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Member News

- ✧ [Khalid A. Al-Falih](#) of Saudi Aramco spoke with the *Wall Street Journal* about the potential for taking the company public. He was also interviewed at the [Global Competitiveness Forum](#) in Riyadh and discussed Saudi Arabia's economic future.
- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey and Co. penned an article for Project Syndicate on the challenges and opportunities of digital innovation. He also wrote in the *Economic Times* about harnessing the power of digital growth, unlocking the potential of women, and accelerating the reforms of the public sector.
- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties spoke to Bloomberg about his optimistic outlook for the Hong Kong and mainland Chinese real estate markets.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia was interviewed by the *Economic Times* on plans for the Indian market. He also invites the public, through a video, to be a part of his firm's climate awareness initiative, "#GREEN24".
- ✧ [Peter Grauer](#) of Bloomberg LP was named to join Blackstone Group's Board of Directors.
- ✧ [Alan Joyce](#) of Qantas was quoted by the *New Zealand Herald* on in-flight entertainment strategy for his company's planes.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. was quoted by the *South China Morning Post* on his plans to strengthen the exchange's trading links with mainland China.
- ✧ [Li Dongsheng](#) of TCL Corp. spoke of his group's plans for expansion and engagement with local economies following the Consumer Electronics Show 2016 in Las Vegas.
- ✧ [Anand Mahindra](#) of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. was interviewed on his launch of an electric powered scooter in Oakland, California. He spoke at the [launch](#) of his company's compact SUV in India and emphasized the resilience of the auto industry despite the growth of the "sharing economy"; at a panel in [Davos](#), he raised the question of whether the "fourth industrial revolution" will unite or divide the world.
- ✧ [Azman Mokhtar](#) of Khazanah Nasional Bhd. was quoted in *The Star* on his company's performance and the volatility this year.
- ✧ Hiroaki Nakanishi of Hitachi Ltd. spoke to the *Financial Times* and the *Nikkei Asian Review* on the opportunity for Japanese companies to expand globally.
- ✧ [Takeshi Niinami](#) of Suntory Holdings Ltd. discussed with the *Nikkei Asian Review* his firm's plans for bolstering its global presence and winning new customers.
- ✧ [Dong-Bin Shin](#) of Lotte Group emphasized the importance of investing in innovation in his New Year's address. He was also profiled by the *Chosun Ilbo* for donating over \$4 million to the Korean Ski Association in the run-up to the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.
- ✧ [Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi](#) of Thai Beverage Public Co. was interviewed by the *Nikkei Asian Review* in a video and spoke of his firm's expansion plans in the ASEAN Economic Community.
- ✧ [Mark Tucker](#) of AIA Group was quoted on his firm's infrastructure investments in the Philippines.
- ✧ [Nazir Razak](#) of CIMB Group Holdings was interviewed by *The Star*, and reflected on the influence his father had on him.
- ✧ [Yang Yuanqing](#) of Lenovo Group was interviewed by Bloomberg Business on his firm's restructuring and strategy for overseas expansion.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) of Ayala Corp. was interviewed at the Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong, where he spoke on global growth and his outlook on opportunities in ASEAN and the Philippines.

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Chinese Markets Open 2016 with Uncertainty

China's markets opened in the first two weeks of 2016 with the Shanghai Composite Index [falling more than 20 percent](#) from its high last December. Arthur Kroeber, in a [ChinaFile](#) conversation, writes that the turbulence in equity and currency markets is part of the transition toward a services and private consumption-based growth model. He argues, however, that the government's unwillingness to relinquish control stands in the way of market reforms. In [Project Syndicate](#), Andrew Sheng and Xiao Geng say that a lack of transparency in the financial policy framework leads to unclear communication from Chinese banking officials to financial market participants; although China is in a strong position to handle its challenges, the bureaucracy needs to attract market-savvy officials who can take transparent and credible reform action.

Middle East and One Belt One Road

Amid high Sunni-Shiite tensions in the Gulf region, Chinese President Xi Jinping travelled to the area as the first world leader to visit Iran after international sanctions were lifted. *The New York Times* writes that China's deep business interests in the region were underscored by visits to Cairo, where Xi pledged \$1 billion in financing for Egypt's central bank, and Tehran, where he invited Iran to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional security group. *Foreign Policy* says that, in addition to the oil reserves, China's Middle East strategy hinges on the One Belt One Road initiative, which could contribute to regional stability by promoting projects with shared Sunni-Shiite interests.

New President in Taiwan Hopes to Spark Economic Growth

The *Financial Times* notes that Tsai Ing-wen's victory in the Taiwan presidential election is a rejection of the ruling Kuomintang Party's policy of closer economic ties with China and represents a generational shift in Taiwan. *Foreign Policy* notes that outgoing President Ma Ying-jeou's pro-China trade deals left Taiwan's economy connected to Chinese markets, and that Tsai will enact reforms to separate the island from the economic slowdown on mainland China. The *Nikkei Asian Review* writes that Taiwan can

join the TPP to wean itself off reliance from China and to revitalize Taiwan's weakening economy, but warns that if Tsai is unable to make the requisite reforms, the positive energy could quickly be replaced by widespread public dissatisfaction.

Upcoming Forum Dates

2016 Spring Forum: Singapore, February 18-20

2016 Autumn Forum: Abu Dhabi, September 22-24

2017 Spring Forum: location to be confirmed, February 23-25

2017 Autumn Forum: location to be confirmed, September 28-30

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