

**SPEECH BY MR LAU KOK KENG
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RAJAH & TANN
ANNOUNCEMENT ON RAJAH & TANN'S 28TH SEA GAMES SPONSORSHIP**

Mr Toh Boon Yi, Chief of Corporate and Community Outreach, Singapore SEA Games Organising Committee, Friends from SportSingapore, fellow colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

In February 2008, Singapore was awarded the hosting rights to the 1st Youth Olympic Games ("YOG") which were to take place in 2010. Part of Singapore's YOG bid then included the hosting of the 1st Asian Youth Games ("AYG") in June 2009. This was primarily to allow Singapore to test organisational and logistical capabilities in advance of the YOG. At that time, it had been some 15 years since Singapore last hosted a regional multi-disciplinary sporting event – the 1993 SEA Games.

The Singapore Sports Council (as it was then known), was tasked to co-organise (together with the Ministry of Education) the inaugural Asian Youth Games with barely over a year of lead time. Undaunted by such challenging circumstances, SSC wasted no time in commencing its preparations for the AYG, and one of the steps it took as part of those preparations was to appoint a law firm to advise the Games Organizing Committee on legal issues relating to the hosting of the AYG. In June 2008, Rajah & Tann was appointed as legal advisors to the AYG. My colleagues and I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunities and exposure that we were given in the course of the work we did for the AYG.

6 years on, I am deeply honoured that we will once again be supporting SINGSOC in another major regional multi-disciplinary sporting event. This time, SINGSOC has appointed Rajah & Tann to be the Official Legal Partner of the SEA Games 2015. While the scope of legal services that we will be providing to SINGSOC for the 2015 SEA Games will not be too different from the work that we had done for the AYG in 2009, much has changed since the AYG 6 years ago. SSC has been rebranded as SportSingapore, while Rajah & Tann is no longer just a Singapore law firm. Today, we have 9 offices in the region – 8 of which are in Southeast Asia - namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The 9th office is in China, as represented on the banner behind me by the table tennis racket and ball.

The Rajah & Tann Asia network brings together leading lawyers across Southeast Asia with a common vision of delivering the highest standards of legal services to local and international clients. Well equipped with cultural knowledge and local legal expertise, we offer our clients *Regional Coverage*, and at the same time, *Home Advantage* – an equally apt description for the 2015 SEA Games to be hosted by Singapore.

The synergies and parallels between Rajah & Tann Asia and the SEA Games bear mentioning:

1. Both provide the platform for nurturing the best talents in Southeast Asia – one in the field of law, the other in sports;
2. Both our lawyers and the athletes of the SEA Games seek to achieve the highest standards of performance and excellence, while upholding the principles of fair play and integrity;
3. Like the SEA Games fraternity, our regional network strives to foster a spirit of co-operation and collaboration amongst diverse cultures in Southeast Asia.

I should also mention that we have in this room today, a few members of our Singapore office who are themselves former SEA Games athletes, having represented Singapore in hockey, gymnastics and water polo respectively in past editions of the Games. We also have a colleague from our KL office who had represented Malaysia in swimming. Aside from possessing a winning mentality, they bring values such as discipline, determination and perseverance from their sporting days to our work environment, and help shape our own corporate values and culture in the process.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with SINGSOC over the next 10 months on the various contracts, participation rules and legal issues that typically arise within the context of the hosting of a large-scale and regional sporting event. We are committed to supporting SINGSOC in this cause, and hope that our contribution will play some part in ensuring that Singaporeans and our ASEAN neighbours can look

forward to a successful hosting of the SEA Games in the 50th year of our independence.

It remains for me to thank SINGSOC for the appointment of Rajah & Tann as Official Legal Partner of the SEA Games 2015. We are very excited by the journey ahead of us, and hope that the experience that is gained by our lawyers from working with SINGSOC on the Games will stand us in good stead for future editions of the SEA Games when they are hosted in the other member countries in which Rajah & Tann Asia has a presence.

Thank you.