KELVIN CHIA YANGON

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Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd. (KCY) has been in active operation in Myanmar since 1995, currently with offices in Yangon and Mandalay. KCY is the firm of choice for those seeking to navigate, where we have gained extensive experiences and expertise across all the fast-changing legal and regulatory landscape in Myanmar areas of commercial practice.

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DICA RELAXES REQUIREMENTS FOR STAY PERMIT AND LABOR CARD EXTENSIONS FOR MIC-PERMITTED COMPANIES

Starting from July 18, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration ("DICA") has reduced the requirements for the issuance of Stay Permits and Labor Card extensions for foreigners employed by companies operating under an investment permit from the Myanmar Investment Commission ("MIC"). The notification also lengthens the term of Stay Permits and Labor Cards to one year.

DICA issued an announcement on their Facebook page on 21 July 2016 that foreign experts employed by MIC-Permitted companies can now apply for Stay Permits and Labor Cards with only the recommendation of the company's Managing Director or any member of the Board of Directors (as named in its Form 26) and dispensing with the need of securing a recommendation from the embassy of the country of the foreign expert's citizenship.

Furthermore, in an effort to enhance the operations of MIC-Permitted companies, the MIC's Departmental Cooperation Team will now permit the duration of Stay Permits and Labor Cards to one year from the date of their respective application or extension.

The announcement also states that MIC-Permitted companies must now submit the following required documents *via* hardcopy and soft-copy (e-mail), prior to submitting the formal application for a Stay Permit and Labor Card:

- (1) Copy of the list of foreign and local employees in the MIC-Permitted company.
- (2) Number of foreign and local employees in the company, and the names of the foreign experts.
- (3) CV Form of the foreign expert, which must be signed by the applicant and the Managing Director of the company.
- (4) If new application, the recommendation of the Managing Director as named in the company's Form 26.
- (5) Copy of the previous Labor Card if applying for the extension.
- (6) Copy of the MIC Permit.
- (7) Copy of the company's certificate of registration and Forms 6 and 26.
- (8) Copy of the company's letter of appointment for the foreign expert.

The cover letter from the MIC-Permitted company, the copy of the passport of the foreign expert, and the Form-8 and Form-9 for the application of the Stay Permit and Labor Card may be submitted later during the formal application submission.