

Registration

Please register by sending a copy of the completed form to the Chamber

until Monday, December 3rd 2007, 17.00h by fax 044-421 38 89

or to the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Höschgasse 89, 8008 Zurich.

Participation is free of charge

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Company.....

Participant's name.....

Guest's name(s).....

Full Address.....

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Phone..... E-mail.....

Date..... Signature.....

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Invitation

Recent Changes for Foreign Investors and Companies Doing Business in China

with experts

Stefan Schmid

Partner, International Tax Structuring, PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd.

Dr. Alessandro L. Celli

Partner, Froriep Renggli Attorneys-at-Law

Dr. Paul Thaler

Managing Partner, Wenfei Attorneys-at-Law Ltd.

Wednesday, December 5th 2007

16:30 – 19:30

Park Hyatt Zurich

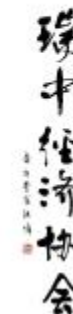
Beethoven-Strasse 21, 8002 Zurich

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About the Seminar

China has fulfilled almost all its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) since joining it more than five years ago, and with the announcement of some major changes in the foreign investment policy, we may be at a turning point in how China views foreign investment. Looking at the new circumstances, the agenda for the foreign investors should therefore be to carefully re-assess the corporate governance policy and to strengthen the compliance control tools rather than having to deal with the consequences later.

In March 2007 the National People's Congress adopted the enterprise income tax law which will take effect January 1st 2008. Under the new system, both foreign and Chinese companies will be taxed at a unified rate of 25 percent, in order to ensure that domestic and foreign invested enterprises (FIEs) compete on an equal footing. Although the impact of the tax reform will vary depending on the type of industry and its location, it will definitely affect the privileged status and competitive advantages long enjoyed by foreign companies in China. Apart from the increased income tax, foreign companies will also be wiped from some other tax incentives, including pre-tax reduction and tax rebate for re-investment.

Another major change was announced in June 2007: the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the long-awaited law of the People's Republic of China on Labor Contracts (Law). The law will enter into effect also on January 1st 2008. The new law may also have significant financial implications. Given the introduction of e.g. substantial penalties in case of various violations, employers in China will face pressure to comply with the law's 98 Articles. Compared to the previously often relaxed approach by many – in particular local – companies, full compliance may lead to increased overheads and ultimately to an increase of prices for products originating from China.

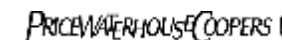
Finally, the new PRC Property Law has become effective on 1st October 2007 and brought many long awaited new provisions that are also relevant for foreign investors. Especially the relation between the new Property Law and the also not very old Security Law should be noted. Furthermore, the concept of possession in addition to the formal ownership is now finally introduced in China. This means, that a person who possesses a property based on a contract (i.e. leasee) and not so much based on its ownership has now a legal basis to directly protect its legal possession against third parties.

(For Speaker's CV see enclosure)

Program

- 16:30 Registration
- 17:00 Welcome address by
Susan Horváth
Managing Director, Member of the Executive Board
Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- 17:10 **“China's New Corporate Income Tax Law and its Implications for Foreign Investors”**
Stefan Schmid
Partner, International Tax Structuring, PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd., Zurich
- 17:30 **“The New Labor Contract Law – Changes and Recommendations”**
Dr. Alessandro L. Celli
Partner, Froriep Renggli Attorneys-at-Law, Zurich
- 17:50 **“The New PRC Property Law - Relevance for Foreign Investors”**
Dr. Paul Thaler
Managing Partner, Wenfei Attorneys-at-Law Ltd., Zurich, Beijing
- 18:10 Questions & Answers
- 18:30 Networking-Cocktail
- 19:30 Closing of Seminar

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Speakers

Stefan Schmid, Partner, International Tax Structuring, joined PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1994. He is heading the tax chapter of PwC Switzerland's China business group and is leading the Swiss expert group for intellectual property rights (IPR). In 1995/1996, he was on assignment in New York and in 2006 in Shanghai. He has gained significant experience in providing tax advice to foreign and domestic multinational groups. This includes the implementation of tax efficient business models, structuring of groups from a legal ownership perspective, implementation of profit repatriation techniques, assistance in claiming tax incentives and other benefits offered by the economic development programmes and the implementation of SEC compliant tax reporting processes.

Stefan has a particular focus on Asian tax structures and the implementation of tax efficient IPR structures. He holds a master in Business Administration of the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). In 1998 he has passed the Swiss certified tax expert exam.

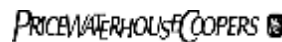
Dr. Alessandro L. Celli joined Froriep Renggli, Attorneys-at-Law, in 1991 and has been a partner in the Zurich office since 1998. He is Head of the firm's Competition Group and Co-Head of the IP & Technology Group. Prior to this, he has worked for the London office (1992-1994).

Alessandro is experienced in all aspects of IP and technology related national and international transactions such as Joint Ventures, license agreements, patent pooling, research collaborations, distribution, sale and purchase of technology businesses, IT procurement and outsourcing, and marks/brands exploitation. He also advises on business restructuring and is a member of the board of various Swiss operative companies. Sports law and entertainment law, be it media or sponsoring, are further areas in his practice, which covers both contentious and non-contentious matters, and he has published extensively in his fields.

Dr. Paul Thaler is Managing Partner of Wenfei Attorneys-at-Law Ltd, based in Zurich and Beijing, with further offices in Taipei and Shanghai. He has worked for the District Court in Buelach and has gained experience working in and with local law firms. Since 1999, he has worked as Attorney and subsequently as Partner of the China Department of a Zurich law firm. Since 2007, Paul is managing Wenfei Law, a law firm with around 20 Western and Chinese lawyers focusing on China expertise for European investors.

Paul holds a PhD from the University of Zurich and was a research scholar at the University of Beijing. He is fluent in German, Mandarin, English and French.

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Seminar followed by Book Première / Signing



Consul General Hans J. Roth
will sign his new book during the cocktail (18.30-19.30h)

Hans J. Roth is among the few experienced China hands who had already started their contact with the People's Republic of China in the 1970s. His extensive work on political, economic, legal and cultural issues gives him an excellent overview over the last 30 years of Chinese development.

Numerous professional contacts with foreign and Chinese companies during his posting in Shanghai as Swiss Consul-General from 2001 to 2006 and his current assignment in the same position in Hong Kong have given him a deep insight into management issues of companies operating in China.

His long China experience led him to the development of an intercultural model, allowing to grasp behavioural differences as well as other thought patterns in a very convincing way. Operational issues being in general quite well known, this book goes one step further and provides a manager with a model to better streamline the strategic issues of management in a Chinese social environment.

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Edition is published by Hans J. Roth Publishing in association with China Economic Review Publishing, Units C&D, 9/F Neich Tower, 128 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

ISBN-10: 978-988-99874-3-5

The book will be available during the signing hour and before/after the event at:
Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Höschgasse 89, CH-8008 Zurich

CHF 30.- (excl. postage/handling)
10% rebate on orders of 10 or more issues.

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