



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Strategic partnership to benefit Sydney law firms

Sydney's position in the Asia Pacific legal services market will be strengthened with the official launch of a partnership between the regions peak legal association body and the Law Society of New South Wales, this Friday (21 February).

Under the arrangement which will be officially launched by the Chief Justice of New South Wales, the Honourable T F Bathurst QC, LAWASIA will now be hosted and supported by the Law Society of NSW at its offices in Sydney.

President of the Law Society of NSW, Ros Everett, said the new partnership strengthens the role of Sydney as the prime location for law firms wanting to do business in the Asia Pacific region.

"This strategic partnership will open up new international legal opportunities for lawyers in the region," Ms Everett said.

"Many law firms and international companies have already established their Asia-Pacific headquarters in Sydney, which makes the city the natural choice to position LAWASIA. We are proud to be part of this exciting move," she said.

President of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), Mr Isomi Suzuki said the new partnership provides a mutually beneficial opportunity.

"The move of LAWASIA's secretariat to Sydney is a significant one for our organisation at this time," Mr Suzuki said.

"I am in no doubt that our presence in this jurisdiction will deliver sound benefits to those who have an interest in exploring genuine, lasting and productive relationship-building in the Asia Pacific region.

"We look forward to our development in Sydney and New South Wales in partnership with the Law Society of NSW, and I express LAWASIA's gratitude for the generosity that creates this affiliation," he said.

As part of the terms of the agreement, the current Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of NSW, Michael Tidball, will also hold the title of Chief Executive Officer of LAWASIA.

Journalists are welcome to attend the launch event - please contact the Media Advisor for further information.

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Further background:

- LAWASIA is an international organisation of lawyers' associations. Its membership includes peak legal bodies from 30 countries of the Asia Pacific region.
- LAWASIA's main objective is to foster professional and business relations between lawyers, businesses and government representatives in the Asia Pacific Region. As such, its policies and agenda directly address issues confronting the profession throughout the region.
- LAWASIA has a continued presence at the UNHCR via its UN representative, Professor Maxime Tardu.