

# ASIA PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR THE PRIMERUS ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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## Letter from the Chair

Written by: Caroline Berube - HJM Asia Law & Co LLC (Singapore & Guangzhou, China)

Welcome to the second issue of the Primerus APAC newsletter.

As the year 2020 draws to a close, we often look back at the past year. However, the best way to set positive goals is to look forward. We have much to look forward to indeed, especially the long-awaited Covid-19 vaccines. China and South Korea are expecting approvals by year-end, whilst Australia, Taiwan, Indonesia and India expect to do so by the first quarter of 2021.

The outlook for the Asia Pacific market, taking cognizance of the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the region, is conservatively optimistic and balanced. Artificial intelligence (AI) and robotic process automation (RPA) are gaining significance across key countries in Asia Pacific like Singapore, China and Japan, offering solutions to most sectors adversely affected by the pandemic. We will witness an increased adoption of the use of AI / machine learning (ML) in the next 2-3 years to achieve enhanced business efficiency and better employee engagement. Most of us who used to travel on business will be eyeing the travel bubbles or "green lanes" when countries ease border restrictions and the economies further open up. We hope for a steady increase in market activity in the coming year.

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## Yes Indeed: Overview of Deeds in Singapore

by Matthew Boyd – HJM Asia Law & Co LLC (Singapore)

Whether it is buying a holiday home, appointing a care-giver for your loved ones or entrusting your assets to an investment agent on your behalf, it is very likely that, at some point in your life, you will be required to create a legal deed.

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## Milestone Construction Industry Reforms En-Route? Proposed Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Bill 2020 (WA)

by Daniel Morris – HHG Legal Group (Perth, Australia)

Sadly, it remains the case around the common law world that construction contractors are often not paid what they have earned by their labour, either on time or at all.

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## China's New Patent Law

by Ralf Ho, Matthew Boyd, and Caroline Berube – HJM Asia Law & Co LLC (Singapore & Guangzhou, China)

On October 17th, 2020, the law of patents in China underwent a transformation. This has been, in large part, due to China not having revisited and updated its laws on patents since 2008.

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## Emerging Technologies & Cyber Law: Paying Employees in Cryptocurrency in Hong Kong: Legal Considerations

by Dominic Wai – ONC Lawyers (Hong Kong)

As cryptocurrency is gaining popularity, an increasing number of employers are starting to consider paying salaries to their employees in cryptocurrency. Although salary payment in cryptocurrency may attract tech-savvy talents, there are legal implications which employers should consider before implementing such remuneration schemes.

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## IP Updates from Singapore: Of Wines and Watches

by Caroline Berube and Christina Molino – HJM Asia Law & Co LLC (Singapore & Guangzhou, China)

Would you think that a bottle of wine containing the trademark **CHAMPENGWINE** originated from the Champagne Region of France? Please get your wine glass and pour some champagne, grab a seat, and let us discuss this intoxicatingly interesting case.

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# MEMBER PROFILES



## **Dominic Wai - ONC Lawyers (Hong Kong)**

### **What was your motivation to become a lawyer?**

It may sound a bit cliché but justice has always been in my mind and becoming a lawyer would enable me to try to help others to seek justice or at least be part of the system that promotes and relates to justice.

### **What are the most memorable experiences you have had thus far as a lawyer?**

I was fortunate enough to be involved in a case that has become a legal authority in Hong Kong on discovery and also ground breaking cases such as the recent cases that

we did when the Court for the first time allowed the use of a virtual data room for service of documents and disclosure purpose to comply with a disclosure order by banks.

### **What are your interests and/or hobbies?**

I like to read, see movies and practice inline skating. I also enjoy volunteer work as a board director of Ronald McDonald House Charities Hong Kong and as a Rotary club member of my club, Rotary Club of Star Avenue.

### **Share with us something that Primerus members would be surprised to know about you.**

I might have become an Air Traffic Controller and a Pilot if not for my eyes: I was offered to join an Air Traffic Control officer cadet program years ago after passing through tests and interviews. But unfortunately at that time, there was no LASIK eye sight operation and my short sightedness did not allow me to pass the test as a pilot, as that was the part of the requirement for the training program that the cadet would be trained as a licensed small plane pilot.

### **Do you have any special messages for Primerus members?**

Make use of the International network and connection of Primerus and join the International Practice Committee. It has been written (The Formula - the universal laws of success) with scientific data backing that connections and networks are very important to success. We have the network already. All we need to do is to connect and connect more.



## **Selwyn Black - Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers (Sydney, Australia)**

### **What was your motivation to become a lawyer?**

I wanted to do something practical to help others.

### **What are the most memorable experiences you have had thus far as a lawyer?**

Transactions or dispute resolutions, which have transformed the lives of my clients.

### **What are your interests and/or hobbies?**

Sailing historical open skiffs and bushwalking.

### **Share with us something that Primerus members would be surprised to know about you.**

Another hobby of mine is salsa dancing.

### **Do you have any special messages for Primerus members?**

I love talking to members around the world, gaining different perspectives and sharing common values.

## FIRM UPDATES

**ONC** Lawyers  
柯伍陳律師事務所

Joshua Chu and Julian So have joined **ONC Lawyers** as Consultants. Joshua specializes in technology law, cybersecurity, data privacy among other litigation matters. Julian has a strong background in the financial market and specializes in banking, securitization and other structured financial products.

Dr. Dennis Tang has also joined us as a Registered Foreign Lawyer. He is qualified to practice PRC laws and advised a wide range of PRC legal issues and cross-border transactions.



**CARROLL  
& O'DEA**  
LAWYERS  
When it matters

**Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers** appoints first female managing partner in 121 years.

Managing partner of Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers, Howard Harrison, has appointed a new managing partner to succeed him in the role, effective 1 July 2020. Hanaan Indari, who is currently the firm's deputy managing partner, will become managing partner from this date. This marks the first woman to hold that position in Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers' 121-year history. Mr. Harrison will be continuing as partner upon Ms. Indari officially taking on the head role. "This is an appointment of which I and the entire firm are rightly very proud of and I would like to extend my congratulations to Hanaan on behalf of the firm," said Mr. Harrison. "Hanaan Indari is an exceptional legal practitioner and is very much a part of the firm's DNA having begun her career here in 1997." "She represents the values that have proven to be the sustaining strength of the [firm] over the last 121 years." [Click Here](#) to read the full article.

## PRIMERUS UPDATES

### Doing Business in the Asia Pacific Region Guide

We have assembled a helpful guide for executives and business owners to understand common issues when doing business in various countries in the Asia Pacific Region. [Click here to read.](#)

### COVID-19 Updates

The Primerus team has assembled a COVID-19 Resource Page with updates, from many different regions, that will help companies navigate the challenges they're facing due to the virus pandemic. To learn more, [click here.](#)

### Webinar Library

The Primerus team has organized a series of webinars, on a variety of topics, that we hope you'll find beneficial. To review the upcoming webinars, [click here.](#)

### Find a Lawyer in your Jurisdiction

For needs in the Asia Pacific Region, [click here.](#)

For needs around the world, [click here.](#)