

**ALERT**  
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**BVI GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH OFFICE IN HONG KONG**

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The Premier of the British Overseas Territory of the Virgin Islands (the “**British Virgin Islands**”) announced in the House of Assembly on 14 May 2013 that the BVI government has decided to establish an office in Hong Kong to service the Asia Pacific Region including Shanghai, Beijing, Singapore, Japan and Taiwan. The justification for the establishment of this office, according to the Premier, is the “fact that more than 40 percent of BVI financial services business comes from the Asia Pacific Region. There is a very strong financial connection between China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the BVI.”

The British Virgin Islands is the world’s leading corporate domicile of choice with more than 300,000 active companies doing business all over the world, including in the Asia Pacific Region. It is noted as the second largest foreign direct investor in mainland China after Hong Kong SAR. Therefore, THORNTON SMITH welcomes the announcement as an important move to further strengthen relationships between clients in the Asia Pacific Region and the British Virgin Islands. With this development comes renewed commitment by THORNTON SMITH to its clients in the Asia Pacific Region.

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If you would like more information about Asia Pacific issues as they relate to corporate and commercial law in the British Virgin Islands, contact Jamal S. Smith.

**ABOUT US:** THORNTON SMITH is a full service law firm based in the British Virgin Islands that provides practical solutions for complex legal and business transactions with a suite of value-added services to clients. With a genuinely intimate connection to the local community, the firm represents anyone interested in doing business in or from the British Virgin Islands.

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