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**Member News**

- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties commented that the recent surge in Hong Kong's land prices, which he termed an "irrational fever" caused by mainland investors, "will return to normal in the long run."
- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. lauded U.S. President Donald Trump for his goal to create more U.S. jobs and described the company's own success in creating U.S. jobs. He also lamented Taiwan's [brain drain](#) of skilled technology workers due to competition from Chinese companies.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia discussed how the company's hedging of operating costs has helped the company compete. He announced plans to list a portion of AirAsia Bhd shares on the [Hong Kong Stock Exchange](#), the divestment of the company's [plane-leasing unit](#), and the company's first travel-related [hackathon](#).
- ✧ [Lance Gokongwei](#) of JG Summit Holdings shared the lessons and values his father taught him.
- ✧ [Alan Joyce](#) of Qantas re-launched the airline's flights from Sydney to Beijing after an eight-year hiatus.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing is considering introducing a weighted voting rights stock model, to help diversify geographical and sector representation of the Exchange's listings.
- ✧ [Azman Mokhtar](#) of Khazanah Nasional commented on Malaysia Airline's turnaround and its expected profitability by 2018.
- ✧ [Hiroaki Nakanishi](#) of Hitachi discussed the state of his company, the strength of the Japanese yen, and the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.
- ✧ [Amin Nasser](#) of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. sat down with Bloomberg to discuss the company's listing in the second half of 2018, its investment priorities, the price of oil, and its strategic position on renewables.
- ✧ [Takeshi Niinami](#) of Suntory Holdings told the *Nikkei Asian Review* that he expects the U.S. will maintain a healthy economy over the next two years but worries about U.S. President Donald Trump's stance on trade. He also spoke with [Bloomberg](#) about the risk of increased U.S. protectionism, Suntory's focus on integration of the company with newly-acquired Beam, and Abenomics.
- ✧ [Serge Pun](#) of Yoma Strategic Holdings commented on the absence of an official Myanmar delegation at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.
- ✧ [Yasuhiro Sato](#) of Mizuho Financial Group spoke on the positive economic impact of the new U.S. administration, the expected upturn in the Japanese economy, and the company's rollout of fintech. He also discussed the possibility of moving the company's securities unit from London to another European city in the event of a "heavy Brexit".
- ✧ [Dong-Bin Shin](#) of Lotte Group set out a new vision for the company that includes innovation, corporate social responsibility, and a greater focus on mega-trends including the Fourth Industrial Revolution and changing demographics.
- ✧ Stan Shih of Stans Foundation authored two e-books on "Wangdao" philosophy, [Wangdao for New Era](#) and [The Challenge of Asia's Stranded Tiger](#).
- ✧ [Teresita Sy-Coson](#) of SM Investments advocated for a "Philippines-first" approach in response to rising protectionism.
- ✧ [Francis Yeoh Sock Ping](#) of YTL Group of Companies was awarded the Capri Legend Humanitarian Award for his long-time philanthropic support for music and the arts. He also established [Lot 10 Hutong](#), a food hawker center that offers various selections of local Malaysian food, to preserve the cultural heritage of these dishes.
- ✧ [Yang Yuanqing](#) of Lenovo commented on the consolidation of the personal computer industry as well as the company's negotiations with Fujitsu to merge their personal computer operations.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) of Ayala Corp., in addition to member Ronnie C. Chan, spoke at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Financial Forum in Hong Kong on ASEAN prospects, opportunities in China, and the global economy. He also announced that [Ayala Foundation](#) will build the country's first community- and faith-based drug rehabilitation center in Marawi City.

**Davos: 'Responsive and Responsible Leadership'**

The 2017 World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting that took place in Davos-Klosters in January centered on the theme of Responsive and Responsible Leadership. Asia Business Council members Lubna Olayan, Dominic Barton, and Hiroaki Nakanishi participated in a panel on forging a [compact for responsible business leadership](#), where they discussed the ways business leaders approach the issue of waning public trust in business and institutions. [Amin Nasser](#) of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. participated in a session on the future of energy, where he argued that investments in renewables and oil are not mutually exclusive. Other common concerns raised in Davos included the state of [U.S.-China relations](#), particularly given that the U.S. is becoming more closed off economically while China continues to advocate for trade and openness. Others reflected on the need for [technological breakthroughs](#) to increase people's well-being, beyond driving greater business efficiency. Fellow members Tony Fernandes, Nazir Razak, and Yasuhiro Sato were also speakers at the forum. Those in attendance walked away with the idea of a [new world order](#), with an increasingly multipolar world, uncertainty in Europe post-Brexit, and a need to reshape globalization.

**2017 Predictions**

Several experts put forward their annual predictions for the year ahead. [Byron Wein](#), Vice Chairman of Multi-Asset Investing at Blackstone, issued his 32<sup>nd</sup> annual list of predictions, including a more centrist U.S. President Donald Trump, the Japanese yen at 130: US\$1, Angela Merkel's September election loss, and a lasting ceasefire in Syria negotiated between the U.S. and Russia. [Brookings Institution](#) guest economists and experts predict a faster change in climate, emerging signs of a second Cold War, an improvement in the European economy, and the introduction of basic incomes in various countries. [A.T. Kearney](#) published predictions ranging from a major cyberattack on a

leading economy to increased European populism. The [New York Times](#) asked investors and market experts who were successful in 2016 to give their input for 2017, which included positive growth on high-dividend, value-oriented stocks; a lowered price-to-earnings ratio in the event of Trump's policy successes; and a market driven by oil price resurgence due to continued strength in demand.

***Will the U.S.'s Withdrawal from the TPP Boost Commitment to China-Backed Trade Agreements?***

One of U.S. President Donald Trump's first acts was to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership while also vowing to contain China's influence. [Anne-Marie Slaughter and Mira Rapp-Hooper](#) argue in a Project Syndicate article that the U.S.'s Asian allies should move towards a decentralized mesh network of alliances by creating ties among themselves so that they do not rely on the traditional hub-and-spoke model of alliances with the U.S. at the center. In so doing, these Asian countries will be more resilient in the wake of the collapse of the TPP and other unforeseen changes with American foreign policy. Some Asian countries stand to lose from the end of the TPP and the more protectionist sentiment of the new U.S. administration; a Bloomberg column suggests that [China](#) will gain business from a U.S. that distances itself from Asia. A [South China Morning Post](#) editorial argues that a worldwide shift is taking place, where China will take the global lead through One Belt, One Road, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

- ✧ **Special note to members:** The Asia Global Institute at the University of Hong Kong is welcoming applications for its inaugural AsiaGlobal Fellows Program, a 13-week immersive Asian policy program created to further develop leadership skills of mid-career professionals who want to make a difference in society. Members are asked to pass this information on to their staff or others (for example NGO leaders) who may be interested. More information can be found [here](#).

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

***Upcoming Forum Dates***

2017 Spring Forum: Ho Chi Minh City, February 23-25

2017 Autumn Forum: Taipei, September 28-30

2017 Informal Council Trip to Mongolia: June 20-23

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