

Tax Newsflash Hong Kong Tax News: HK-Pakistan Tax Treaty Signed

Hong Kong (HK) signed a comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation (CDTA) with Pakistan on 17 February 2017. Pakistan is one of the countries along the Belt and Road. This is the 37th CDTA concluded by HK.

Below is a comparison of the withholding tax (WHT) rates of dividends, interest, royalties and technical services fees, under the respective domestic tax law and the HK-Pakistan CDTA:

	Dividends	Interest	Royalties	Technical services fees (NB3)
HK non- CDTA rate	0%	0%	4.95%/ 16.5% <i>(NB1)</i>	N/A
Pakistan non-CDTA rate	Up to 25%	Up to 17.5%	15%	15%
HK- Pakistan CDTA rate	10%	0% / 10% (NB2)	10%	12.5%

NB1: The 4.95% rate applies (i) if the royalty is not paid to a related party; or (ii) if the royalty is paid to a related party, the licensed intellectual property has never been owned in whole or in part by a person carrying on business in Hong Kong. Otherwise, the rate is 16.5%.

NB2: 0% for beneficial owner being the government or institutions authorized by the government; 10% in all other cases.

NB3: Technical services fees mean payments for any services of a technical, managerial or consultancy nature.

The HK-Pakistan CDTA will come into force after the completion of ratification procedures on both sides. The CDTA can be downloaded from this link.

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