

The "New" Frontiers: Cambodia, Laos & Myanmar
CanCham - Vietnam
20 March 2013, Hanoi
22 March 2013, HCMC

## **Presentation Outline**



1 Introduction to DFDL

2 Key Issues in SEA

3 Key Investment Issues

4 Planning your Investment

5 Conclusive Remarks

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# What makes us unique?



# "Pioneers in Frontier Markets"







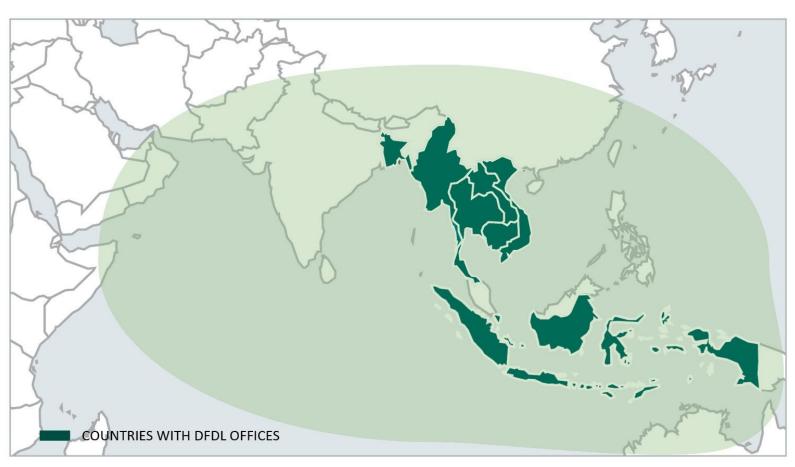
In 1994, a foundation with a unique vision:

- To build an integrated international standard law and tax firm,
- With in-depth knowledge of the Mekong Region (now Southeast Asia),
- While providing specialized and personalized advisory services to the international business community.

Our Strategy: Not "Go Where our Clients Go", <u>BUT</u> "Go BEFORE you Go".

# DFDL reach: from the Middle East to Southeast Asia





BANGLADESH | CAMBODIA | INDONESIA\* | LAO PDR | MYANMAR | SINGAPORE | THAILAND | VIETNAM

<sup>\*</sup> In exclusive association with Mataram Partners

## Facts & Figures



### **DFDL PEOPLE**

- 250 staff
- 120 + advisers
- 10 regional partners
- 5 country partners

### INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

- Established in 1994 in the Mekong region
- 8 countries:
- Bangladesh
- · Cambodia,
- Indonesia\*
- Myanmar
- Laos
- Singapore
- Thailand and
- Vietnam
- 11 offices:
- Dhaka, Phnom Penh,
- Jakarta\*, Yangon, Vientiane,
- Bangkok, Koh Samui, Phuket
- Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City,
- Singapore

