



Investing in ASEAN Series: Philippines

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Recap and Significant Updates

- Foreign Investment Negative List: Imposes investment restrictions on foreign companies, such as railway, telecommunications, transportation (air, land, water), electricity, power, water, logistics
 - House Bill No. 78 – seeks to lift the investment restrictions on public services and utilities by amending the Public Services Act, except for the following industries:
 - (a) Electricity distribution
 - (b) Electricity transmission
 - (c) Water pipeline distribution
 - (d) Sewerage pipeline system
 - Reached third reading early March 2020 before Metro Manila was placed under lockdown on March 16, 2020 due to COVID19; still pending legislation

Recap and Significant Updates

- Implementation of the Revised Corporation Code
 - One person corporations; Forming corporations with 2 incorporators only
 - Remote communication for shareholders meetings
 - Still unclear: less than 5 directors; residency rule
- Emerging Developments of the Philippine Competition Act
 - Increased merger review threshold to Php 6B for size of person and Php 2.4B for size of transaction; exemption of build operate and transfer projects
- Non-passage of Corporate Tax Reform Act
 - Intended to lower the corporate tax rate subject to conditions by 5%
- Passage of the Implementing Rules for REIT Law
 - Currently 1 REIT listed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (AREIT Inc.)

How has COVID19 impacted the country's business environment for Chinese investments from a regulatory and compliance perspective?

- Stoppage of business operations due to community quarantine measures
- WFH or work from home arrangements for public and private sectors
- Skeletal workforce; imposition of flexible or alternative working arrangements; insufficient government monetary assistance
- Prohibition of international travel; invalidation of working visas
- Consistently changing regulations on rapid or PCR tests, quarantine measures, social distancing in workplaces
- Online government filings and approvals (all communications via emails or teleconferences)
- Usage of e-signatures for government and bank documents
- Leniency on notarization requirements
- Courier services in high demand (VAT will be imposed on digital transactions)
- Remote communication for shareholder and board meetings (zoom, teams, webex)

About the Speaker

- Carrie Bee C. Hao是Romulo律师事务所合伙人。她精通英语，普通话，日语和菲律宾塔加拉族语，她擅长于公司重组业务尤其是并购，合资，能源与基础设施，以及知识产权。她曾为众多外国客户提供公司维护，合同审查，劳动问题以及企业日常运营中的合规问题等方面法律服务。



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Thank you very much !