

# What you need to know as an Independent Director of a REIT manager

## *How Boards can drive the Sustainability Agenda (in-person seminar)*

*Sustainability issues are becoming an increasingly important component of an organization's strategy and as corporate stewards, the Board of Directors play a critical role in driving this change. In this seminar, specially designed for Independent Directors ("IDs") of REIT managers, we look at some of the key developments in ESG regulations, reporting, finance and benchmarking and highlight what IDs need to be mindful of when discharging their duties.*

### **When:**

**31 March 2022  
9.15am-1.30pm**

### **Where:**

**InterContinental Hotel,  
80 Middle Road, S 188966  
Grand Ballroom**

### **Program outline**

09.15am	Registration & Welcome Coffee/Tea
09.30am	Welcome address by REITAS
09.35am	MAS Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management for Asset Managers – Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
10.20am	Coffee Break
10.35am	Sustainability Reporting – KPMG IMPACT
11.10am	Sustainable Finance – HSBC
11.45am	Benchmarking ESG Performance - GRESB
12.20pm	Lunch
01.30pm	End of Programme

**REITAS**

# Pricing & Registration

REITAS Members	S\$375.00*
Non REITAS Members	S\$625.00*

*\* Prices quoted are before GST*

*This is a prescribed course that directors may attend to fulfill the new SGX requirements with regard to director's training on sustainability.*

*While the seminar is specially designed for Independent Directors of REIT managers, we welcome registration from senior management and anyone else who may find the session useful.*

*This is a physical event and seats are limited on first-come-first serve basis.*

***2.5 supplementary CPD hours will be awarded upon request.***

Please email completed registration form to [secretariat@reitas.sg](mailto:secretariat@reitas.sg)

**by 18 March.**

Contact Juliana at [julianalee@reitas.sg](mailto:julianalee@reitas.sg) or phone her at 6721 7023 for any clarification.



# Presenters



## Regina Liew

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Head, Financial Institutions Group  
Partner,  
**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP**

**Regina Liew** is a corporate lawyer with more than two decades of experience, and leads the firm's specialised practice, Financial Institutions Group.

Regina has been listed in *Best Lawyers* for her specialist practice in derivatives and regulatory since 2008 and has been described as "phenomenal" by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*. She has also been recognised as a Band 1 lawyer for Banking & Finance: Regulatory by *Chambers Asia Pacific* since 2015, and is known to be "highly experienced in the Singapore market and has her finger on the pulse of financial institutions and regulators". She has also been recognised as a "Highly Regarded" lawyer in Banking and Finance by *IFLR1000 2022*.

The FinTech practice she co-heads has been highly ranked since the inaugural *Chambers Fintech (2019)*. She is described as a corporate lawyer "whose expertise is sought after for intricate Singapore financial regulatory matters" and "fully fluent in the financial sector" as well as "very good at listening to and understanding clients". Regina was also named as a Recommended lawyer in Banking Regulatory by *Who's Who Legal 2022*.



# Presenters



## **Benjamin Liew**

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Partner,  
**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP**

**Benjamin Liew** is a Partner with the firm's Financial Institutions practice, and has acted for a diverse range of financial institutions including investment banks, private banks, insurance companies, investment advisers, fund managers, securities brokers, derivatives dealers and commodity traders.

Benjamin is recognised in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* (2017 and 2018 Editions) as a Next Generation Lawyer for Financial Services Regulatory in Singapore. Benjamin was seconded to an international payment services firm in 2021, and also completed a specialist secondment programme in 2019 at a Singapore bank, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Law and the Economic Development Board. Benjamin was also seconded to a leading international law firm in London in 2016.

Benjamin commenced his legal career in 2011 as a corporate transactional lawyer. He is now a recognised financial services regulatory specialist and advises and represents clients on regulatory, licensing and compliance, and enforcement matters in the financial services industry. In addition, he is also involved in transactional work involving financial services businesses in Singapore.



