

IN THIS ISSUE

[Member News](#)[UN Projects African Century, Declining Asia](#)[Debating the Role of Conglomerates in Developing Nations](#)[Consumer Confidence Levels Highest in SE Asia](#)[Obstacles to ASEAN Economic Community Persist](#)[Upcoming Forum Dates](#)**Member News**

- ✧ Saudi Aramco's [Khalid A. Al-Falih](#) accepted a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification accreditation for the company's Al-Midra Tower, which attained the U.S. Green Building Council's highest standards of sustainability and environmental protection.
- ✧ Dominic Barton of McKinsey & Co. spoke in an interview with [China Daily](#) about the need to balance China's GDP targets with expansion of the country's service sector and encouragement of more small and medium enterprises. He was also profiled in [Management Today](#), where he discussed his career path with McKinsey and tenure as Global Managing Director.
- ✧ Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.'s Morris Chang spoke about the commercial prospects of wearable electronic devices, such as Google Glass, in an [article for Forbes Asia](#). He and his company were also profiled in an article about TSMC's pioneering vision in [The Economist](#).
- ✧ [S. Dhanabalan](#), outgoing Chairman of Temasek Holdings, was praised by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for his 17 years of service at the sovereign wealth fund.
- ✧ Henry Kravis of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. announced the creation of the KKR Global Institute, which will focus on macroeconomic and geopolitical trends for the firm's investors. Retired four-star General and former Director of the CIA [David Petraeus will chair the Institute](#).
- ✧ Lafarge's [Bruno Lafont](#) spoke to the *Economic Times* about the company's expansion plans in India, which come on the heels of a new study projecting India to be the world's third-largest construction market by 2025.
- ✧ [Li Dongsheng](#) of TCL Corp. spoke to *CKGSB Knowledge* about his company's acquisition of Thomson TV, TCL's corporate culture, and the competitive advantages of Chinese manufacturing.
- ✧ [Yoshihiko Miyauchi](#) of Orix Corp. was interviewed by *Bloomberg* about the initial success of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's stimulus policies, as well as the policies' critical "third arrow" of structural reforms.

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UN Projects African Century, Declining Asia

New statistics by the United Nations Population Division predict that rich countries will succumb to shrinking and aging populations and developing populations will boom in the next 90 years. In an analysis of these statistics, [Max Fisher of the Washington Post describes a world](#) in which African populations expand dramatically and Indian and Chinese numbers level off and shrink. It also proposes that immigration will be the key to staving off economic stagnation in countries with graying populations, including Japan and Korea. However, a booming African population may present challenges to a region that finds itself without the infrastructure, good governance, and careful resource management that aided the rise of Asia. A more detailed chart of the data Fisher used in his analysis [can be found here](#).

Debating the Role of Conglomerates in Developing Nations

How societies can foster the next Steve Jobs or Bill Gates is a perpetual policy debate across the world. In Korea, the Park Geun-hye government is championing a "creative economy," to foster innovation. Instead of merely looking for the next big idea, the government must rein in the country's giant *chaebol*, writes [William Pesek](#), Asia columnist for *Bloomberg View*. Economist [Ricardo Hausmann](#) makes a dissenting point: conglomerates may be better-suited for navigating the shaky road to development because they are vertically integrated and flush with logistical know-how and financial capital.

Consumer Confidence Levels Highest in Southeast Asia

Global consumer confidence rose in the second quarter this year, according to a survey conducted by Nielsen that yielded some surprising insight into Asian economies. With ASEAN's GDP set to grow by 5.2% this year, Southeast Asians show the [highest amount of confidence](#) globally in their personal finances, with Indonesia ranking first, followed by the Philippines. Despite concerns over the devaluation of the rupee, India managed to take third place. Europe's consumer confidence remained flat as the U.S., China, and Japan showed an increase in spending intentions and stronger personal finances; the American recovery and the Abenomics stimulus are driving a brightened global outlook, while local troubles continue to bog down the Eurozone. The full report can be read [here](#).

Obstacles to ASEAN Economic Community Persist

The ASEAN community faces obstacles to its eventual goal of economic integration, according to a new report issued by the CIMB ASEAN Research Institute (CARI). A key problem is that intra-ASEAN trade volume is still relatively low due to the prevalence of locally focused SMEs and bigger businesses seeking markets outside ASEAN. This discourages businesses from seeing the benefits of joining the ASEAN Economic Community. Nazir Razak of CIMB Group urged leaders across the region to "get serious," and said that "businesses across the region were banking on the AEC to deliver," in [a summary at the Bangkok Post](#). The full report can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Forum Dates

2013 Autumn Forum: Kyoto, September 12-14
 2014 Spring Forum: Mumbai, February 20-22
 2014 Autumn Forum: Ulaanbaatar, September 18-20

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