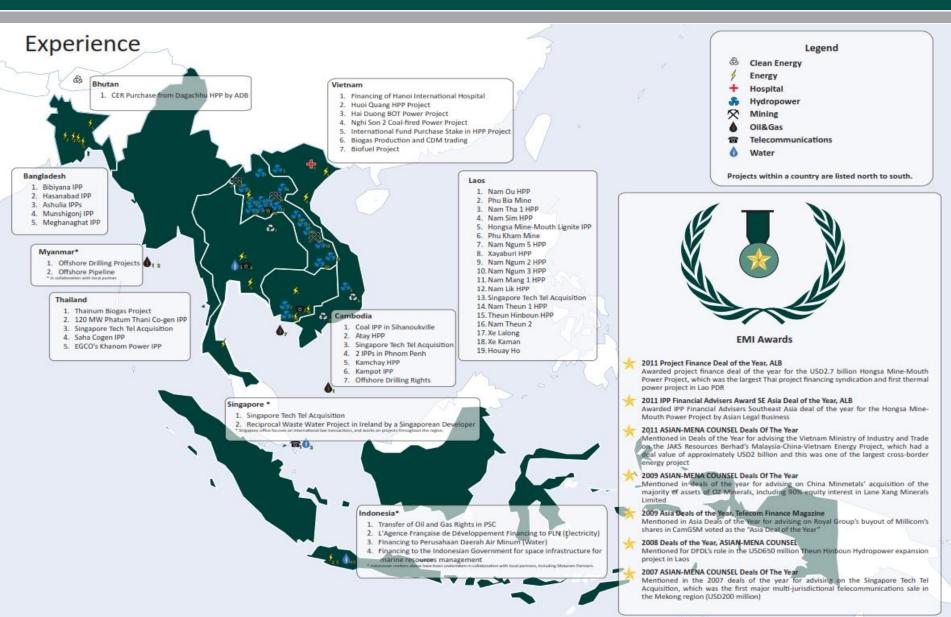
### **CAPABILITIES**

- Full-service Legal & Tax services firm
- Extensive experience of local business cultures
- Advisers with international experience
- Core expertises:
- Banking & Finance
- Energy, Mining & Infrastructure
- Real Estate
- M&A
- Corporate & Commercial
- Tax & Customs
- Senior local and international laws capacities

<sup>\*</sup> In exclusive association with Mataram Partners

## Regional experience





## An award winning practice





### 2013 Myanmar Law Firm of the Year (IFLR, 2013)

### 2013 Asia Mena Counsel

Awarded Project Finance Deal of the Year (Xayaburi Hydro Power Project)

### **2013 IFLR**

Awarded National Firm of the Year for Myanmar

### 2013 The Legal 500

Ranked Tier 1 for Tax in Vietnam

### 2012 Chambers & Partners

Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Myanmar Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Cambodia Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Lao

### 2012 The Legal 500

Ranked Tier 1 for Tax in Vietnam

### 2011 Leading PE & VC law firm

Awarded leading Private Equity and Venture Capital law firm in a survey by Asian Legal Business

### 2011 Project Finance Deal of the Year, ALB

Awarded project finance deal of the year for the USD 2.7B Hongsa Mine-Mouth Power Project, which was the largest Thai project financing syndication and first thermal power project in Lao PDR

#### 2011 IPP Financial Advisers Award SE Asia Deal of the Year. ALB

Awarded IPP Financial Advisers South East Asia deal of the year for the Hongsa Mine-Mouth Power Project by Asian Legal Business

### 2011 Corporate Tax Law firm of the Year, Vietnam, Lawyer Monthly

Awarded Corporate Tax Law firm of the Year in Vietnam

### 2011 ASIAN-MENA Counsel Deals of the Year

Mentioned in Deals of the Year for advising the Vietnam Ministry of Industry and Trade on the JAKS Resources Berhad's Malaysia-China-Vietnam energy Project (value USD 2B)

### 2011 Tax Law firm of the Year, Vietnam, Finance Monthly

Awarded Tax Law firm of the Year in Vietnam

### 2011 Hottest Hundred Lawyers of 2011

David Doran mentioned as one of the hottest hundred lawyers of 2011 by Asian Legal Business

### 2011 Chambers & Partners

Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Myanmar Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Cambodia Ranked Tier 1 for General Business Law in Lao

### 2011 The Legal 500

Ranked Tier 1 for Tax in Vietnam

### 2010 Asian Legal Business Hot 100, The Strategists

DFDL in the Asian Legal Business Hot 100 with the caption "An ASEAN heavyweight in the making?"

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# Legal Rankings





### CHAMBERS ASIA 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010

Tier 1 for General Business Law in Myanmar Tier 1 for General Business Law in Cambodia Tier 1 for General Business Law in Lao



### **IFLR 2013**

Tier 1 for Financial & Corporate in Myanmar



The Legal 500 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010

Tier 1 for Tax in Vietnam

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# 2012 Key Statistics / International Monetary Fund



		POP12 (Mil)	GDP USD Per cap (2012)	GDP USD PPP (2012)	GDP Growth 2011	GDP Growth 2012	GDP Growth 2013
	Cambodia	15.3	934	2,399	7.1	6.5	6.7
	Indonesia	241	3,660	4,958	6.5	6.0	6.3
•	Laos	6.4	1,454	3,005	8.0	8.3	8.1
*	Myanmar	63.7	849	1,401	5.5	6.2	6.3
	Thailand	64	5,848	10,023	0.05	5.6	5.9
	Vietnam	89	1,523	3,545	5.9	5.1	5.9

Source: http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/02/weodata/download.aspx

