

Press Release

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Middle East Expert Mina Arai-Ito Returns from the Cairo Office

Tokyo, Japan, September 3, 2010 – Baker & McKenzie GJB Tokyo Aoyama Aoki Koma Law Office (Gaikokuho Joint Enterprise) is pleased to announce that Mina Arai-Ito, a former partner in the Tokyo office, has returned from the Cairo office as of counsel, as of August 30, 2010. She will be the leader of a team of attorneys specializing in cross-border mergers and acquisitions between Japan and the Middle East and North Africa regions.

Ms. Arai-Ito returns to Tokyo after spending over five years in Baker & McKenzie's Brussels and Cairo offices. She brings with her more than 10 years of cross-border corporate transaction experience working in Japan and abroad. In addition to Tokyo, Brussels and Cairo, Ms. Arai-Ito has also spent a considerable amount of time practicing in Baker & McKenzie's Taipei and Washington D.C. offices.

She focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate compliance, employment, disputes and general corporate matters. Having practiced in various jurisdictions around the world, her return to the Tokyo office is significantly timely. Ms. Arai-Ito's bilingual capabilities in English and Japanese will allow her to continue to maintain strong alliances with key contacts in the Middle East and North Africa, while simultaneously liaising with Japanese clients regarding potential investments in these areas. Her vital knowledge will assist both our local and multinational clients in executing their global business strategies.

Ms. Arai-Ito received a J.D. degree from the American University, Washington College of Law in 1996. She is a registered attorney in New Jersey and Washington D.C. and her application as a *gaikokuhou jimusho* (foreign law counselor) with the Ministry of Justice of Japan is currently being processed.

"We are delighted to announce Ms. Arai-Ito's homecoming," said Yoshiaki Muto, managing partner of the Tokyo office. "Ms. Arai-Ito's vast corporate background in Japan and numerous locations overseas is an asset to businesses facing various globalization issues today. We look forward to her taking on a new leadership role, working closely with our local team with regards to cross-border transactions. We are grateful to have Ms. Arai-Ito back in Tokyo bringing her legal expertise to clients in Japan while she continues to build her relationships in the Middle East and North Africa as well."

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