

▶ EDITOR'S LETTER



Yap Wai Ming

Partner
Morgan Lewis Stamford



Jorge Godinho

Visiting Professor
University of Macau

Silver lining to China's crackdown may be better player behavior

Dear Readers

We are pleased to introduce Professor Jorge Godinho as co-editor of the Asian Gaming Lawyer. Jorge is no stranger to the gaming scene and his expertise in this area will augur well for this publication.

For this issue, we are discussing recent developments in Vietnam and regulatory updates in Macau, culture clashes in international alliances and proxy betting. As the legislative landscape is changing, we are also seeing interesting proposals for the introduction of internet gambling in Singapore. Singapore adopts a very strict gaming regulation and internet gambling was banned two years ago. However, it was recently reported that two government owned operators of the country's only sports betting shop and the horse racing association are likely to be granted exemptions under the Remote Gambling Act to be allowed to operate internet gaming.

I should caution other internet gaming operators about getting too excited about this development in Singapore as the exemption is only applicable to Singapore owned non-profit organisations only. So this practically shuts the doors to all other commercially operated internet gaming operators.

As internet gaming is largely unregulated in Asia, most countries rely on pretty archaic legislations that were founded at a time when the internet did not exist. Anti-gambling laws that were enacted based on physical gambling sites are ill-suited to police the internet gambling space. Singapore adopts a combination of measures to ban internet gambling which are also adopted from the US Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. This includes criminalising payment systems and choking off the lifeline of internet gaming. It will be interesting to see if other Asian countries will be following the Singapore lead on this ban.

