# Asia **Business** Council

#### **FEBRUARY 2011**

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#### **Member News**

- Khalid Al-Falih received the "Executive of the Year Award" as the most distinguished CEO in the oil industry worldwide ∻ during the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference.
- ∻ Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries was awarded "Businessman of the Year 2010" by Financial Chronicle.
- ∻ CNOOC's **Fu Chengyu** discussed company plans in *China Daily*.
- ∻ KKR's Henry Kravis discussed the important role India will play in KKR's future in an interview with Indian business newspaper Mint.
- ∻ **Jack Ma** of Alibaba was featured in an article in *The Economist*.
- Khazanah Nasional's Azman Mokhtar was included on the Star Online list of key people to watch in Malaysia in 2011 ∻ and was interviewed about Khazanah's strategy by *StarBizWeek*.
- ∻ Narayana Murthy of Infosys spoke to the Indian Student Council Leaders at MIT about the need for global-minded leaders in India and was interviewed by the India Express.
- $\diamond$ Takeshi Niinami of Lawson was featured in *Bloomberg* regarding his company's plans to expand into China.
- $\diamond$ An interview with CIMB's Nazir Razak from the book Found in Malaysia appeared in The Nut Graph.
- ∻ <u>Oin Xiao</u> of Boyuan Foundation called for an upgrade of the Chinese industrial structure in *Xinhua*.
- ∻ YTL's Francis Yeoh won the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the CNBC Asia Business Leaders Awards.
- $\diamond$ CICC's Levin Zhu shared his thoughts on currency and inflation in *The Standard*.
- ∻ The World Economic Forum Annual meeting took place in Davos, Switzerland at the end of January, where a number of ABC members were scheduled to speak, including Zhang Xin of SOHO China, Khalid A. Al Falih of Saudi Aramco, Jamshvd N. Godrej & Boyce, Azman Mokhtar of Khazanah Nasional, Junichi Ujije of Nomura Holdings, Dominic Barton of McKinsey & Company, Anand Mahindra of Mahindra & Mahindra, Takeshi Niinami of Lawson, and Daniel Vasella of Novartis.

## China and the U.S.—Competitors or Collaborators in Clean Energy?

China, already the world leader in clean energy financing and investments, will focus on lowering carbon intensity as part of its upcoming <u>12th Five-Year Plan</u>. It will increase renewable energy investments and give preferential treatment to emerging clean industries. The U.S. has increased vehicle efficiency standards and clean energy technology funding. Further incentives may follow U.S. President Obama's repeated warnings that the U.S. is losing ground. <u>Hu lintao</u>'s visit to Washington D.C. saw more than 10 energy deals signed, including ones between China's ENN Group and the U.S.'s Duke Energy and between China Shenhua Energy Company and General Electric.

## **Mounting Inflation Demands Attention**

As inflation, driven by higher food prices, becomes more threatening, monetary authorities in Asia are implementing new hawkish policies. India, South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Thailand all raised interest rates in recent weeks to cool down inflation. However, the appropriate sense of urgency is missing in Asia, says Stephen S. Roach. With inflation accelerating, a significant increase in real interest rates is the only way out for Asia, he adds.

## **Rising Investment in Myanmar**

Many Asian nations haven't written off Myanmar—they've written checks. With a new National Assembly installed at the end of January, businessmen and diplomats are hopeful that improved governmental transparency will lessen business hurdles such as inconsistent licensing and lack of legal protection. Investment into the resource-rich country from China totaled an estimated <u>\$8.2 billion</u> in the first five months of 2010. By comparison, China invested \$705 million into neighboring Laos from 2006-2010. Meanwhile, Korea Exchange is in talks about establishing a stock market in the country, calling it one of the "new frontiers" of Southeast Asian development. Read more.

#### A NEWater Source for Singapore

Singapore will not renew one of its two contracts to import water from Malaysia this year, as the island is largely selfsufficient in water, thanks in part to a global first in making recycled wastewater safe to drink. The fifth and largest NEWater plant opened in May and the treated water now makes up almost one-third of the island's fresh water demand.

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