

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**10 October 2007**

**ALLEN & GLEDHILL LLP AND ZAID IBRAHIM & CO FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TO CREATE PAN-ASEAN LEGAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDER**

Allen & Gledhill LLP, the largest law firm in Singapore, today signed an Alliance Agreement to form a strategic alliance with the largest law firm in Malaysia, Zaid Ibrahim & Co. This alliance creates a premier legal powerhouse for the ASEAN region, able to deliver pan-ASEAN solutions and advice.

“The two firms are top law firms in their respective jurisdictions with vast experience in the region. For our clients who are increasingly seeking consistent and top quality legal advice across the ASEAN region, this is an unprecedented development. With the combined resources, our clients can have access to a single source for integrated pan-ASEAN legal solutions,” said Lucien Wong, Managing Partner of Allen & Gledhill LLP. “We have a wealth of expertise and experience to share with each other,” he added.

With a combined team of over 400 lawyers, the alliance will cement the status and stature of both firms as Malaysia’s and Singapore’s largest regional players. Allen & Gledhill LLP, as one of the largest law firms in Asia, houses widely-recognised legal experts in all its major practice areas, in particular, in banking and finance, corporate and commercial and real estate. Complementing this, Zaid Ibrahim & Co has six offices in Malaysia, as well as offices in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. Zaid Ibrahim & Co is recognised for its clear strengths in projects, regulatory reform, corporate banking and finance areas including Islamic finance. Leaders in their respective jurisdictions, both firms are multiple recipients of the prestigious Singapore Law Firm of the Year and Malaysia Law Firm of the Year awards handed out annually by the *International Financial Law Review*.

“Globalisation is reinforcing the trend for competitive alliances in the legal marketplace to better serve increased cross border trade flow and mergers and acquisitions. We saw the need to fill a void and addressed it early on, opening offices in Singapore in 2003, Jakarta in 2005 and Bangkok in 2007. This Agreement marks the next phase in our regional expansion plans, offering our clients a level of service and regional capability the market has not seen before. We have long enjoyed a good working relationship with Allen & Gledhill LLP, our close proximity and shared common law heritage and perspective mean we understand each other perfectly. In addition, both countries are ideally placed as springboards into the ASEAN region,” said Datuk Zaid Ibrahim, Chairman and Senior Partner, Zaid Ibrahim & Co.

“This tactical alliance provides global expertise with a distinctly Asian insight. We foresee tremendous opportunities for exporting our expertise in governmental and law reform, projects and privatisation, Islamic financing, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions and regulatory reforms in the ASEAN region,” said Chew Seng Kok, Managing Partner of Zaid Ibrahim & Co. “Our local knowledge and competitive rates will also keep us more attuned to our clients’ needs and help us forge stronger ties with the local business communities,” he concluded.

Both firms are home-grown success stories and share similarities in their breadth and depth of resources, legal expertise and experience.

The strategic alliance will officially commence on 1 January 2008 and will initially focus on legal services in relation to corporate, finance (including Islamic finance), corporate real estate and intellectual property. The alliance will also involve the exchange of management expertise, know-how and best practices to further enhance each firm’s capabilities, processes and systems. In addition to concentrating on the home markets, the strategic alliance will prioritise the establishment of a solid presence in ASEAN, in particular Indonesia and Vietnam.

Lucien Wong, Managing Partner and Lim Teong Sit, Partner of Allen & Gledhill LLP will be part of the joint team managing the strategic alliance. Lim Teong Sit is qualified to practise both in Singapore and Malaysia and is recognised as one of Malaysia’s leading capital markets lawyers. Lim Teong Sit joined Allen & Gledhill LLP in 2007 and will be devoting significant time and resources to the strategic alliance.

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#### **About Allen & Gledhill LLP**

- Founded in 1902, Allen & Gledhill LLP ("**Allen & Gledhill**") is the largest law firm in Singapore with 270 lawyers.
- Allen & Gledhill has won the *International Financial Law Review* Singapore Law Firm of the Year award since the inception of the award in 2000, being named Singapore Law Firm of the Year for eight consecutive years, including 2007.
- Allen & Gledhill won the *Asian Legal Business* Singapore Deal Firm of the Year award in 2006 and 2007, and the Singapore Firm of the Year award in 2005. Allen & Gledhill was also named by *Asian Legal Business* as the Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in 2006 and 2007.
- The UK publication *Who’s Who Legal* has named Allen & Gledhill Singapore Law Firm of the Year in 2006 and 2007. *Who’s Who Legal* publishes *The International Who’s Who of Business Lawyers*.
- Allen & Gledhill is consistently ranked as the top tier law firm for corporate/M&A, capital markets, banking and finance by international legal publications, including *The Asia Pacific Legal 500* and *Chambers Global: The World’s Leading Lawyers*.

- In 2000, Allen & Gledhill established a joint law venture with Linklaters LLP, an award-winning global law firm.
- In July 2007, Allen & Gledhill became a limited liability partnership.
- For more information, please visit [www.allenandgledhill.com](http://www.allenandgledhill.com).

#### **About Zaid Ibrahim & Co**

- Zaid Ibrahim & Co has grown to become Malaysia's largest law firm, with over 130 lawyers presently.
- The firm has an extensive national network of offices in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Penang, Kota Bharu, Kuching and Labuan.
- The first Malaysian legal firm with a regional presence, Zaid Ibrahim & Co also has offices in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand and recently opened its Middle East Desk.
- Widely known within the industry for its distinctive edge on the Asian legal perspective, Zaid Ibrahim & Co was also the first Malaysian legal firm to achieve the ISO 9001 certification in 1998.
- Named Malaysia Law Firm of the Year by the *International Financial Law Review* on numerous occasions, the firm is also consistently top-ranked by international legal publications.
- At the *Asian Legal Business* Asia Legal Business South East Asia Deals of the Year Awards 2006, Zaid Ibrahim & Co was awarded Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year. Also in 2006 Zaid Ibrahim & Co won the Deals of The Year Awards at the Islamic Finance News Awards and was ranked Top Legal Firm for Capital Markets by Asia Pacific Legal 500.
- Most recently, in March 2007, Zaid Ibrahim & Co won the Deal of The Year Award 2006 at the *Islamic Finance News Awards*, under the Mudarabah category for the KNM Capital deals.
- For more information, please visit [www.zaidibrahim.com](http://www.zaidibrahim.com).

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Allen & Gledhill LLP (Registration No. LL0700925W) is registered in Singapore under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Chapter 163A) with limited liability, and was converted from a firm (with the name "Allen & Gledhill") to a limited liability partnership on and as from 1 July 2007. A list of the Partners and their professional qualifications may be inspected at the address specified above.