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Technology, Media and Telecommunications

# Prakas on the Implementation of Charter for Professional Journalism

## Introduction

On 6 August 2024, the Ministry of Information ("**MOINF**") issued Prakas No. 085 Br.K.P.M on the Implementation of Charter for Professional Journalism ("**Prakas**"), which came into force on the same date.

The Charter for Professional Journalism attached to the Prakas ("**Charter**") consists of four chapters and 27 paragraphs. This Charter covers all individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In this Update, we highlight the key features of the Charter.

## I. Purpose and Scope

The establishment of this Charter aims to continue to ensure a conducive environment for the implementation of the code of ethics of professional journalism, including confidence, efficiency, quality and professional responsibility. This is part of the promotion of press freedom and the protection of journalists' safety.

This Charter shall constitute a minimum standard of ethics and professional conduct that applies to all professional journalists in all disciplines, such as professional journalists, photojournalists, online journalists, freelance journalists, radio and television journalists, publishers, press units, journalist associations, and any person carrying out other professions and professional activities in traditional media or new media.

The Charter further serves as a set of non-binding guidelines on legal accountability and social responsibility for all non-professionals involving in journalistic activities including all types of content creators, bloggers, citizen journalists, those involved in 'make-money-online' activities (MMO) and 'Key Opinion Leaders'.

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Technology, Media and Telecommunications

## II. Fundamental Governing Principles for Journalism Profession and Information Dissemination

The Charter incorporates certain key fundamental principles governing the journalism profession and information dissemination, which are summarised as follows:

- 1. Freedom comes with responsibilities:** Freedom of press and freedom of publication is subject to adherence with Cambodia's laws, ethics, and regulations.
- 2. Minimum criteria to become professional journalist:** Journalists in Cambodia must be at least 18 years of age, have a secondary school diploma or equivalent, completed professional journalism training, and be registered with MOINF.
- 3. Accuracy of news:** Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector must publish and/or disseminate accurate and unbiased news, protect their sources, and correct errors. Fake news, disinformation, mal-information and misinformation are prohibited.
- 4. Social accountability:** Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector must prioritise news benefiting society and avoid content that is harmful to peace, security, public order, religious harmony, good culture, and the rights of other people.
- 5. Independence and neutrality:** Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector must remain independent and neutral, and avoid conflicts of interest and biased reporting.
- 6. Compliance with law:** Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector must abide by and comply with Cambodian and international laws, including this Charter. Bribery, extortion, and infringement of intellectual property rights are prohibited.
- 7. Participation in promoting professional dignity:** Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sector must uphold professional values to gain public trust and avoid actions that degrade the profession.

## III. Responsibility

Individuals carrying out activities in the news and audiovisual sectors must adhere to obligations with regard to social responsibility, professional responsibility, and legal responsibility.

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Technology, Media and Telecommunications

**1. Social responsibility**

The right to journalistic activity comes with accountability and social responsibilities. In disseminating information, individuals shall respect the privacy and integrity of other individuals and shall not violate any person's right or professional value.

**2. Professional responsibility**

Individuals committing professional misconduct shall be liable in accordance with the Law on the Regime of the Press.

**3. Civil and criminal responsibility**

In any case, applicable laws in force in the Kingdom of Cambodia must be complied with. Any wrongdoing shall be subject to the applicable laws in force whether of civil or criminal in nature. Freedom of press does not grant immunity or protection from accountability or legal responsibility when it comes to illegal actions.

If you have any queries on the above, please feel free to contact our team members below who will be happy to assist.

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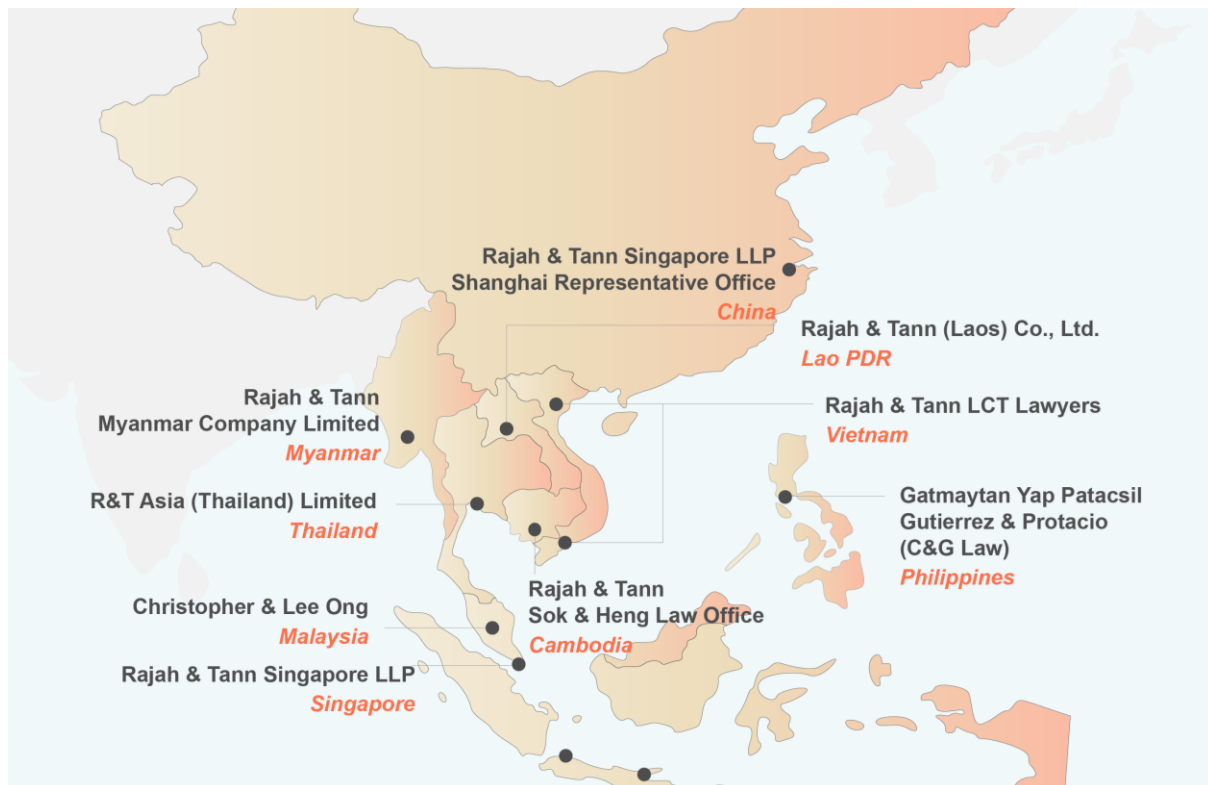
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