

Brief Summary of Business Issues and Trends as Bases for Legal Presentation

DOING BUSINESS IN THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY – LEGAL & REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE

I. Supply Chain Disruption

Global supply chain is facing threats from multiple fronts, chiefly, trade tension between the United States and China and Brexit, as well as the potential blowing up of multilateral trading systems to be replaced by regional trading blocs and bi-lateral free trade agreements. The implications for global business community are enormous. In light of this, a thorough understanding of legal and commercial risks and pitfalls caused by the disrupted supply chains are critical.

1. Managing Supply Chain Disruption With/Through Contractual Arrangement

Areas of law involved : contract laws & practice

2. From Made in China to Made in Southeast Asia : Slow shift from China to Southeast Asia

Areas of law involved : foreign investment-inbound &outbound, commercial law, customs laws and trade remedies

II. Cross-Border Mergers & Acquisitions Amid Geopolitical Uncertainty and “Slowbalization”

Globalization has stalled and is being replaced by “Slowbalization”, a term coined by Adjiedj Bakas, a Dutch trend-watcher.

Geopolitical risks such as trade war, Brexit and democracy in crisis in various countries around the world have put a brake on global private investment and curbed the enthusiasm for cross-border mergers & acquisitions, as witnessed by the M&A slowdown in Asia as trade war concerns hurt the region’s out-bound deal making. In light of this, deal-makers and their legal advisers may need to adopt creative and out-of-the-box solutions, including searching for undervalued assets and hidden private investment gems.

3. Bargain Hunting Time : Distressed M&A

Areas of law involved : corporate workouts, insolvency, bankruptcy and domestic/cross-border mergers & acquisitions

4. Private Equity in Asia : Losing appetite for private equity after China’s slowdown?

Areas of law involved : private investment, corporate, venture capital finance and cross-border mergers & acquisitions

5. **Global Private Investment : Trends & Outlook for global investment in Ports & Terminals**

Areas of law involved : cross-border mergers & acquisitions, cross-border investment

Notes :

- (1) Conference : Friday, February 28, 2020 with a welcome dinner on the evening of Wednesday, February 26 and Practice Group Meetings/Junior ADVOC meeting in the morning or afternoon of Thursday, February 27 (half-day).
- (2) Post – Conference Activities : Saturday, February 29, excursion by car to Ayutthaya for cultural sightseeing and lunch; return to Bangkok by Chaopraya River cruise with onboard dinner.