

Press Releases

Financial consultant charged by ICAC in JPY400m investment fraud case pleads guilty

2024-7-8

An ICAC corruption investigation into bank officers earlier revealed that four people had conspired with others to deceive Japanese investors into investing over JPY400 million (about HK\$28.4 million) in various companies which took part in investment projects in Africa by falsely representing that those companies' bank accounts held asset totalling over HK\$37 billion, and by using false bank documents. A self-employed financial consultant today (July 8) pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud at the District Court.

Law Man-fai, 50, self-employed financial consultant, pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to the Common Law. Another similar charge against him was left on file at the District Court. Deputy Judge Ms May Chung Ming-sun adjourned the case to July 15 for mention. Law was granted bail.

Two co-defendants, Woo Man-ho, 36; and Chan Tak-ching, 37, both former relationship managers of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (Standard Chartered Bank), earlier pleaded guilty to a total of four counts of conspiracy to defraud. They were granted bail until August 22 for sentence.

The court heard that at the material time, Law was a self-employed financial consultant, while Woo and Chan were relationship managers of Standard Chartered Bank respectively working at its business banking department and priority banking department. The bank would issue documents to confirm the balance of a client's account held with the bank upon request, but Woo and Chan were not authorised to sign and issue those documents.

Between January 2015 and September 2016, Law, Woo and Chan had conspired with another then relationship manager of Standard Chartered Bank and four foreign nationals to defraud various Japanese investors to invest in ADF Capital Limited (ADF) and a number of companies by using false proof of fund letters and corporate refund promissory notes (CRPNs) signed by Woo and Chan, and purportedly issued by Standard Chartered Bank.

The four foreign nationals involved were two shareholders-cum-directors of ADF, respectively a Zambian man and a Korean man; a Thai man who was Chan's client; and a Japanese woman who was the chief executive officer of a company.

Law admitted that he had conspired with Woo, Chan and three of the foreign nationals to falsely represent that Standard Chartered Bank was the guarantor of ADF which undertook to pay the relevant investors by issuing eight false CRPNs.

Four of the CRPNs involved promised returns totalling US\$7.2 million (over HK\$56 million). As a result of the false representations, various Japanese investors were deceived into making investments totalling at least JPY400 million (about HK\$28.4 million) to ADF and various companies involved in this case. The remaining four CRPNs involved false representations to a certain company that Standard Chartered Bank was the guarantor of ADF which undertook to pay US\$50 million (over HK\$390 million) for the CRPNs.

Woo and Chan earlier admitted their involvements in the scam, and their issuance of false proof of fund letters which falsely represented that the Zambian man's company had funds of US\$1.5 billion (about HK\$11.6 billion) available for investments in Africa, and that the Thai man had asset of 3.3 billion euros (about HK\$25.5 billion) in the bank account held with Standard Chartered Bank.

The ICAC enquiries revealed that Standard Chartered Bank had never held the abovementioned asset on behalf of the Thai man, while the Zambian man's company had never held any bank account with the bank.

Co-defendant Leung Ho-yin, 38, former relationship manager of Standard Chartered Bank, pleaded not guilty to two counts of conspiracy to defraud. Another co-defendant Catherine Kum Kit-ching, 55, manager of ADF, pleaded not guilty to one

count of conspiracy to launder crime proceeds. The duo will appear again at the District Court on July 11 for mention.

Standard Chartered Bank had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel Wong Hay-yiu, assisted by ICAC officer Janice Chan.

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新聞公佈

四億日圓投資詐騙案遭廉署起訴財務顧問認罪候判

2024年7月8日

廉政公署早前調查一宗銀行職員貪污案中,揭發四人串謀訛稱數間參與非洲投資項目的公司,其銀行戶口持有資產共逾370億港元,並以虛假銀行文件,詐騙多名日本投資者向涉案公司投資逾四億日圓(約2,840萬港元)。其中一名被起訴的自僱財務顧問今日(7月8日)在區域法院承認串謀詐騙罪。

羅文輝,50歲,自僱財務顧問,承認三項串謀詐騙罪名,違反普通法。他涉及的另一項相類罪名則由法庭存檔。暫委法官鍾明新將案件押後至7月15日再提訊,羅文輝獲准保釋候訊。

同案另外兩名被告胡文浩·36歲;及陳德政·37歲·均為渣打銀行(香港)有限公司(渣打銀行)前客戶經理·早前承認共四項串謀詐騙罪名。二人均獲准保釋·以待8月22日判刑。

案情透露,案發時羅文輝是一名自僱財務顧問,胡文浩及陳德政均為渣打銀行客戶經理, 分別任職中小企業理財部及優先私人理財部。雖然該銀行會應客戶要求發出文件,以確認 其銀行戶口的結存,但胡文浩及陳德政並無權限簽署及發出有關文件。

於2015年1月至2016年9月案發期間,羅文輝、胡文浩及陳德政串謀另一名渣打銀行時任客戶經理及四名外籍人士,藉使用虛假資金證明書及公司退款承兌票據,以詐騙多名日本投資者向ADF Capital Limited (ADF)及多間公司投資。有關虛假文件由胡文浩及陳德政簽署,並看來是由渣打銀行發出。

該四名涉案的外籍人士為兩名ADF男股東暨董事,分別贊比亞籍及韓國籍;陳德政一名泰國籍男客戶;以及一名日本籍公司女行政總裁。

羅文輝承認串謀胡文浩、陳德政及上述其中三名外籍人十,藉簽發八份虛假的公司退款承

兌票據, 訛稱渣打銀行為ADF作擔保人, 並會向相關投資者支付款項。其中四份公司退款承兌票據涉及承兌款項共720萬美元(逾5,600萬港元), 而該等虛假陳述致使多名日本投資者受騙, 向ADF及多間涉案公司投資逾四億日圓(約2,840萬港元)。另外, 涉案人士透過其餘四份公司退款承兌票據, 向某公司訛稱就各承兌票據, 渣打銀行擔保ADF承兌5,000萬美元(約3.9億港元)。

胡文浩及陳德政早前承認涉及上述詐騙,並簽發虛假資金證明書,訛稱上述贊比亞籍男子的公司持有15億美元資金(約116億港元)可用於非洲的投資項目,以及該泰國籍男子在渣打銀行的戶口持有33億歐元價值資產(約255億港元)。

廉署調查發現, 渣打銀行從未代表該泰國籍男子持有所聲稱的資產, 而該贊比亞籍男子的公司亦從未持有任何渣打銀行戶口。

同案被告梁浩賢,38歲,渣打銀行前客戶經理,否認兩項串謀詐騙罪名。另一名被告甘潔貞,55歲,ADF經理,則否認一項串謀「洗黑錢」罪名。二人的案件押後至7月11日在區域法院再提訊。

渣打銀行在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由大律師王熙曜代表出庭,並由廉署人員陳貝苑協助。

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