# Political Structure/ Legal System



	SYSTEM	GOVT	POLITICS	LAW
Cambodia	MARKET: Small state	Dem PM & Pres	Multi party Monarchy	<ul><li>Civil</li><li>Common Law</li><li>Influence</li></ul>
Indonesia	MARKET: Large state	Dem; PM	Multi party	<ul><li>Civil (Dutch-Roman)</li><li>Islamic</li><li>Customary</li></ul>
Lao	PLAN: Large state	Soc: PM	1 party	Socialist/Civil
Myanmar	PLAN: Large state	Dem (2010) Pres; Fed	Multi party	Common Law
Thailand	MARKET: Large state	Dem	Multi party (Monarchy)	– Civil
Vietnam	PLAN : Large state	Soc	1 party	- Socialist/Civil

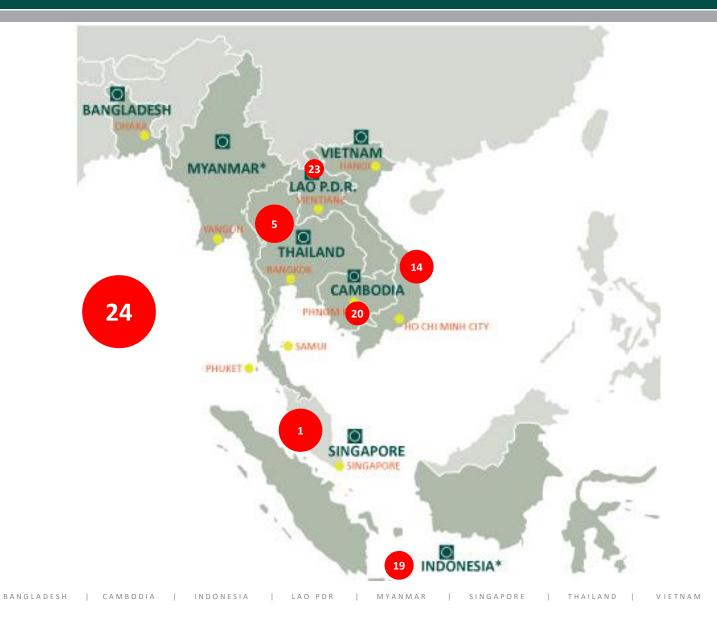


ISSUE #1

# **Ease of Doing Business**

# Ease of Doing Business (Regional)





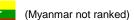
# 2012-2013 Ease of Doing Business - Global



Jurisdiction	Regional Starting a Business (24)	Global Starting a Business (185)	2013 Regional Ease of Doing Business (24)	2013 Global Ease of Doing Business (185)	2012 Global Ease of Doing Business (183)	Change in Rank
Japan	n/a	114	n/a	24	20	<b>↓</b> -4
Singapore	1	4	1	1	1	= 0
Thailand	11	85	5	18	17	<b>↓</b> -1
Vietnam	14	108	14	99	98	<b>↓</b> -1
Indonesia	23	166	19	128	129	<b>1</b>
Cambodia	24	175	20	133	138	<b>↑</b> 5
Lao PDR	10	81	23	163	165	<b>↑</b> 2







