

Special Summer Edition



June- August 2016

Message from the FLI NET Partners



While London Bridge may be falling, the Vietnam economy is rising. With the ushering of the Asian Economic Community in December 2015, and the anticipated gains expected from the Trans Pacific Partnership, Vietnam is experiencing increased attention from both regional and international investors.

Merger & Acquisition work continues to thrive in Vietnam, especially as ASEAN investors, from Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines make more significant investments in sectors like retail trade, real estate, and manufacturing. Although, the traditional primary investment flow remains Korea and Japan, the emerging regional ASEAN investors are making their mark. Vietnam requires significant foreign direct investment to fuel its export-driven economy. While recent treaty agreements foster that opportunity, they also require additional legal reforms that provide more assurances in our developing jurisdiction. Changes in anti-competition rules, arbitration processes, labor procedures, and IP protection, to mention a few, should counterbalance the required reduction or removal of tariff rates on products.

Together with our fellow FLI NET member firms in ASEAN we have a unique opportunity to provide clients with the necessary cross-border guidance and legal advice to assist them in navigating these changes to make the best business decisions while also generating business opportunities for quality work for our member firms. ASEAN will be the world's 7th largest economy and we at VILAF are here to work with you to ensure that happens.

Nguyen Truc Hien, VILAF, FLI NET Vietnam

FLI NET at the ACC 2016 Conference

First Law International is pleased to announce the ACC Annual Meeting in San Francisco. We will be one of the event's sponsors and will have a booth at the Exhibit Hall of the conference. We would be pleased to meet you there! On October 16 - 19 the Association of Corporate Counsel holds a yearly conference in the U.S. that brings approximately 3,300 in-house counsel together to obtain continuing legal education (CLE) and learn about the newest and most innovative legal service vendors. It is must attended event to every General Counsel.



FLI NET Partner and business development meetings in Asia-Pacific

FLI certificated new FLI NET Partners from **Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore**. During a recent trip to Asia, FLI's principal Orlando Casares conducted **Compliance & Regulatory Certification Training**, which covers US, UK and EU legislation addressing the prevalent problem of corruption. This type of training is appreciated by multinational clients wanting to transact business in certain parts of the world and are concerned about potential problems with the local authorities. Once certified, the member firms will be able to provide regular ongoing local support.



Another stop for FLI's principal was **Japan and Australia**, where took place series of business developing meeting with potential law firms.



FLI NET cross border project in contract law



Contract law - FLI's long term VIP client, one of the world's leading medical technology companies, requested FLI to provide an advice on termination of distributor agreements in jurisdictions where FLI has its Members and/or Correspondent Firms (Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Namibia, Zambia, Mauritius, Libya, Croatia, Bulgaria, Botswana and Lithuania). The project was completed within few days.

IP Law – FLI was asked by a French client in the truck industry to pursue protected design infringements in several EU countries. FLI NET Partners in a number of jurisdictions are currently managing this process.



Telecommunications Law – FLI has been asked by a multinational US client in the Energy industry to conduct a 30-country wide license review and validation exercise.

Transport Law – FLI has been asked by an US client to conduct a number of forensic investigations and setting up of Distributors in LATAM.

FLI NET Fall 2016 Conference

FLI is proud to announce its semiannual, regional Asia-Pacific fall conference, which would be hosted this year by our Partners in Singapore. Singapore plays a strategic role in a region for a large number of multinational companies whose HQ and services centers are located in the country. Due to global economic developments impacting for companies, including BREXIT, this event promises to be a must attend for partners, clients and guests.



FLI NET Universe – global achievements of FLI Members



FLI NET Indonesia - SSEK a Top-Ranked Labor and Employment Firm

SSEK Legal Consultants is again ranked as one of Indonesia's leading labor and employment law firms by independent legal publications.

SSEK is rated as a **Tier 1** employment law firm in the 2016 edition of The Legal 500 and is a Highly Recommended Labor & Employment law firm in 2016 Asialaw Profiles: The Guide to Asia-Pacific's Leading Domestic Law Firms. SSEK is a Band 2 Employment firm in the 2016 edition of Chambers Asia-Pacific. It quotes one client as saying of SSEK's labor and employment practice: "Highly experienced, with a thorough understanding of local law."

FLI NET Czech Republic - celebrates its 15th anniversary



Havel, Holásek & Partners was founded in 2001 by five young lawyers from leading international and Czech law firms. In 15 years, the firm has achieved the absolute **top position** among law firms in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It had continued to grow even during the global financial crisis, and since 2009, it is the **most dynamically growing law firm** in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. The office has been awarded three times as a Czech Business Superbrand. Congratulations!



FLI NET Hungary- Oppenheim supports innovative startups

Oppenheim acted as one of the key sponsors to the CEE Lift Off! contest, where start-up companies compete with their new products and services.

Oppenheim has always been dedicated to the idea of innovation and creativity. In 2015, it partnered up with CEE Lift Off!, where the best **startups** have the chance to pitch their idea or project to top managers and venture capitalists of the region. In the framework of this partnership, Oppenheim offered legal support as a prize to the most talented contestants.

FLI NET Belarus - partner of the forum "Broadening the Horizons"

VMP Vlasova Mikhel & Partners is a partner of the first Belarusian forum "Broadening the Horizons:



VLASOVA MIKHEL & PARTNERS

Investments. Finance. Development" - managing partner Konstantin Mikhel will be one of the speakers during this event.

The Forum will take place on **September 29-30, 2016 in Minsk**. The event will be held in the format of **open dialogue** between the representatives of **state bodies** of the Republic of Belarus, international **financial institutions**, **foreign investors** and the Belarusian authorities, as well as national business and experts, who will discuss key aspects of investment cooperation. The agenda is available on www.belarusforum.by.

FLI NET Spain - advises promising start-up

Rousaud Costas Duran (RCD) has advised **CornerJob** on its recent investment round. The capital injection will help the company consolidate its presence in foreign markets. With recent round start-up has managed to raise over **30 million euros** since its creation in 2015. CornerJob is a blue collar Jobs app that has up to 40,000 monthly job offers in various industries. The company operates in Spain, Italy, France and Mexico where it will invest the capital received. Furthermore the start-up is planning on entering new markets before the end of the year.



FLI NET Vietnam - the best M&A national law firm



the Ministry of Planning and Invest.

VILAF again was announced to be the winner of the prestigious award – *Best M&A Law Firm of the Year*. The prize was awarded during the Annual Vietnam M&A Forum 2016, which is the largest public event in this industry. It is a venue for the business community, domestic and foreign investors - organized by Vietnam Investment Review, AVM Vietnam, and

FLI NET Belgium - Van Bael & Bellis as one of the most widely respected firms in Brussels

Global Competition Review (GCR) published the results of its 2016 survey of the best law firms in Brussels. Once again, Van Bael & Bellis features as one of the most widely respected firms working in the Brussels-based Belgian competition bar. GCR notes the strength in depth of the team, which is headed by Peter L'Ecluse, backed up by four other partners, two counsel and 11 Belgium-qualified associates. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

VAN BAEL & BELLIS
