

# Real Estate Legal Alert

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Two partners from the London Real Estate Group, Peter Sugden and James Dodsworth, attended the first HIFI (Hotel Investment Forum India) conference in Mumbai last month. The conference was attended by international and domestic operators, investors and developers as well as advisors.

Despite the global downturn, which has certainly had an adverse impact on Indian land values, general sentiment was that the prospects for growth in India remain strong especially in the hotel sector and particular statistical comparison was drawn by speakers to the growth in China in recent years to underline this potential.

With commentators predicting GDP growth in India this year of between 6%-7% and the inherent potential in India's indigenous tourism, never mind the opportunities for growth in foreign tourism, there is considerable scope and economic potential in the short and medium term for development of new and internationally branded hotels across the sector, particularly at the budget and mid market level.

For further details of our global hospitality and leisure or India practices, please see [www.mayerbrown.com/hospitalityleisure/](http://www.mayerbrown.com/hospitalityleisure/) or [www.mayerbrown.com/india/overview/](http://www.mayerbrown.com/india/overview/)

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