
Robert Smith



Robert Smith

EY Han Young

Partner, Senior Advisor, Korea Tax

Tel +8210 8932 9666

Email robert.smith@kr.ey.com

Robert Smith has worked with EY for over 25 years in various roles with almost 20 years of international experience helping advise clients to navigate the complex regulatory regimes on a global basis. He is an accomplished practice leader and market facing Partner who has built diverse teams and worked closely with the Authorities in many countries to provide technical and practical training.

Robert began his career as an auditor and then transferred to the tax practice to focus on indirect taxes (VAT/GST, global trade, customs and excise taxes) in Asia-Pacific for over 15 years, based in Hong Kong, Korea and Shanghai. Robert was the founding Partner of EY's Indirect Tax Practice in China and was EY's Asia-Pacific Indirect Tax Leader for seven years – where he worked on many projects over the years in Korea, built the market leading China indirect tax practice, oversaw China VAT reform, delivered on Malaysia GST and more. Robert returned to the US (California and New York) in 2015 to lead the Global Trade and VAT Practice in the Americas, ushering in a period of unprecedented growth more than quadrupling the size of the practice by adding over 400 new professionals in a few short years.

Robert now works in the Korea Tax Practice to help develop and deliver on a strategy to drive significant growth in the market. Robert's hands on approach to working with companies and knowledge of the Korean market and language allows him to provide not just technical but also practical advice that can be implemented.

Recognizing the importance of technology and managed services to the future of EY's indirect tax and advisory services, Robert spearheaded and executed the acquisition of a trade management software company, GTKonnect, into EY's Global Trade Practice. This acquisition and the creation of a global managed services offering are the main drivers for future growth and expansion for years to come..

Robert is a recognized authority on global trade and indirect tax matters and frequently speaks in conferences, webcasts and other forums around the world. He was a speaker at the 2019 World Customs Organization (WCO) conference on the future direction of the Harmonized System and was the moderator and presenter at the WCO Origin Conference held in 2021. He has been a speaker on panels with WTO representatives on trade matters and regularly provided training to Customs and Tax Authorities around the world on various technical topics. He is the organizer and leader of many market events, including the EY's Americas Indirect Tax Symposium held the last seven years in Miami attended by more than 200 participants which includes panelists/speakers from the WCO, Customs Authorities, other Government Tax Agencies as well as industry representatives.

Robert has a Masters and a Bachelors degree in Professional Accounting, both from Brigham Young University. He passed the USCPA exam and previous work as allows him to apply his accounting skills to the area of VAT/GST and global trade. He is a licensed US Customs Broker and proficiently reads, writes and speaks Korean and speaks basic Mandarin.