Source: http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings



ISSUE # 2

# **Economic & Investment Freedom**

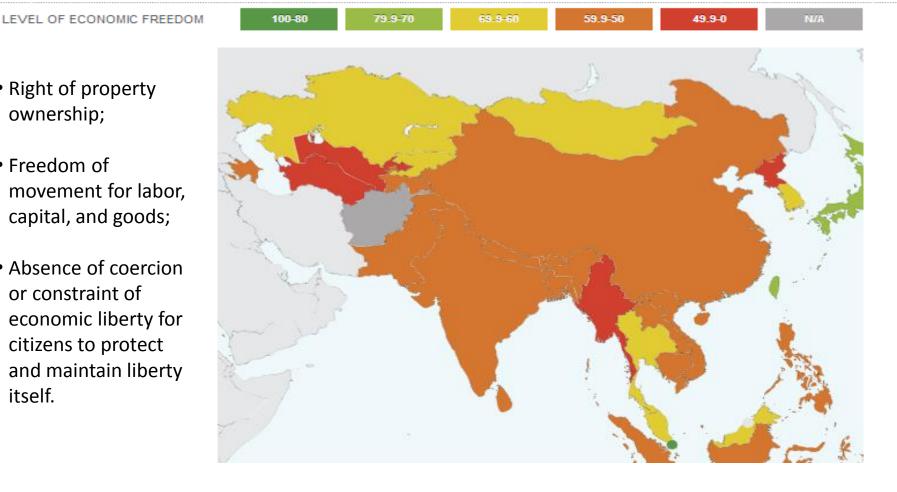
## Economic Freedom 2012: Overall



Right of property

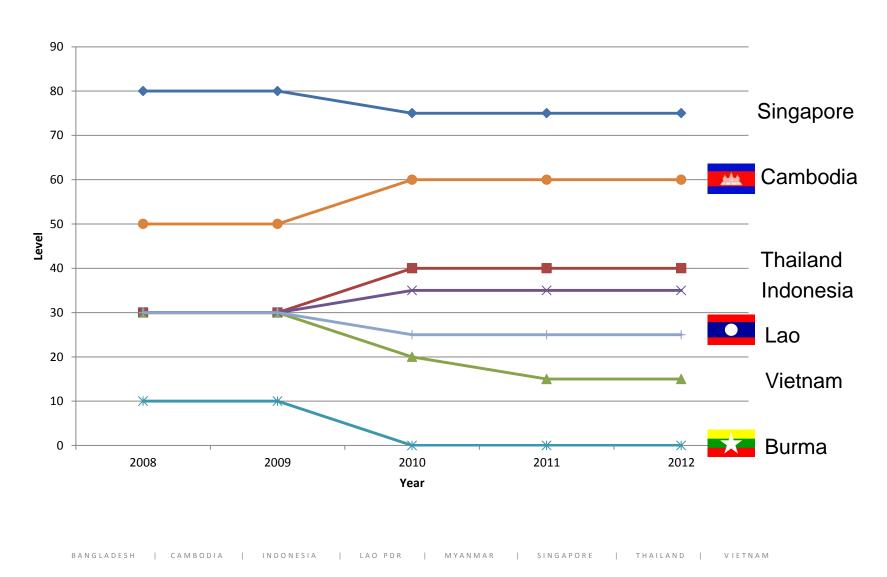
ownership;

- Freedom of movement for labor, capital, and goods;
- Absence of coercion or constraint of economic liberty for citizens to protect and maintain liberty itself.



## Investment Freedom 2008-2012: Overview





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ISSUE #1

# **Investment Framework**

## **Investment Framework**





### **CAMBODIA**

- Accession to WTO in 2005-2006 = 50 New Laws & Regulations
- Process is Permissive
- Benefits: Tax incentives and Guarantees
- Few restrictions (National Security / Land)
- Process: Reasonably fast
- One Stop Shop: But reality not (3-4 stops)
- Foreign and Domestic under same law

## **Investment Framework**





### **LAO**

- Lao PDR applied to WTO for membership in 1997. Finally received admitted as a member in <u>February 2013</u>.
- For goods, Laos is committing "bound" tariffs (effectively maximum rates) that average 18.8% for all products 19.3% on average for agricultural products, and 18.7% for the rest.
- In services, Laos has made market access commitments in 10 sectors, covering 79 sub-sectors. Note that in some instances, Lao is already more liberal that the commitments covered. Also, note that in certain sectors, Laos has been granted concessions on the basis of it being a LDC. E.g., Laos is unrestricted on the protections it can apply to the retail sector for 7 years.

## Investment Framework





- Process mandatory for Concessionary companies
- Not mandatory for Non-concessionary companies (new change)
- Benefit: Tax incentives and Guarantees
- Some restrictions (Local Equity Sectors/ Land/ National Security)
- Process: Slow
- Need for separate licenses
- Foreign and Domestic under same law

## Investment framework





- Myanmar's New Foreign Investment Law (FIL) was passed on November 2,
   2012. It replaces the MFIL of 1988.
- Background: Optional except in the case of a) major infrastructure deals 2) manufacturing and 3) State Owned Enterprise Law of 1989 (SOE Law). Where the FIL is optional, investors use the FIL is to get some benefits, like the tax holiday.
- **Key activities eligible for an MIC Permit** As with the 1988 Foreign Investment Law, the MFI Law identifies certain key activities which may secure from the MIC an investment permit. These include a <u>number of new activities</u>, including as relate to "import substitution" and the "development of a modern industry".

