensive and efficient legal services.

Geographically, Hong Kong is one of the cities closest to Southeast Asia. Culturally, Hong Kong also shares a strong connection with this region; many Chinese emigrants in Southeast Asia still speak Cantonese. Therefore, both the physical closeness and the similarities in culture and customs enable Stevenson, Wong & Co. to be more presentable, more persuasive and more efficient in assisting in negotiations with business partners, stakeholders, or government agencies from Southeast Asia.

Headed by the firm's senior partners, the OBOR Legal Service Centre consists of lawyers who have rich experience in Banking & Finance, Corporate Finance, China Practice, FDI and Dispute Resolution. Also, the service centre will cooperate with six leading law firms in their respective regions of Southeast Asia namely, Blumenthal, Richter & Sumet, Thailand, Colin Ng & Partners LLP (CNP), Singapore, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill, Malaysia, Mochtar Karuwin Komar, Indonesia, Quasha, Ancheta, Peña & Nolasco, Philippines, Vision & Associates, Vietnam.

Our associate firm, AllBright Law Offices established its own OBOR Legal Service Centre in 2015 focusing on analysing risks and opportunities for their clients.

Combined with Stevenson, Wong & Co., we present a thorough understanding of local conditions, regulators and market players in both China and foreign host jurisdictions. It is our commitment to help clients seize opportunities and overcome challenges in this historic context.



What We Can Offer

Comprehensive Legal Service:

With over one hundred professionals, the OBOR Legal Service Centre can offer you a wide range of legal services, including corporate, capital market, litigation, FDI, to international arbitration, Intellectual Property, banking & finance and China practice. Our lawyers are from different backgrounds with professional qualifications in different jurisdictions. With such a well supported legal platform, we are able to provide you with a comprehensive range of legal advice under the OBOR initiative.

Better Investment Advice:

Established in Hong Kong for more than 40 years, Stevenson, Wong & Co. has a unique strength in providing clients with investment advice. The firm has established deep-rooted connections with local banks, government agencies and other financial institutions. Based on these rich resources, the OBOR Legal Service Centre can equip clients with more convenient and expansive means for capital raising, financial services on mortgage, trading and debt, and help clients deal with sustainable development and risk-management.

New Opportunities for Expansion:

Our firm is a founding member of INTERLAW, one of the most highly-ranked international associations of independent law firms. The six other firms in the Southeast Asia Legal Centre are also members of INTERLAW, who share long-term relationships with our firm.

About Stevenson, Wong & Co.

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As a dynamic, forward-looking law firm, Stevenson, Wong & Co. provides effective solutions for clients facing a variety of business and legal issues. Since 1978 our mission has always been to look to the future, assessing how a changing legal and regulatory landscape is likely to affect our clients.

Today, markets, regulations and matters of corporate governance continue to evolve. By staying abreast of regulatory developments in Hong Kong and China, we continue to look ahead, anticipating obstacles and identifying opportunities to help clients achieve professional or personal success.

Over the last 40 years, our business has changed significantly through expansion, relocation and new partnerships and our international network has supported clients around the globe, helping to bridge China and the world.



39th Floor, Gloucester Tower, The Landmark

In order to better support clients facing business and legal challenges in China, Stevenson, Wong & Co. formed a strategic association with AllBright Law Offices in 2014. Headquartered in Shanghai, China's financial centre and categorized as one of the top full-service PRC firms, AllBright provides clients with high quality, efficient and professional legal services. It now has offices in many major cities including Beijing, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Nanjing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Taiyuan, Qingdao, Xiamen, Tianjin, Jinan, Hefei, Zhengzhou, Fuzhou, Nanchang, Xi'an, Guangzhou, Changchun, Wuhan, Urumqi, London and Seattle.



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ALLBRIGHT LAW OFFICES

As clients' business needs have become increasingly international, Stevenson, Wong & Co. has expanded to support them.

