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## Hugh Fraser International strengthens Australasian offering

17 February 2008

Business and legal consultancy extends Asia Pacific reach with Navin & Co LLP in Singapore

Perth, Western Australia - Hugh Fraser International (HFI), the leading international business and legal consultancy, has expanded its Australasian presence by establishing a new alliance with one of the most respected law firms in Singapore, Navin & Co LLP.

This alliance between Navin & Co and HFI, which launched its Australasian headquarters in Perth in November 2007, means HFI can now provide its Asia Pacific clients even further geographic professional capability. Navin & Co is a highly respected law firm in Singapore specialising in shipping & maritime law, insurance, international trade, company law, arbitration, banking, general contract and insolvency.

HFI's Australasian business specialises in the energy, water and environmental technology sectors. HFI's Australasian office is led by legal expert and deputy managing partner Ms Shaye Chapman.

Shaye Chapman said, "This combination of two highly-respected firms in Navin & Co and HFI offers a real competitive edge to Australian and international businesses that want to expand their portfolios in the Asia Pacific region.

"As a joint force we provide a potent capability for the cross-border and multi-jurisdictional requirements of all of our clients. The combined skills, experience and expertise of the partners in this alliance is second to none in Asia Pacific."

HFI specialises in international assignments and related legal work for international companies particularly in the energy and engineering sectors. Navin & Co and HFI together will focus on upstream oil and gas, dispute resolution and arbitration, commercial work, and legal matters in the shipping & admiralty, banking, insurance and corporate sectors.

Shaye added, "Establishing this alliance marks a major strategic step for our Australasian operations to support clients across the Asia Pacific region. Over the last few years, HFI has enjoyed considerable business success in the Middle East and likewise Navin & Co in Singapore. This powerful combination further strengthens HFI's professional service coverage in the Asia Pacific region and will meet the needs of local and incoming companies. Navin & Co's skills and experience will be invaluable to HFI and our clients."

Founder and managing partner of HFI, Hugh Fraser, said, "HFI has developed strong links with Australia over the last couple of years and at present, ten per cent of our personnel are Australian. I am immensely proud to have such a powerful team in Perth, a city fast becoming known as the resources hub for the southern hemisphere.

"I look forward to working closely with HFI Australasian Chairman John Yeudall, deputy partners Shaye Chapman and Glenda Currie and their team, to further serve businesses in the Asia Pacific region.'

-Ends-

For more information on Hugh Fraser International please visit the company's web site at [www.hfi-international.com](http://www.hfi-international.com)

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## **HFI**

HFI comprises HFI Legal, HFI Ventures and HFI Education and Training. HFI Legal combines legal expertise from Australia, UK, USA, India, Indonesia and Arabian/Persian Gulf, and provides specialist international corporate/commercial legal services including joint ventures, acquisitions/divestments, technology transfer and licensing, commercial contracts and dispute management.

HFI Ventures comprises a network of international business consultants based in the UAE, USA, Egypt, UK, Norway, the Netherlands, Australia, Russia and Kazakhstan specialising in the internationalisation of advanced technologies and know-how to the Middle East, Africa, Indian sub-continent and the Caspian.

Hugh Fraser is the managing partner of HFI. He is a Scottish corporate/commercial lawyer with more than 20 years' experience in the international energy/oil and gas sector. Hugh was head of legal for John Wood Group plc from 1996 to 2003. He is a specialist in international acquisitions, joint ventures, consortium contracts, technology transfer and new territory start-ups in the oil & gas and power industries.

In the space of five years he has built HFI into a leading independent legal and business ventures consultancy with offices in the Middle East, India and Australia with a host of respected energy sector clients including RAK Petroleum, ESNAAD, AMEC, Superior Energy Services, Pride International, Production Services Network, Enerflex, Denholm Group, Corelab and Heriot-Watt University.

With clients from over 20 countries, HFI has a team of around 70 worldwide – 50 professional specialists and 15 support staff in more than 20 locations around the world. The HFI team comprise a selection from around 16 nationalities and together they speak a total of more than 20 languages.

The Partners at Navin and Co are Raghunath Peter Doraisamy and Navinder Singh.

Peter graduated with LL.B. Honours from the University of Nottingham, UK, in 1996 and went on to qualify in 1997 as a Barrister, Middle Temple. He was called to the Singapore Bar in early 1999 and has maintained an active practice in maritime law, in both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Navinder graduated from the University of London in 1993 and read the Bar at Lincoln's Inn before being called to the Bar in July 1994. He is a seasoned practitioner in the field of shipping and commercial litigation and arbitration, and his experience covers a wide variety of commercial legal work, including shipping & admiralty, banking, insurance, corporate, general contract and insolvency.

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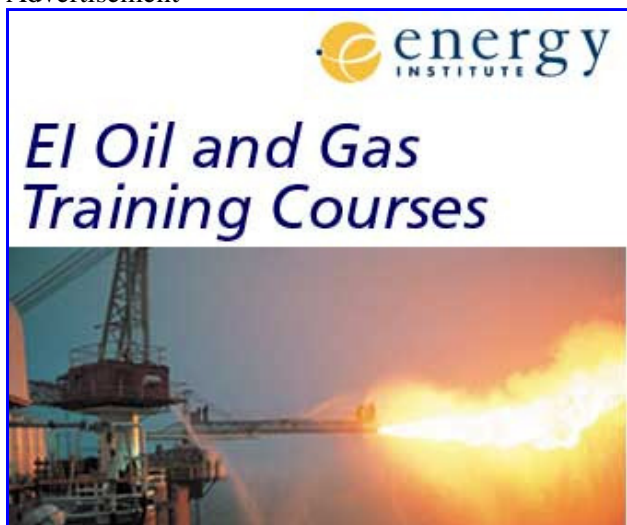
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