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- ✧ [Khalid Al-Falih](#) of Saudi Aramco spoke at the United Nations Climate Summit in New York, announcing a landmark Oil and Gas Climate Initiative and addressing delegates at the Summit's [Petroleum and Industry session](#). He also inaugurated Saudi Aramco's biggest [research center](#) in the U.S. in Houston.
- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey & Co. spoke with *Fortune* about the major global concerns of business leaders.
- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties received the Go4Israel Achievement Prize in Tel Aviv in honor of his contribution to strengthening the relationship between Israel and China.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia was named "Brand Builder of the Year" at the 2014 World Branding Awards in London.
- ✧ [Kris Gopalakrishnan](#) of Infosys met aspiring Indian entrepreneurs at the Sunrise Startup Village in Andhra Pradesh and shared some of his tech industry expertise.
- ✧ [Henry Kravis](#) of KKR & Co. met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York City to discuss investment in India's growth.
- ✧ [Anand Mahindra](#) was featured by the *Economic Times* for his efforts to promote Mahindra & Mahindra's education initiatives.
- ✧ [Azman Mokhtar](#) of Khazanah Nasional was quoted by the *New Straits Times* on the subject of making the Malaysian economy more competitive and socially equitable.
- ✧ [Kan Trakulhoon](#) of Siam Cement Group was interviewed by *FinanceAsia* regarding his deal-making strategy.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) launched a development program for Basilan province as Honorary Chair of the Eisenhower Fellow Association of the Philippines.

To send us member news, or for member news questions, please click [here](#).

**IMF Forecasts a Weak Recovery**

The IMF released its latest [World Economic Outlook](#) this past month, cutting the growth forecast for the global economy from 3.7% in April to 3.3%. The IMF cited rising geopolitical tensions, stagnation in Europe, and risk of default in emerging economies as reasons for downgrading its outlook. In [Bloomberg View](#), Mohamed El-Erian writes that the disappointing global recovery, what IMF head Christine Lagarde has termed as the "new mediocre", can be counteracted by spurring investment in infrastructure and policy reforms that will deliver sustainable growth. Writing in [Project Syndicate](#), economist Jeffrey Sachs contends that high-income countries can achieve sustainable growth by investing in a low-carbon economy.

**Two Takes on China's Future Growth Prospects**

The Asia Society Policy Institute and Conference Board released reports with opposite takes on China's prospects for growth. The Conference Board [report](#) predicts GDP growth will fall to 4% after 2020, positing that the current regime's reforms are too limited to counteract the bad debt in the Chinese financial system. In direct contrast, the Asia Society Policy Institute's [report](#) has a forecast of 6% growth by 2020 if current pro-market reforms are allowed to run their course. William Pesek, writing in [Bloomberg View](#), recommends that Beijing should allot the time and space to adjust to structural economic reforms instead of single-mindedly focusing on growth in the short term.

**Young Generation's Views on Economic Opportunity in Asia**

The Pew Global Research Center has released a worldwide [survey](#) on economic opportunity, with positive findings for Asia. 58% of respondents from Asian countries believed that the younger generation would be better off financially than their parents, with youth in Vietnam and China the most optimistic out of all countries surveyed. According to the [Economist](#), the survey of 44 countries "shows that economic optimism has followed economic growth: eastward." There are however, notable exceptions to the wave of Asian optimism, as 79% of respondents in Japan believed their children would be worse off financially. In the [South China Morning Post](#), Asia Business Council Program Director Janet Pau writes that the "Occupy" demonstrations in Hong Kong reveal a younger generation's frustration with widening economic inequality and a lack of opportunity.

**Abe's Womenomics Initiative Questioned**

In an interview with [Fortune](#), Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Glen Fukushima states that advancing the position of Japanese women in the workplace "is a very fundamental, structural problem." Two recent high-profile resignations of female members in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet have drawn attention to his "Womenomics" initiative. Clint Richards writes in the [Diplomat](#) that the resignations could derail proposed legislation to mandate female hiring targets for companies with more than 300 employees.

**Jokowi's Cabinet Picks Fail to Meet Market Expectations**

Indonesian markets reacted negatively to Indonesian President Joko Widodo's cabinet selection. [FinanceAsia](#) notes that campaign promises President Jokowi made to combat corruption and cut Indonesia's \$20 billion fuel subsidy will be difficult to fulfill given his relative lack of political capital. The [Jakarta Post](#) criticized that a number of Cabinet appointments were given out as political favors.

**Upcoming Forum Dates**

2015 Spring Forum: Beijing, March 26-28

2015 Autumn Forum: Ulaanbaatar, September 17-19

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