

For further details, please contact:

Veronica Liew
Communications Manager
+603 2299 6408
veronica.liew@wongpartners.com

News Release

Wong & Partners' Annual Legal Conference 2016 focuses on the Real-world Impact of Mega-Regional Trade Pacts on Business Strategies

Opening plenary session on Trans-Pacific Partnership with Malaysia's Chief negotiator highlighted the issues and challenges countries adjusting to trade pacts will face; Companies Bill plenary session also provided informed discussions on new provisions in the law

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2016 – Wong & Partners, a member firm of Baker & McKenzie International in Malaysia, held its 2016 Annual Legal Conference on 5 May 2016, entitled "**Navigating the Frontiers of Trade: Understanding the Impact of 21st Century Trade Agreements**". 183 guests attended the conference, the majority of whom were in-house counsel and business associates from local and foreign organisations.

Tan Sri Abdul Wahid bin Omar, the then Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, addressed the audience as the keynote speaker. He spoke on Malaysia's economic development and the role of the country's economy within ASEAN, also focusing on the types of government policies implemented to ensure the economic stability of the country amid the slowing growth in Asia.

Datuk J. Jayasiri, Deputy Secretary General for Strategy and Monitoring from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, gave a special presentation on the importance of the **Trans-Pacific Partnership** ("TPP") and how it fits into Malaysia's overall strategy in developing trade. Datuk Jayasiri also participated in a panel discussion with Baker & McKenzie lawyers to speak about how **businesses can respond to the changes in policy as a result of free trade agreements ("FTA") such as the TPP, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and China's One Belt One Road initiative**. Datuk Jayasiri emphasised that Malaysian businesses should seize the opportunity ahead of their competitors and reap the benefits of FTAs in the future.

The Firm also provided guests with an exclusive preview of the new ASEAN report that Baker & McKenzie produced with the Economist Corporate Network, **ASEAN Connections**. The report surveyed 144 business leaders of large multinationals for their views on how mega-regional FTAs are shaping the ASEAN business environment, as well as the impact to their business strategy. The report has since been launched globally on 16 May and can be downloaded [here](#).

Throughout the day, sector experts and legal practitioners from member firms of Baker & McKenzie from Amsterdam, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam joined the Malaysia team on discussions. They provided their insights on topics such as cybersecurity, investor treaty arbitration, OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, and the impact of TPP on employment laws. The conference concluded with a multi-practice discussion of the **new Companies Bill in Malaysia**, where special guest Norhaiza Jemon, Head of Law Reform, Policy and

International Affairs from the Corporate Development and Policy Division of the Companies Commission of Malaysia, spoke alongside our partners and Tan Theng Hooi, country managing partner of Deloitte Malaysia. This plenary featured a detailed breakdown of the soon to be enacted Companies Bill, and provided a lively and timely discussion on new provisions within the framework from the legal, accounting, and regulatory perspectives.

- Ends -

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