# Presenters



## Cherine Fok

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Practice Lead,  
Sustainability Services  
**KPMG IMPACT**

**Cherine Fok** is the practice lead for Sustainability Services in Singapore and drives the local efforts for [KPMG IMPACT](#), KPMG's global initiative on ESG expertise building for a more sustainable and resilient future. She has more than 15 years of experience in a wide range of consultancy projects, specialising in ESG strategies and frameworks, social and economic development, sustainable finance, climate change and ESG measurement, reporting and assurance. By championing cross-functional collaboration and expertise, she helps corporate and public sector clients to address complex ESG and decarbonisation topics.

Cherine has led numerous sustainability advisory engagements across diverse industries. These engagements cover end-to-end client delivery from green economy strategies, decarbonisation roadmaps, climate risk disclosures to impact measurement, sustainable finance framework development and ESG due diligence. For example, she has assisted a leading global real estate company in issuing Singapore's first green bond.

Currently, Cherine is a Council Member of the Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore, a Member of the EuroCham Sustainability Committee, and a Member of the British Chamber of Commerce's Sustainability Committee. She is part of Green Finance Working Group of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. She is also a non-practising member and Corporate Reporting Committee Member of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA).

Cherine takes a special interest in market building efforts related to sustainable development and is a regular contributor to industry thought forums and media content. Her contributions include speaking engagements and insight publications with the G20 Global Summit, the UK-ASEAN Business Council, the US-ASEAN Business Council, the Singapore Exchange, the Monetary Association of Singapore, Singapore Green Building Council, the REIT Association of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Directors, the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, the Singapore Environment Council, the CPA Australia (Public Sector ESG Roundtable), the Asia Financial Forum, the European Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Straits Times, the Business Times, LianHe ZaoBao and Channel News Asia, amongst others.



# Presenters



## Max Thomas

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Associate Director,  
ESG Solutions  
HSBC Ltd.

**Max** started his banking career with HSBC in the Debt Capital Markets team in London in 2013 covering global Financial Institutions and was able to witness first hand the development of the Sustainable Finance markets, he took the opportunity to move to the ESG Solutions team when relocating to Asia. Currently located in Singapore. Max is responsible for supporting clients in understanding ESG in the context of their business, identifying potential sustainable finance opportunities for them and structuring and executing transitions for clients. Whilst his role covers clients across the whole of APAC his primary coverage covers Singapore, SEA and Australia.

Notable recent transactions include Downer EDI AUD1.45bn Syndicated Sustainability Linked Loan, Ramsay Healthcare AUD1.5bn Syndicated Sustainability Linked Loan, Woolworths Multi-deal Sustainability Linked Bonds and New World Development HKD1,500m 10yr Sustainability Linked Bond as well as numerous privately executed transactions across infrastructure, real estate, metals & mining and the telecoms space.



# Presenters



## **Benjamin McCarron**

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Lead Representative Asia,  
**GRESB**

**Benjamin McCarron** is the Founder and Managing Director of Asia Research & Engagement (ARE), a Singapore-based boutique bringing investors and companies into dialogue on sustainable investment topics. Thematic areas include energy transition and its financing, sustainable protein, and sustainable real estate.

ARE's work includes providing Asia representation for GRESB, the de facto standard for ESG in real estate portfolios. In 2021, participation in the Real Estate Benchmark grew by 24% to 1,520 portfolios. The benchmark now covers \$5.7 trillion of real estate AuM (up from \$4.8 trillion) and nearly 117,000 individual assets. GRESB Investor Members that use the data represent a combined US\$37 trillion.

Benjamin was an equity fund manager before transitioning to sustainable investments in 2005. He is a regular speaker on sustainability and responsible investment in Asia and has been interviewed or quoted for major international and Asian publications including the Financial Times, CNN, CNBC, Bloomberg, Reuters, SCMP, the Independent, the Observer, Business Times, and The Edge among others.



# About REITAS

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REITAS is the representative voice of the Singapore REIT (S-REIT) industry. It provides its members a representation and engagement in consultation opportunities with policy makers on issues affecting S-REITs. The association also organises talks, courses, investor conferences, retail education events etc to promote understanding and investment in Singapore REITs.

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