Our firm is a founding member of INTERLAW, an international association of which has been ranked by Chambers & Partners as an "Elite global law firm network". INTERLAW was established in 1982 and provides access to independent law firms in more than 150 cities around the world. We are able to draw on the expertise and resources of more than 80 law firms to provide clients with local support and insight in overseas markets.



The association with AllBright and the global network with INTERLAW equip Stevenson, Wong & Co. with a global prospective. Clients are assured of the same personal, open-minded and highly effective approach delivered by our lawyers in Hong Kong and PRC.

New Initiatives under the OBOR framework

The OBOR encompasses 65 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa which collectively include 4.4 billion people and claims a gross domestic product of US\$ 21 trillion. The potential for cross-border collaborations is vast. Legal professionals with multi-jurisdictional experience and an international network will be in great demand. Therefore, Hong Kong, as the international financial centre and the legal

service hub in China as well as Asia, will play a vital role in acting as an international dispute resolution venue and a debt-issuing platform as a source of financing for the AIIB.

Against this background, Stevenson, Wong & Co., as one of the leading firms in Hong Kong, has established the OBOR Legal Service Centre to better serve investment decisions under the OBOR initiative.



The following are the main contacts of OBOR Legal Service Centre:



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<u>Key Facts</u>		
Established	1976	
Number of Partners	Seven	
Number of Associates	Twenty-five	
Practice Groups	Corporate Law Foreign Direct Investment Real Estate & Construction Commercial Transactions Dispute Resolution & Litigation Project Finance Technology, Media, Telecoms (TMT) Tax & Customs Intellectual Property (IP) Regulatory Compliance Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Labour & Employment Energy & Infrastructure Immigration	

Firm Overview

Blumenthal Richter & Sumet (BRS) is a full service independent law firm that has been operating in Thailand since 1976. Its unique mix of licensed Thai and expatriate attorneys are regularly called upon to advise leading international commercial and industrial enterprises, as well as governments, institutions and individuals, in connection with their respective business affairs in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

BRS operates to global standards of ethics, best practice and business conduct and its practice groups are at the leading edge of developments in the Thai legal sector. The firm is the exclusive Thailand representative of INTERLAW, the preferred law firm network for companies doing business internationally (www.interlaw.com). With more than 5,000 attorneys in 125 cities worldwide, Interlaw is ranked as a Band 1, “Elite Global Law Firm Network” and provides BRS with access to specialist legal practitioners in every major worldwide jurisdiction.

Contemporary Awards (not comprehensive)

“Leading Firm,” Chambers Asia Pacific 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

“Leading Firm,” The Legal 500 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

“Recommended Lawyers	Andreas C. Richter	Corporate/M&A
	Sumet Mingmongkolmitr	Tax & Customs
	Robert H. Schuler	Real Estate & Construction
	John P. Formichella	Technology, Media, Telecoms
	Suchart Meesomboonpoonsuk	Dispute Resolution & Litigation

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CDZ is a full service law firm with strong transactional record, well-known for telecoms expertise, active in the IT and new technologies, BPO/SCC and energy sectors, also visible, and known for, equity transactions.

For many years, CDZ and its lawyers have been recommended by Legal 500 EMEA and Chambers Europe. CDZ is a member of the Association of Business Service Leaders (ABSL) and ASPIRE, leading organizations representing the SSC and BPO sectors in Poland.

Areas of practice

CDZ advises on M&A transactions, corporate and commercial law. The firm represents clients before all Polish courts and administration authorities, including in proceedings seeking the execution of foreign courts' judgments in Poland. It also represents clients in cases involving all aspects of bankruptcy law.

Real estate is one of the core areas of the firm's activities. It represents, among others, investment funds, developers and individual investors. CDZ has a particular knowledge of the telecommunications sector. The firm's TMT team has participated in the largest acquisitions and consolidation transactions of telecommunications companies in the Polish market.

CDZ has considerable experience with the shared services sector with an emphasis on employment law. The firm represents many multinational corporations that opened shared services centers or software companies in Poland.

