The Asia-Pacific representative office in Hong Kong ensures that ICMA can address the needs of its members in the region effectively and helps to resolve regulatory and market practice issues related to ICMA's areas of international expertise.

ICMA has over 500 members located in approximately 60 countries worldwide. ICMA's growing membership in Asia-Pacific currently includes more than 40 financial institutions based in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Singapore.

Among the association's activities in Asia Pacific:

• ICMA facilitates two debt primary market committees in the region, the Asian Bond Syndicate Forum and the Asian Legal, Documentation, and Transaction Management Committee, which allow participants to shape cross-border primary market practices in Asia and provide Asian perspectives on European regulation and practice.

• ICMA together with ASIFMA has published guides to Infrastructure Financing in Asia and to Repo in Asia.

• In China, ICMA advises PBOC on green finance regulations and works with the National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII) on developing the Chinese onshore bond markets.

• In Southeast Asia, ICMA advises a number of countries on international standards to assist in the development of their repo market structure, oversight, and documentation; ICMA also holds frequent workshops on the Global Master Repurchase Agreement (GMRA).

Across the region, ICMA has established formal partnerships with trade associations in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand; and also coordinates closely with ASEAN, Asia Pacific Financial Forum, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation on capital market development and international standards.

ICMA in Asia-Pacific is guided by a committee, composed of members from the region, which advises on ICMA's areas of focus in market practice and regulatory policy initiatives, provides input on how ICMA should cooperate effectively with other regional industry groups and market forums, and helps to organise and promote events and education courses in the region.

ICMA Overview

For almost 50 years, the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) has promoted resilient and efficient capital markets by:

• driving best market practice through the development of industry accepted guidelines, recommendations and standard documentation;

• encouraging dialogue between all segments of the industry as well as governments, regulators and central banks;

• organising market conferences, seminars, roundtables and meetings amongst market participants and between market participants and the authorities; and

• promoting high professional standards for market participants through market focused education.

ICMA's global membership includes securities dealers and brokers; regional and commercial banks; central banks; private banks; asset managers; investment banks; issuers; and organisations that play an important role in the market and maintain close relations with ICMA, including professional advisors such as legal firms.
Benefits of ICMA membership – Asia Pacific

1. **Formal involvement in the ICMA Asia Pacific Regional Committee, the Asian Bond Syndicate Forum and the Asian Legal, Documentation, and Transaction Management Committee.**

2. **Access to standard documentation and legal advice.**
   a. ICMA’s Asia-Pacific members have access to a dedicated Legal & Regulatory Helpdesk in Hong Kong which offers members guidance on ICMA’s documentation and work in the international capital markets.
   b. ICMA Primary Market Handbook provides standard documentation and a set of recommendations for the primary market side of the industry.
   c. ICMA’s rules and recommendations provide a framework of best practice in the secondary market.
   d. The GMRA and supporting legal opinions currently cover more than 60 jurisdictions including 13 in the Asia-Pacific region. The legal opinions present a significant cost saving for those active in the repo markets.
   e. Arbitration and Conciliation services of ICMA are available in the event of a dispute.

3. **Access to ICMA Committees which enable direct influence in the impact of European regulations on Asian markets and recommendations for best market practice and the efficient operation of the markets.**
   The Committees also formulate guidance for members and consider policy responses to regulators.

4. **Education and training.**
   As part of its mission to improve standards internationally, ICMA has been offering executive education courses to the market for four decades. ICMA has run a number of public and in-house courses in Asia, including in Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, and plans to roll out a more extensive offering. Its courses are accredited by the Treasury Markets Association in Hong Kong. In China, ICMA partners with BOJC (the training centre affiliated with NDRC) to develop syllabus materials and professional standards for the Corporate Finance Consultant certificate. ICMA Members receive preferential rates for ICMA Executive Education programmes in partnership with the ICMA Centre, University of Reading. Some courses are now available online. All courses can be delivered in-house.

5. **Conferences and events.**
   Each year ICMA organises over 100 events with, and for, members globally. In this way ICMA interacts with its members and provides an ideal platform for networking with all the capital market constituents which it represents. ICMA held its inaugural Asia Primary Market Forum in Hong Kong as well as launch events in Hong Kong and Singapore for the revised Primary Market Handbook. Following the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, ICMA co-organized events on Silk Road Bonds and on China’s Integration in the International Capital Markets. To find forthcoming events in the region, see www.icmagroup.org/APAC

6. **Networking.**
   ICMA membership is seen as a “stamp of approval”. More and more, members in Asia-Pacific require their counterparties to be ICMA members. Networking opportunities are also exceptional, providing business opportunities and exchange of information among the membership. Members have access to the ICMA Members Register, a comprehensive listing of contacts from ICMA’s global membership.

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