

Message from ASEAN CEO – Renew, Refresh, Restart

January 4, 2021

Gerald Singham, newly appointed ASEAN CEO of Dentons Rodyk & Davidson shares his first message with the firm.

Happy 2021 and a very warm welcome back to the office!

2020 In Review

Many of us will be relieved to put 2020 firmly behind us – it was a year where we were forced to challenge ourselves and rise to the occasion in turbulent times. I am so proud and moved by the quiet indomitable spirit displayed by all - Team Dentons Rodyk.

The events of 2020 shaped our way forward, eg, transformation continues at an accelerated pace as we rely on technology even more today. In addition, we have also accelerated our plans in Workplace Transformation, where many of you had shared your feedback on what you hope to see in our future workplace.

Through the concerted efforts of our Business Continuity Committee, we ensured our firm operated as usual, by observing safe distancing guidelines while focusing on meeting and exceeding our clients' expectations.

While it was a challenging year, our firm has weathered this storm, emerged stronger and is energised with hope of the many new exciting opportunities ahead of us.

160 Years Strong

As we start 2021, we are reminded that Dentons Rodyk celebrates its 160th anniversary as the first and oldest law firm in Singapore. Dentons Rodyk stands on a strong foundation forged over decades by strong values and having triumphed through momentous historical events.

To celebrate the occasion of 160 Years Strong, we encourage you to join us for a virtual run that will happen 1 – 31 March 2021. Apart from commemorating our 160th anniversary, we are also taking the opportunity to raise funds for the Singapore Academy of Women Lawyers (SAWL) Scholarship Fund, which aims to further educational interest amongst those in need – both physical and mental disabilities. It will be a meaningful run as we will be doing our part to help those in need.

The Dentons Family

In April 2021, we will celebrate 5 years of being part of Dentons, the world's largest and leading law firm.

Our goal has always been forward-looking with a global outlook and the desire to provide a comprehensive suite of legal services to clients with cross-border business needs. Due to Dentons' extensive global footprint, our lawyers have had the opportunity to work on more cross border matters, interact with colleagues from other parts of the world and being able to connect our clients with other Dentons offices wherever their business takes them.

Being part of Dentons has also opened up secondment opportunities for our lawyers in London, Frankfurt, New York, Istanbul, Yangon.

Dentons continues to evolve and we are excited by new initiatives coming our way. The new global Clients & Markets strategy is planned to launch this year emphasises deeper collaboration between practices to better address clients' needs. This means gaining a deeper understanding of our clients' businesses so that we can be relevant to them.

Looking Forward To 2021

According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore's economy is forecast to grow 4 – 6 % in 2021, helped by continued expansion of trade and manufacturing and a gradual recovery in construction and aviation- and tourism-related sectors. Growth in the information and communications, and finance and insurance sectors is expected to remain healthy.

However, there is still some uncertainty over how the COVID-19 situation will evolve globally as this will depend in part on the progress in vaccine development, production and distribution.

We are cautiously optimistic for 2021. Last year in particular has taught us that in the face of disruption, we must be nimble and agile to grasp new opportunities. I am excited that our firm will be developing and deepening capabilities in Cybersecurity, Family Office / Variable Capital Company, Global Private Services, Investigations & White Collar Crime, Start-ups and Venture Capital, Tax and Trusts, Estates & Wealth Preservation. We are also planning for a new innovative practice group in the area of environment and sustainability.

Let's Push On!

With each of your continued engagement and support, we look forward to 2021 in the New Dynamic Decade with momentum and confidence.

This message is an abridged version of the original CEO Message.

About Dentons Rodyk

Dentons is the world's largest law firm, delivering quality and value to clients around the globe. Dentons is a leader on the Acritas Global Elite Brand Index, a BTI Client Service 30 Award winner and recognized by prominent business and legal publications for its innovations in client service, including founding Nextlaw Labs and the Nextlaw Global Referral Network. Dentons' polycentric approach and world-class talent challenge the status quo to advance client interests in the communities in which we live and work.

Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in Singapore with Registration No. T07LL0439G, and a member of Dentons' global legal practice.

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