## Investment framework





## **Foreign Investment Rules**

- 100% foreign ownership allowed unless provides otherwise.
- Some restricted sectors limited to 80% Rules Still Unclear
  - Food industry, brewery, large scale mineral production, construction, tourism, etc.
- Very few sectors off limits
- Some special limitations
- Transfer of Shares Allowed
- Minimum investment

## Investment framework





### FIL - Additional Basic Provisions

- Real Estate Leasing, 1987 Law:
  - Old law 35+ 15+ 15 by notification
  - New law depending on the type of enterprise and investment amount the MIC would allow investors to enter into a lease up to 50 years + 10 + 10 (negotiable under special circumstances) Government lessor: Land and building; private party lessor: land only.
- Tax holiday raised to five years. Accelerated depreciation and customs exemptions are the same as the old law with added incentives



ISSUE # 2

# **Business Forms**

# **Chart of Main Company Forms**









Company Forms	Cambodia	Laos	Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam	Indonesia
LLC (1)	Yes	Yes "Sole"	No	No	Yes	No
LLC (2 +)	Yes 2 to 30	Yes, up to 30	2- 50 SH Foreign, Myanmar, Special	Yes 3 up	Yes – 2 to 50	Yes
Branch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rep Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



ISSUE #3 Tax

## Tax: Overview



Juri	sdiction	CIT rate	VAT/Sales Tax	WHT Dividends	WHT Interest	WHT Services	WHT Royalties	Capital Gains Tax
Thail	land	30%	7%	10%/0%	15%	15%	15%	15% to non- residents
Vietr	nam	25%	10%	0%	10%	5%	10%	25%
Indo	nesia	25%	10%	20%	20%	20%	20%	5% of transaction value
Cam	bodia	20%	10%	14%	14%	14%	14%	New tax on shares transfer
Lao I	PDR	24%	10%	10%	10%	7%	5%	110%
Mya	nmar	25% (35% Branch)	5% (5-30)	0%	15%	3.5%	20%	10-40%







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# Planning steps in a Myanmar context



Step 1	Evaluation of your potential local partner
Step 2	Consider other options
Step 3	Permissible control structures
Step 4	Control over land assets and licenses
Step 5	Can I know enough about my potential partners business to buy into it? Is it possible to conduct a DD on your local partner?
Step 6	Equity financing and dilution
Step 7	Debt financing
Step 8	MIC Application and/ or Permit to Trade

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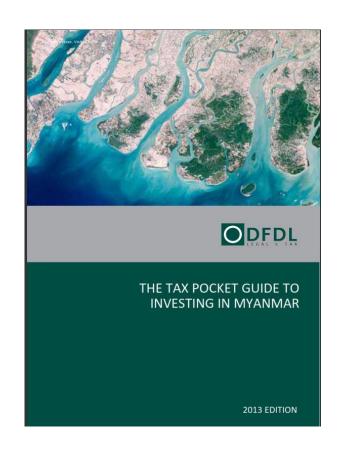
# **Conclusive Remarks**

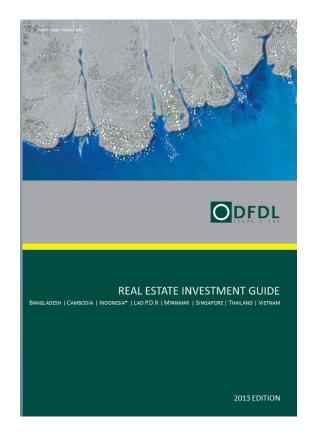


Country	Attractive Sectors	Success stories
Cambodia	Manufacturing, Tourism, Power, Mining, Telecommunication, Financial Sector	ANZ, SCA/ Vinci, Tiger Beer, Vietel, Ciputra, ACLEDA, Siam Cement, etc.
Lao PDR	Power, Mining, Manufacturing, Financial Sector	Phu Bia Mine, Sepon Mine, Nam Theun 2 Hydro Dam, Hong Sa Coal Mine & Power Plant, ANZ, etc.
Myanmar	Infrastructure, Power, Mining, Oil & Gas, Tourism, Real Estate	Chevron, Total & many more to come

# DFDL's latest publications











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