

## **PRESS RELEASE**

9th January 2009

### **Former German Ambassador to Singapore joins Luther**

**Cologne, 9th January 2009 - Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft strengthens its position als one of the leading German law firms in the Asian market. With the addition of the former German Ambassador to Singpoare, Volker Schlegel, as Of Counsel, as of 1st January 2009, the firm has gained a further prominent figure.**

Volker Schlegel joins Luther's Asia Team in Cologne and will also develop the areas foreign trade and payment law and export regulation. As former Head of International Sales at Kloeckner Humboldt Deutz in Cologne, he also has vast experience in industrial plant engineering and construction. In Diplomatic Service Volker Schlegel was primarily responsible for foreign trade legislation and from 1987 to 1990 was Deputy Director of the Export Control Department. In the past, Volker Schlegel has held leading positions with the German Embassy, for example as Head of Economic Affairs in Teheran, Ambassador for Economic Affairs in Washington and Ambassador to Singapore. In 2002 he became Privy Counsellor for Economic Affairs and Employment in the Senate of Hamburg, before subsequently returning to the Diplomatic Service as Ambassador.

With the addition of Volker Schlegel, Luther continues to pursue its expansion plan for the Asian practice area, which began last year. At the beginning of 2008, the Singapore office increased substantially and an office was opened in Shanghai. With the two offices in Asia together with the offices in Cologne and Stuttgart, Luther now has more than 30

German and Asian legal experts who provide advice in all matters pertaining to commercial law arising from German and International companies from the Asia-Pacific region.

"Germany is export champion and issues arising from foreign trade and payments law are becoming increasingly important to our clients. With the recruitment of Ambassador (retired) Volker Schlegel, who is an excellent practitioner in the field of export controls, we have succeeded in strengthening our foreign trade and payments law division. At the same time, he is a welcome addition both professionally and personally to the Asia Team", said Luther Managing Partner, Dr. Stefan Kraus. Volker Schlegel stressed: "The international prospects offered by Luther played a crucial role in my decision. Luther's global network gives it a competitive advantage - I look forward to sharing my experiences from different parts of the world and my numerous national and international contacts".

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### **Brief profile of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH**

Luther is one of the leading German commercial law firms providing comprehensive services in all the relevant fields of legal and tax consulting. The full-service law firm employs more than 280 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented at 13 German economic centres and at important investment locations in Europe and Asia with its five international offices in Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, Shanghai and Singapore. Our clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector. Luther is part of the PMLG international group of law firms ([www.pmlg.eu](http://www.pmlg.eu)) and is the German member of Taxand, a worldwide network of independent tax firms ([www.taxand.com](http://www.taxand.com)).

Luther is a law firm with an entrepreneurial approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. Our lawyers and tax advisors have a solid

understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience  
in collaborating on complex tasks.

Further information is available at: [www.luther-lawfirm.com](http://www.luther-lawfirm.com)

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