

IS INVESTING IN NORTH KOREA AN OPTION?

Despite being seemingly closed off, North Korea boasts developed foreign investment laws. These include the Foreign Investment Law (FIL), Free Economic and Trade Zone Law (FETZL), Equity Joint Venture Law (EJVL), Contractual Joint Venture Law (CJVL) and the Foreign Enterprises Law (FEL). Taxation is payable for all foreign investment, including local taxes, turnover tax, property tax and income tax. So while it is possible, starting and operating a business in North Korea would be challenging. The Heritage Organisation's 2010 Index of Economic Freedom lists North Korea as 179 out of 179 nations that were awarded any points over the ten categories included in the survey. Minimal points were given for property rights and freedom from corruption.

SOUTH AFRICA IN THE SPOT LIGHT

Apart from the football, visitors to South Africa might just be looking at real estate opportunities. The real estate market grew 15% during 2009 and has favourable characteristics including low interest rates, improved infrastructure, tourism growth and well-regulated purchase and ownership processes. Investing in South Africa via real estate or via [company formation](#) is an option to consider. South Africa's economy is reliant on mining industries, automotive and agriculture sector amongst others. SA is actually the largest producer of the precious metals gold, platinum and chromium.

RECESSION STRATEGIES

With cautious positive signs of recovery coming from economies around the world, strategies for accelerating growth coming out of the recession are implemented by entrepreneurs. Healy Consultants recently assisted a US company overcome the downturn in their business. This included challenging variable and fixed costs, tax planning, review of internal processes and profitability analysis by geographic region. To read more, see our [business recession strategies](#) page.

SINGAPORE TAX EXEMPT COMPANY

The negative stigma of tax havens is making many entrepreneurs opt for the reputation and efficiency of Singapore for their company set up. Singapore's economy showed excellent growth for Q1 and for Jan-May period 20% more companies were incorporated as compared to the same period in 2009. Benefits of Singapore as an offshore jurisdiction can be found on our [Singapore Offshore Company](#) web page.

HONG KONG TAX EXEMPT COMPANY

Hong Kong is another jurisdiction that suits offshore company setup. Hong Kong is well recognized as one of the most competitive business hubs in the world. As a tax-exempt jurisdiction, Hong Kong enjoys a number of benefits to offer entrepreneurs including favorable corporate tax system, a pro-business government with no tax haven stigma. But perhaps the benefit with the most potential is its' proximity to China. As a gateway to China, a tax-exempt company in Hong Kong is an ideal structure to take advantage of opportunities in China's powerhouse economy. More information can be found on the [Hong Kong Offshore Company](#) web page.

THAILAND RESILIENCE

Significant negative economic impact would be expected after all the dramatic Bangkok protest pictures broadcast around the globe. Did this negative press impact Thailand investment opportunities? The Thai Government forecasts 2010 GDP at 6.5%. Tourism is one important aspect of the Thai economy that will require time to bounce back, but it will be quick. Thailand offers entrepreneurs a number of advantages including low office occupancy costs. Thailand is also positively ranked 12th out of 183 countries in the World Bank's 2010 Doing Business survey. Here is some more information on [Thailand company formation](#).

IS YOUR BUSINESS WEBSITE MAKING YOU MONEY?

The majority of entrepreneurs ignore the value of their business website to generate sales. Good content and good structure equal good search engine rankings. As an example, Healy Consultants marketing activities are focused on search engine marketing, along with some other online strategies. The firm's sales leads come only through our business website and referrals from existing clientele.

In order to maximize the enquiries / sales leads you receive via your company's website it must be well structured and optimized for search engines. Search engines strive to provide the most accurate results for their users and regularly update their ranking technology. Recent developments are in the wider breadth of content that the search engines are indexing. Search engines no longer just rank web pages, but also include video, news updates and social media applications such as twitter. Ask about our [search engine services](#) for a review of your business website.