

Luther

PRESS RELEASE

Luther continues to grow its Asia Business – Expansion of Singapore office

Cologne/Stuttgart/Singapore, 8 January 2008 – Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH strengthens its position as one of the leading German law firms in Asia. The expansion of its Singapore office to 20 professionals and support staff will make Luther not only the largest German law firm in South East Asia's financial hub, but also one of the largest foreign law firms in the city state. Luther already opened a new office in Shanghai in December last year. More than 30 German and Asian colleagues based in Singapore, Shanghai and various locations in Germany advise clients on all legal and associated matters which arise for German and international companies operating in the Asia-Pacific region.

The continuing economic growth underlines the importance of the Asian market. Significantly more than 2,000 German companies are based in South East Asia, and more than one third thereof are residing in Singapore. This number annually increases by a double-digit percentage figure. Against this background, strong teams equipped with a profound Asia expertise are of essential importance to international commercial law firms. Luther in Singapore focuses on international contract, company and labor law as well as mergers & acquisitions and joint venture projects.

Luther's South East Asia Team will be strengthened at various locations: Dr. Rene-Alexander Hirth will join Luther as a partner in the Corporate/Commercial division in Stuttgart. From 1994 to 1999, Hirth was head of the Singapore branch of Thümmel Schütze & Partner, a Stuttgart based law firm that was the first German practice to establish an office in Singapore (in 1984). Since his return to Stuttgart, he was the partner responsible for the firm's South East Asia operations. Hirth also acted from 2000

to 2007 as member of Thümmel Schütze's management committee. He focuses on international commercial law in Asia-Pacific, both commercial transactions and litigation/arbitration.

The German lawyer Birgitta von Dresky, Dr. Claus Trenner and Dr. Knut Unger will join Luther as partners latest as of April 2008. Together with Dr. Thomas Hufnagel who came to Luther in August 2007 as partner after eleven years with BASF, they build the core of the firm's enlarged new team in Singapore. Von Dresky, Trenner, Unger and their whole local team join Luther from the Singapore office of Thümmel Schütze. With 20 employees and two offices in the city (one located in the heart of the business district and one at the German Centre in Jurong), Luther is very well positioned in one of the leading financial centers worldwide.

"German businesses have focused on China and India for the last number of years. South East Asia, however, still booms and its core countries offer an investor friendly and stable legal environment which is valued again today. With our new team members at Luther, who together have more than 40 years of "hands on" experience in Asia, our strong offices in Singapore and Shanghai, the PMLG partner offices also in Hong Kong and Beijing, and our established working relations with all other economic centers in Asia, Luther has established the perfect basis for legal advice in sophisticated regional projects", Hirth says.

"With our new colleagues, we gain profound know-how and many decades of experience which makes us the undisputed market leader amongst German law firms in Singapore and the region", comments Dr. Stefan Kraus, Managing Partner of Luther. "Dr. Hirth will continue to contribute his long-standing Asia expertise to well-known German subsidiaries in Singapore and will be responsible for the further expansion of our South East Asia practice", adds Thomas Weidlich, responsible partner for Luther's Asia Pacific activities.

Short profile of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

With 260 lawyers, Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH ranks as one of the leading law firms in Germany and advises in all areas of business law. Luther's clients are domestic and international medium-sized and large companies as well as the public sector. Luther has 13 offices in Germany, is represented in Ankara, Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, Shanghai and Singapore, and a member of the Pinsent Masons Luther Group (PMLG), an international group of law firms. The firm provides integrated legal, tax and transaction advice through close cooperation with consultants from other disciplines.

Please refer to www.luther-lawfirm.com for further information.

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