

Press Release

For further details please contact:

Tetsuya Asada
Director, Business Development, Marketing &
Communications
Phone +81 3 6271 9404
tetsuya.asada@bakermckenzie.com

Baker & McKenzie Launches "Japan Automotive Industry Focus Group" to Assist the Domestic Automotive Industry with Legal and Tax Matters

The group comprises lawyers, tax lawyers and other professionals well-versed to address all of the issues faced by Japan's automotive industry

Tokyo, Japan, February 25, 2016 — On March 1, 2016, Baker & McKenzie (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise) will launch a "Japan Automotive Industry Focus Group" to offer a comprehensive range of legal services to address increasing international issues faced by Japanese automotive companies.

As one of the results of the shrinking domestic market, the automotive industry, and particularly an increasing number of auto component manufacturers, has recently seen a rise in international sales which has amounted to over 50% of total sales. This is seen as an issue for some Japanese companies, as reflecting these profits back to the headquarter company has been a challenge.

Having said that however, with the inauguration of the ASEAN Economic Community and the conclusion of major free trade agreements (such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership), there is a growing need to consolidate overseas companies, establish regional headquarters and restructure supply chains. Under these circumstances, now is the right time to reorganize existing overseas offices and to consider proper tax planning options. This will assist Japanese companies to better compete with European and U.S. counterparts, which currently enjoy lower effective tax rates. Moreover, 2016 has been named "the first year of autonomous cars", thus introducing new legal risks such as cross-border collection and management of big data. This is in addition to ongoing problems such as international cartels, compliance violations and transfer pricing issues.

The Firm's new group is headed by Yaeko Hodaka, Partner of the Tokyo office's Corporate / M&A group and assisted by key members Daisuke Tatsuno (ITC), Toshio Ibaraki (Compliance), Junya Ae (Antitrust), Ryutaro Oka (Tax) and Koji Oshima (Transfer Pricing). The Japan Automotive Industry Focus Group will work closely with other Baker & McKenzie offices around the world to provide solutions to a full spectrum of needs that Japan's automotive industry may face. The team will leverage upon the Firm's strong global network and demonstrated success with various automotive companies around the world. Specifically, the group can provide services related to M&A; foreign investment restrictions; business alliances; setting up regional headquarters; advice on the collection, use and retention of big data; compliance measures; competition law issues; tax planning; and advice on transfer pricing. They will aim to address all legal and tax matters related to the expanding business of Japanese automotive companies, both in the international and domestic markets.

- Ends -

■ Representative Lawyer



Yaeko Hodaka
Partner, Corporate M&A
03 6271 9461
yaeko.hodaka@bakermckenzie.com

Yaeko Hodaka is a member of the Corporate / M&A group in the Firm's Tokyo office and has significant legal experience in the areas of litigation, dispute resolution and general corporate law, including acquisitions and corporate restructuring and reorganizations. In the area of cross-border transactions, she advises international companies with offices in the ASEAN region on supervising overseas subsidiaries, restructuring regional affiliates, M&A transactions, formation of joint ventures and disputes.

■ About Baker & McKenzie

Founded in 1949, Baker & McKenzie advises many of the world's most dynamic and successful business organizations through more than 12,000 people in 77 offices in 47 countries. The Firm is known for its global perspective, deep understanding of the local language and culture of business, uncompromising commitment to excellence, and world-class fluency in its client service. Global revenues for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2015, were US\$2.43 billion. Eduardo Leite is Chairman of the Executive Committee. (www.bakermckenzie.com)

Baker & McKenzie (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise), a fully integrated law firm, is one of the leading law firms in Japan, and offers a full range of cross-border and Japanese legal services. As a member firm of Baker & McKenzie, the world's leading international law firm, we are able to draw upon a network to provide high quality solution-oriented legal services through timely delivery. (www.bakermckenzie.co.jp)

Follow us on   

Baker & McKenzie (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise) is a member of Baker & McKenzie International, a Swiss Verein with member law firms around the world. In accordance with the common terminology used in professional service organizations, reference to a "partner" means a person who is a partner, or equivalent, in such a law firm. Similarly, reference to an "office" means an office of any such law firm.