



PRESS RELEASE

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STEPHENSON HARWOOD & LO ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW MANAGING PARTNER AND RETIREMENT OF JOHN GALE

Stephenson Harwood & Lo (SHL) announces John Gale will be standing down as Managing Partner of Stephenson Harwood's Greater China offices having decided to retire from partnership next year. SHL will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in Hong Kong later this year. John, who has spent 26 years in SHL, will retire soon after the celebration.

Voon Keat Lai will be taking over as Managing Partner across the region from 1st August 2009. Voon joined the firm in 1991. He was appointed partner of the Hong Kong office in 2001 and worldwide partner in 2006. Voon has a corporate and commercial practice with a strong emphasis on international corporate finance, commercial contracts and technology. He heads up the firm's Business Technology practice in Asia and, in 2005, founded the international corporate finance practice which focuses on taking Asian businesses to list internationally. Voon also has an MBA from Ashridge Business School.

John Gale, in his seven years as Managing Partner, has played a pivotal role in reinforcing SHL's standing as a leading law firm in the region. His reputation for exceptional quality, professionalism and integrity has led the firm through the SARS crisis as well as a period of economic turmoil in the region.

Announcing the retirement of John, Andrew Sutch, the Senior Partner of Stephenson Harwood worldwide commented: "As a result of John's leadership of the Greater China offices and the hard work of our lawyers across the region, our offices in Asia are now significant contributors to our worldwide revenue. The strength of our offices in Asia sets us apart from our peers. I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for John's extraordinary dedication, commitment and achievements in this role over the last several years. We wish both John and Voon well with their new challenges."

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Note to editors:

ABOUT STEPHENSON HARWOOD & LO (SHL)

Stephenson Harwood & Lo is a leading international law firm established in Hong Kong in 1979, and is part of the international network of Stephenson Harwood, which has offices in London, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Singapore, Paris and Piraeus, and associated offices in Athens, Bucharest and Kuwait.

With over 120 staff, including 40 lawyers, most of whom have many years of experience in the Asia Pacific region, Stephenson Harwood & Lo has an excellent track record in a broad range of practice areas. The firm's particular strengths are in the areas of corporate, China FDI, dispute resolution, finance and financial services, intellectual property, real estate and transportation law.

For further information please visit www.shl.com.hk and www.shlegal.com .