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M. RAVI LAW

ESG PRACTICE



Shaped by Culture. Defined by Law.

WHO WE ARE

M. Ravi Law is a network of multiple offices currently in Asia.

Our pioneer office opened in Yangon, Myanmar in 2019 from which we started serving our network of clients in the region. Since launching, we have now established in Thailand and built exciting alliance partnerships in Malaysia as well as Singapore. Our team members are spread across the region and come together to work on exciting individual projects, each time drawing strengths on our

team member's subject expertise and/or their local on-the-ground knowledge and expertise.

We are headed by well-known and highly acclaimed international human rights lawyer M. Ravi who has over 20 years of experience in Singapore and the region. He is flanked by well-established senior external consultants, constitutional experts and professional support staff, making the team diverse in its ability to handle a variety of legal inquiries.



Since our start, we have provided services in the following practice areas:

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Matters
- Fintech, Blockchain & Technology
- Corporate and Commercial Work/ Cross-Border Investment
- Establishing NGO/INGO
- International Trade
- Arbitration & Other Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Infrastructure and Real Estate Law (including Conveyancing)
- Regulatory Advice & Licensing Matters
- Intellectual Property
- Labour & Employment Law
- Constitutional Rights

As mentioned in our tagline, everything we do is Shaped by Culture, the culture of the people and communities we serve in, the culture of our team and the business cultures of our corporate clients.



ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

By now, most businesses around the world have become familiar with the ESG acronym which stands for Environmental, Social and Governance. ESG issues dominate the board agenda in most listed companies. With climate emergency and societal justice issues fast emerging it is likely that in future, all companies (whether listed or not) will also need to address ESG imperatives. Much has already been written about the value benefits of ESG on the reputational side for companies, but also that ESG actually helps with income generation and profits as more consumers, stakeholders, investors and shareholders increasingly expect adherence to ESG values.

"Today, ESG is core to business resilience in unprecedented geopolitical and economic times."

At M. Ravi Law, we provide support to start-up, small and medium-sized, as well as larger up-scaled companies to permeate ESG standards into their businesses. We help them pursue the numerous finance and investment opportunities available to companies that act on emissions, are in transition to cleaner outputs, are innovating in climate tech and who promote human rights, restore and save the planet and protect talent and diversity in the workplace and across their out-of-jurisdiction operations and supply chains.

In short, we are eager to work with businesses that aspire to the good old fashioned value of putting people and planet over profits.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

"Human Rights should find a permanent place in the boardroom."

World Economic Forum

Through our dedicated ESG Asia Practice Group which comprises a rich diversity of ESG lawyers from our network, we are able to provide a vast suite of legal services such as the following:

- Advisory on developing your own voluntary ESG priorities for the business
- Regulatory and Compliance for those companies that are required to comply either because of legislative or rule changes or because of industry sector best practices
- Business & Human rights due diligence
- Helping to drive your sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Mitigating climate change and risk as well as transitioning to cleaner sustainable energy and net zero goals
- Advising on impact investing and sustainable finance
- Investigating corporate crimes and human rights breaches
- Guidance on diversity, equality and inclusive workplace standards
- Advisory on corporate governance
- Anti-bribery and corruption
- Labour and/or supply chain issues
- Greenwashing or product governance
- Litigation and dispute resolution of environmental claims
- Whistleblowing

It is challenging to list everything we do concisely. If you have a specific matter of legal concern that you do not see as fitting into the scope of services we have listed above, please do call us on +95 9886855591 or email us on social@mravilaw.org for a no-obligation consultation to discuss whether we can be of assistance to you.

OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - M. RAVI



Founder - Director
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M. Ravi is a well-known international human rights lawyer & ESG Advocate. He is also the founder and adviser to various NGOs and international legal organisations. He has a repertoire as a trainer and public speaker on a variety of legal topics who is regularly invited to speak at events, be a panellist or a moot judge at student-held events.

In his 20 years as a past practising advocate and solicitor in Singapore, M. Ravi was at the forefront of several landmark human rights and constitutional law cases before the Supreme Court. The cases involved the following issues:

- Constitutionality of the Mandatory Death Penalty
- Presidential Pardon and Clemency
- Voting rights / Right to a By-election
- Decriminalisation of Homosexuality Laws
- Religious Freedom
- Contempt of Court
- Freedom of Assembly
- Constitutionality of Corporal Punishment
- Right of Access to Legal Representation

Ravi continues to remain active in non-regulated advisory legal work. He has a successful practice as an international corporate and commercial lawyer. In the last few years, Ravi has been leveraging his strengths to develop his expertise and services in business and human rights, sustainability and ESG. He has championed the topic in the Asia region and started has a dedicated following on his ESG work through the ESG Asia Facebook Page. He is also a founding member of M.A.P.A.N Malaysian Association of Public Advocacy for Nature.

Ravi's cause lawyering efforts have been critically acclaimed in a US publication. His human rights advocacy and challenge to the mandatory death sentence has been featured in a documentary film.

OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - PROFESSOR ANDREW HARDING

Senior Consultant
andrew.harding@mravilaw.org

Andrew Harding is Visiting Research Professor of Law at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is recognised as a leading scholar in comparative constitutional law with special reference to South East Asia, Asian legal traditions, and law and development. At NUS, he has been Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Director of the Asian Law Institute, and Chief Editor of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law.