Corporate and Commercial Law

Employment Law

Mergers and Acquisitions

Insolvency and Restructuring

Capital Markets

TMT

Intellectual Property

Litigation

Project Finance

Personal Data Protection

Competition Law

Public Procurement Law

Real Estate and Construction

European Union Law

Family Law

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Established in 1988, Colin Ng & Partners LLP (CNP) provides Singapore law advice across Asia. Our business reflects Singapore's position as a hub for trade, services and investment flows into Asia and as a forum for arbitration and litigation of international disputes. We treat clients as business partners, and aim to add value to our relationships.

Many of our lawyers are knowledgeable of the language and business culture of another country outside Singapore. Working within our networks of cross-border relationships, we can guide you through local practices and laws in Asia. Our insights and established connections can make a difference in helping you achieve your objectives.

We focus on:

- Banking, Finance and Restructuring
- Capital Markets and SGX
- Funds and Financial Services
- Dispute Resolution and International Arbitration
- Employment
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- New Media and Entertainment
- Private Client
- Private Equity
- Professional Liability and Insurance
- Real Estate
- Tax
- Technology

CNP recently entered into a Laos-based JV, Colin Ng & Partners (Lao) International Lawyers Co., Ltd. ("CNPL"), with Vilayvanh Vongxaya Law Office Sole Co. ("VVLO"), Ltd, a local Laos law firm and Great Mekong Group Lao Sole Co., Ltd. ("GMG"), which provides management consultancy services. Based in Vientiane Capital, Laos, CNPL provides legal and business advice for foreign investors operating in, or looking to invest in, the Lao PDR.

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About Us

Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill is a multi-practice law firm with a diversified client base, from small businesses to government-linked companies to leading multinational corporations in Malaysia, North America, Europe and the Middle East. With approximately 100 lawyers dedicated to professional excellence, personal high quality service and an efficient solution-orientated approach, we have built a reputation of practicing law with an uncommon passion. Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill is recognised for its ability to combine all areas of expertise and experience, giving its clients a competitive edge as well as optimum results. We have offices throughout the country, with the head office in Kuala Lumpur, and other offices in Johor and Penang.

Areas of Practice

At Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill, we organise our lawyers into practice groups for specialisation in both direction and depth. We have dedicated practice groups in banking and finance, construction and engineering, corporate and commercial, foreign investment, employment and industrial relations, insolvency, insurance, land and real property and regulatory and taxation, to serve our broad range of clients in various industries.

Our Dispute Resolution practice is one of the largest in Malaysia. We offer the full range of legal advice and services across a wide spectrum of contentious civil, commercial and regulatory disputes, and regularly advise and represent regulatory and statutory bodies, financial institutions, multinationals, professionals, private and public listed companies who are leaders in their respective industries, and individual clients.

On the other hand, our Corporate practice groups serve the needs of private and public companies, corporations, government and government-related entities, other institutions and individuals in a wide range of corporate and commercial transactions. From origination until completion, we help facilitate and guide clients through the maze of legal, regulatory and compliance requirements, as well as the attendant finance, tax and employment implications, of corporate exercises and business transactions.

We have experience in all areas of corporate and commercial law including mergers and acquisitions, takeovers, securities dealings, capital and fund raising, restructurings, cross-border transactions, joint ventures, regulatory issues, projects and real estate transactions. We also have specific experience in the fields of telecommunications, Internet-related transactions, energy, media, securities, pharmaceutical, environment, insurance, banking, direct sales, wholesale and retail trade, plantation, transport, construction and infrastructure, as well as liaising with government and regulatory bodies such as Bank Negara Malaysia, Securities Commission Malaysia, the Registrar of Companies, Bursa Malaysia, the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

Main Contact:

Ooi Bee Hong, our senior Corporate partner, represents clients in a broad spectrum of corporate and commercial related transactions, with a particular emphasis on foreign direct investments in Malaysia. In the course of her more than 25 years practice, she has advised clients in connection with mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, company incorporation and restructuring, regulatory compliance, company law, commercial agreements, real estate and regulatory matters, project development, and competition law. She presently acts for a range of top-notch international clients on their investments in Malaysia, including Western Digital, Novartis, Yamato Holdings, Schenker Logistics, Hermès, Darden Restaurants Inc, ACCA and MacFood.

