



**SOMPO
INTERNATIONAL**

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Supporting UK Multinationals' Staff In Developing Markets

“Never waste a good crisis” is an adage attributed both to Winston Churchill and the Wolstenholme report on the state of British construction in 2009. Whichever source you prefer, there can be little doubt the message feels quite apposite today.

The economic fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is forcing governments around the world to come up with policies for stimulating the global economy. Many are considering a tried-and-tested method to boost economies in the short-term and provide wide societal benefits in the long term: infrastructure investment.

There is a strong correlation between infrastructure investment and economic spin-offs. Every US\$100 spent on infrastructure boosts private-sector output by US\$13 (median) and US\$17 (average) in the long run. Furthermore, each US\$100 billion in infrastructure spending is expected to boost job growth by roughly 1 million full-time equivalents (FTEs).¹ This link has always been top of mind for policymakers, especially in emerging markets.

As we look around the world now, governments in developing markets are poised to launch the biggest round of infrastructure investment since the post-2008 financial crisis stimulus measures, creating a fertile environment for UK-based multinationals to pitch their skills, products and expertise.

However, as companies gear up to take advantage of these opportunities, so they will need to give careful consideration to the protection and welfare of staff working overseas. Developing markets can be challenging environments for a wealth of reasons, not least of which is that COVID-19 remains a threat to individuals everywhere.

Insurers are well placed to provide the protection that workers need. In the aftermath of 9/11 and the Iraq war, new covers (for war and personal accident) were pioneered – enabling multinationals working in challenging territories to protect staff.

Sompo International has supported multinationals working on projects from countries including Iraq, Afghanistan and across Africa. Insurance coverages can be tailored providing a range of benefits for employees including

accidental death, disability and medical expenses such as evacuation and repatriation. We partner with 24-hour emergency assistance providers who triage and manage medical emergencies that can result in an evacuation to appropriate medical facilities in countries including Turkey, Dubai, India or the closest suitable location or home country. We can also consider kidnap and ransom cover.

In today's environment, there are plenty of unknown risks around the globe, so these types of coverages provide peace of mind, duty of care and can result in life saving actions.

Working in remote and sometimes hostile locations we have dealt with a range of situations including road traffic accidents, IED explosions and hotel bombings. In today's environment, there are plenty of unknown risks around the globe, so these types of coverages provide peace of mind, duty of care and can result in life saving actions.

We believe that as work scales up to meet the anticipated wave of government investment, accidents are inevitable. Right now, demand is enormous. The world faces a US\$15 trillion infrastructure gap² and, if only a fraction of that gap² is filled under the kind of “Build Build Build” programmes which Boris Johnson and other global leaders are espousing, some level of claims will be inevitable.

So, the challenge for risk-managed businesses is how to ensure best value for this kind of protection which, although it may be required only infrequently, is absolutely essential should an emergency arise.

The choice is essentially to pay a trusted third party to manage situations – which by their very nature are hard to anticipate and difficult to quantify – or to insure for a known cost, ruling out any unexpected hits to the bottom line.

Sompo International is, as the name suggests, a global business with an international outlook. We know how to manage crisis response, emergency evacuation and



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support in territories all around the world. We have the capacity, the appetite and the knowledge to write this kind of risk as governments and businesses prepare to kick-start economic growth in the post COVID-19 era.

LEARN MORE

Our specialised underwriters, claims professionals and risk control specialists can help you address the exposures created by today's rapidly changing marketplace.

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1. <https://home.kpmg/th/en/home/insights/2020/06/infrastructure-investments-in-a-post-covid-19-world.html>
2. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-covid-19-sustainable-infrastructure-investments-aid-recovery/>

ABOUT SOMPO INTERNATIONAL

Sompo International Holdings Ltd., a global specialty provider of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, underwrites agriculture, professional lines, property, marine, energy, casualty and other specialty lines of insurance and catastrophe, property, casualty, professional lines, weather risk and specialty lines of reinsurance. Sompo International is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sompo Holdings, Inc., whose core business encompasses one of the largest property and casualty insurance groups in the Japanese domestic market.