Professor Harding has made extensive contributions to scholarship having published 22 books as an author or editor. He is co-founding-editor of Hart Publishing's book series 'Constitutional Systems of the World', a major resource for contextual analysis of constitutional systems, and has authored books on Thailand and Malaysia in that series. Just to name a few, his recent books and contributions include:

- Constitutionalism and Legal Change in Myanmar (2017);
- Constitutional Courts in Asia: A Comparative Study (2018);
- Thai Legal History (2021); and
- Constitutionalism and Development: A Mismatch or a Dream Team" in the Law and Development Review (2019)

His 2019 article mentioned above on the sustainable development goals received wide attention. Professor Harding has also been invited to provide expert legal opinions and was recently deposed as an expert witness on Myanmar law in the case of *Jane Doe v Meta Platforms* in the District Court, Oakland, California, 9 June 2022.

Professor Harding's work with M. Ravi Law will span across Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. When not doing any of the above, Professor Harding has taken a keen liking to writing & publishing novels.

OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - KYAW MIN SAN

Kyaw Min San is a senior well-respected member of the legal fraternity in Myanmar. He is the Founder and Director of Justice for All, a law firm with offices in Yangon and Bago which has a purely human rights and constitutional law focus. Most of his work focuses on the Rule of Law and Human Rights in Myanmar. He graduated with an LL.B and LL.M (International Human Rights Laws) from the University of Hong Kong.



Consultant

He was previously the Myanmar legal adviser to the International Commission of Jurists and the British Council for the 'Pyoe Pin Programme'. He was also the former Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network and remains on the current Board as a Board Member and Advisor. As a former politician, Kyaw Min San was also the Minister of Natural Resources, Forest and Environmental Convention of the Bago Regional Government.

Currently, he is a Board Member of the Thabyay Education Foundation.

Kyaw Min San is the author of "Critical Issues for the Rule of Law in Myanmar" and he has written several papers on human rights issues.



OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - SOR RATTANAMANEE POLKLA



Consultant

Our Consultant Sor Rattanamanee Polkla at M. Ravi Law Thailand is part of our growing ESG Asia team and does litigation on an instructed basis before the Thai Courts. She is a leading environmental lawyer in South East Asia working in the business and human rights field since 2001. She is also the executive coordinator of the Community Resource Centre (CRC), an NGO based in Thailand.

She is also the coordinator of the Mekong Legal Network (MLN).

Sor Rattanamanee and her team worked to secure justice for 700 Cambodian families who were forcibly displaced due to a Thai sugar company by a class action lawsuit that 2 representatives of the 700 families filed. In this case, she sought justice for the community to hold the company accountable for their human rights violations. Recently, the courts ruled that the representatives can sue the sugar company and the case should move forward. This lawsuit was the first of its kind in transboundary human rights law under class action lawsuit and the fight continues.

She also filed a case against a Thai state enterprise to stop the Power Purchase Agreement for Xayaburi Hydropower that threatened the people and the environment in the Mekong River. The action was brought in the Thai Administrative court. This case became the first transboundary case where the Supreme Administrative Court granted leave to accept the case for consideration.

Sor travels extensively to participate and speak in global human rights conferences including to the United Nations. She is also the Thai National Representative to the South East Asian Public Interest Lawyers network.

Sor Rattanamanee graduated from the Faculty of Law at Thammasat University, Bangkok.



OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - LATHEEFA KOYA

Our External Consultant Latheefa Koya is a senior Malaysia-based lawyer who is part of our growing ESG Asia team.

Latheefa was called to the Malaysian Bar in 2001 and has been actively involved in numerous public interest and human rights cases and initiatives for several years. She is currently a partner at Messrs Daim & Gamany, a leading public interest law firm in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

She co-founded Lawyers for Liberty in 2011 and is currently one of its Advisors.



Consultant

Lawyers for Liberty is a human rights and law reform initiative that seeks to challenge the many unconstitutional, arbitrary and unreasonable decisions and acts perpetrated by the government, its agencies and other public authorities.

She was previously involved in numerous initiatives including the Bar Council's Legal Aid Centre, Refugees and Migrants Clinic, Immigration Law Reform Committee, Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram), and Gerakan Mansuhkan ISA (Abolish ISA Movement). Latheefa also served as Chief Commissioner of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) from 4th June 2019 until 9th March 2020.

OUR ESG ASIA CORE TEAM - PAKPOOM VETVITAYANUWAT

Pakpoom Vetvitayanuwat is a Corporate & Commercial Consultant working with us in our Thailand office.

Multilingual, Pakpoom is acclaimed for his adaptability to work across both Thailand and Myanmar. With over 12 years' post-qualification experience, Pakpoom has throughout his career worked with multinational clients (listed and unlisted) and advised a wide range of cases from mega power projects to drafting contracts for various cross-border projects and conducting due diligence. He handles the internal legal affairs, investments and the project financing (including green financing) of several companies in a number of industry sectors.



Consultant

In addition to his high-level corporate and commercial work, Pakpoom also advises companies and employees on civil disputes and criminal charges.

Alongside working with us as a consultant in Thailand, Pakpoom heads the Myanmar practice of a reputable regional law firm. Prior to that, he spent 6 years in another regional law firm and as a Legal Officer in the Cooperative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

In 2021, Pakpoom was appointed as an executive committee member of the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM). In 2020, he participated in the World Bank's Project on "Doing Business in Myanmar" and was awarded a certificate for his contributions to it. Since 2014, he has also been invited as a speaker and/or panellist in various webinars and seminars organised by various banks, academic institutions, government departments and investors organisations. Pakpoom has native fluency in Thai, professional working-level fluency in English, basic communication in Myanmar and Lao.



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