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MKK is one of Indonesia's oldest and largest full service law firms.

Established in 1971, in the early stage of modernization of Indonesia's commercial laws, MKK has grown in tandem with the laws we practice. We bring to bear over four decades of experience and insight spanning almost the entirety of Indonesia's modern commercial development.

What do we do?

We provide strategic, commercial legal advice to foreign investors, leading corporations, financial institutions and multi-national companies. We assist our clients with their most complex, challenging and high-profile transactions in Indonesia. We have extensive experience in contracts work and advising in all areas of Indonesian commercial law and have particular strength in foreign investment, energy and mining, shipping, infrastructure projects, finance and regulatory matters.

Committed to excellence in providing commercial solutions.

Our Partners and senior advisors are recognized as leaders in their fields and direct teams that consistently provide excellent commercially focused results. We understand the needs of our clients' business, and are experts at providing strategic and commercially focused solutions.

We understand Indonesia and the cultures of our clients.

Our attorneys come from all parts of Indonesia and are fluent in English and Indonesian and some at least one other foreign language including Mandarin. We sponsor our attorneys' post-graduate legal degrees from leading universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Asia, Europe and Australia to increase their understanding of different cultures and commercial expectations of our clients.

We work regularly with Chinese clients and law firms.

We regularly advise Mainland, Hong Kong, Singaporean and Chinese Indonesian clients on how to navigate Indonesia's challenging legal environment. We have considerable experience in assisting with Hong Kong Exchange listings requirements for Indonesian companies.

We value long-term relationships.

We have worked with many of our clients for decades. We value long term relationships and work hard to maintain these for the mutual benefit of both parties. We want to learn more about your business and how we can be of assistance to you in your plans in Indonesia.

Main Contact: Ariani Nugraha, Co-Managing Partner



Established since 1950



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The firm is one of the oldest law firms in the Philippines. It was established 1950 by William H. Quasha, an American. He was the last foreigner allowed to practice law in the Philippines. He died in 1996.

The firm provides a wide range of legal services with emphasis on corporate and investment law, joint venture, mergers and acquisition, contracts, taxation, labor and employment, immigration, banking, insurance, natural resources, intellectual property, litigation and appellate court practice.

It is the Philippine member of INTERLAW, an international association of independent law firms in all major business centers in the world. The member firms want to have a global reach but remain independent.

The firm prides itself with partners who know the client's business, are accessible and have a comprehensive knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment. The partners are always mindful and in touch with the political climate and key personalities. Its client list range from Philippines corporations with purely local activities to major Philippine and multinational corporations. Its clients' business interest span almost all aspects of commerce and industry. When appropriate, the firm also employs "associated lawyers" who are former lawyers of the firm for specific purposes.

For the One Belt-One Road-Southeast Asia Legal Service Centre project, the suggested contacts are Alfredo Pio De Roda, Conrado S. Dar Santos, Joel Raymond R. Ayson, Janice P. Ramirez, cc: Nilo B. Peña.

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Intellectual Property, Contracts, Litigation and General Matters.
Regulatory, Immigration, Insurance, Banking, Litigation and General Matters.
Tax, Corporate Law and Investment Law.
Litigation, Insurance and General Matters.
Litigation and General Matters.
Corporate Law, General Matters.



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The firm

Founded in 1999 by Mr Pham Nghiem Xuan Bac and other partners, Vision & Associates became a leading consulting company, which, together with its legal arm, Vision & Associates Legal, offers a broad range of professional services with practical and creative solutions at a competitive price.

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