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**Member News**

- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of Teck Resources Ltd. signed a joint statement supporting carbon pricing in Canada. He was [interviewed](#) by *Harvard Business Review* about his “learn-by-doing” experiences that influenced his career.
- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of TSMC noted in a radio interview that continued hard work is essential for Taiwan’s semiconductor industry to maintain its leading position.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia launched a relief fund to support Palu earthquake victims.
- ✧ [Lance Gokongwei](#) of JG Summit spoke of his fintech venture Cashalo, which lends to underbanked Filipinos.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing wrote that the U.S.-China marriage was too important to fail and that it should not be led by resentment and short-term interests.
- ✧ [Ge Li](#) of WuXi AppTec commented on his joint venture to offer big data solutions for healthcare.
- ✧ [Aloke Lohia](#) of Indorama Ventures pledged to increase the use of post-consumer polyester waste as feedstock. He [commented](#) on growth opportunities in fibers following his company’s buyout of a Brazilian firm.
- ✧ [Amin Nasser](#) of Saudi Aramco told *Bloomberg* that the company’s ambitions in petrochemicals go beyond the acquisition of Sabic, highlighting plastics as a hedge against a slowdown in oil demand growth. On the sidelines of Riyadh’s Future Investment Initiative forum, he [talked](#) about investing in a gas project in Russia and noted that the company has [hired](#) more women in an attempt to narrow the gender gap.
- ✧ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. opened the three-day Future Investment Initiative forum, dubbed “Davos in the desert,” in Riyadh.
- ✧ [Penny Pritzker](#) of PSP Partners talked about her P33 initiative aimed at raising Chicago’s standing among the world’s best technology cities.
- ✧ [Arif Rachmat](#) of Triputra Agro Persada Group was elected a Vice Chair of the Global Agri-business Alliance, a CEO-led global alliance aimed at helping farmers tackle sustainability challenges.
- ✧ [Takumi Shibata](#) of Nikko Asset Management talked to *Bloomberg* about his efforts to reform the company and improve corporate governance.
- ✧ [Dong-Bin Shin](#) of Lotte Group included digital transformation as part of his investment plan to create 70,000 jobs in the next five years. His group’s confectionary unit [acquired](#) L&M Mayson, a bakery company in Myanmar.
- ✧ [Chartsiri Sophonpanich](#) of Bangkok Bank Public Co. spoke at the *Forbes* Global CEO Conference about the role of fintech startups as complements to traditional financial institutions.
- ✧ [Yuanqing Yang](#) of Lenovo Group opened the company’s new headquarters in the Phase II of Zhongguancun Software Park, a high-tech zone in northwestern Beijing.
- ✧ [Zhang Xin](#) of SOHO China spoke as a keynote speaker at NYU Schack Institute’s Women in Real Estate Symposium about the greater complexity of developing in New York City than in China.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) of Ayala Corp. announced plans to boost solar energy investment in Vietnam. His company recently expanded its technology portfolio, with investments in a [logistics joint venture](#) and a [home-health startup](#).

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**Asian nations unsettled by U.S. midterm elections**

As the U.S. midterm vote is set for November 6, concerns are growing over its uncertain implications for Asia. Quoted by the [South China Morning Post](#), Zhao Quansheng of American University noted that the U.S. would unlikely see a turn in its current hardline China policy even if the Democrats win the elections, as there was a “bipartisan consensus” in Washington in favor of a tough stance on China. In a commentary for [Nikkei Asian Review](#), Charles Edel contended that regardless of the results of the elections, the U.S. would increase its focus on China and congressional support for a more heavily engaged Indo-Pacific strategy to contain China would grow. In an article for [Japan Times](#), Ko Hirano cited a recent poll to argue that the Republicans would likely lose the support of some Japanese-Americans, who were disappointed by President Trump’s anti-immigration rhetoric.

**Chinese activities set to intensify scramble for the Poles**

With China building its first airport in Antarctica in November according to the [Financial Times](#), Beijing’s increased foray into the Poles has sparked worries about a global scramble over the world’s icy regions. In a commentary for the [European Council on Foreign Relations](#), Joanna Hosa predicted that Russia would emerge as a major player in the race for the North Pole, alongside China, thanks to its geographical proximity and long-term strategy for the Arctic. Writing for [Asia Times](#), Sabena Siddiqui argued that melting ice caused by global warming has opened new shipping routes through the Arctic, partially fueling Chinese ambition in the region in the form of increased scientific investment and policies to build a “polar silk road” as an extension of the country’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China’s pivot to the Poles comes amid setbacks for the BRI, which faces growing Western skepticism due to concerns over corruption and debt risks for developing countries, noted Christopher Balding in [Foreign Affairs](#).

**“American First” an obstacle to solving global crises, writes Andrew Sheng**

Asia Global Institute Distinguished Fellow and recent Asia Business Council Shenzhen forum speaker Andrew Sheng wrote in [Project Syndicate](#) that President Donald Trump’s “American first” policy was self-defeating as it hurt not only China and the world but the U.S. as

well, by undermining international efforts to resolve pressing global issues and crises like climate change and inequality. Sheng wrote in the [East Asia Forum](#) that financial fragility fueled by debt presents a global danger, but warned that Asian markets should worry more about a looming global crisis triggered by personality-driven geopolitical risks, pointing to President Trump's erratic foreign policy. Writing for the [South China Morning Post](#), Sheng argued that China and the U.S. were not simply in a trade war but competing in a race to control the next stage of technology, as the current trade dispute is only a means for the U.S. to disrupt China before it gains the upper hand in technological capability.

*Upcoming Forum Dates*

2019 Spring Forum: Yangon, February 28-March 2

2019 Autumn Forum: New Delhi, September 26-28

2020 Spring Forum: Tokyo, March 26-28

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