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Member News

- ✦ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey & Co. co-authored *Talent Wins*, a book for CEOs that provides strategies for acquiring and retaining talent. In an interview with the *Australian Financial Review*, he [discussed](#) (paywall) his regrets over the handling of the company's South African crisis, as well as the growing pressure on CEOs to speak out about social and business issues. In an interview with *Harvard Business Review*, he [talked](#) about the need for greater corporate sustainability efforts.
- ✦ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia unveiled the company's new digital payments platform, BigPay. In an interview with CNBC, he [advised](#) millennials to find jobs that they love. He also [commented](#) on the possibility of an initial coin offering (ICO) as AirAsia explores opportunities in financial services.
- ✦ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. commented on plans to use blockchain technology and [promoted](#) HKEX for new tech company listings.
- ✦ [Li Dongsheng](#) of TCL Corp. announced plans to open an R&D center focused on artificial intelligence research and manufacturing in Eastern Europe.
- ✦ [Amin Nasser](#) of Saudi Aramco, in an interview with CNBC, spoke about expanding in Asia and diversifying Saudi Aramco's business. He also [delivered](#) a speech on the future challenges and opportunities facing the oil industry at CERAWEEK, and [commented](#) on the \$25 million R&D collaboration between Aramco Services Company and MIT as well as cooperation [agreements](#) with U.S. oil services companies totaling \$10 billion.
- ✦ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. gave the Nadia Younes Memorial lecture at the American University in Cairo, where she spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing the rising Arab generation.
- ✦ [Penny Pritzker](#) of PSP Partners, in an article for CNBC, called for different policy solutions rather than a trade war, pointing out the need to address China's mercantilist economic policies, as well as focus on creating a comprehensive U.S. workforce strategy. She also [discussed](#) the importance of free trade and international cooperation on commerce, while speaking at the University of Michigan.
- ✦ [Serge Pun](#) of Serge Pun & Associates Ltd. commented on expanding into the financial services market in Myanmar after his company Yoma Strategic acquired a major stake in Wave Money, a mobile financial services provider. He also [oversaw](#) the company's transparency efforts that led to its ranking among the top three for transparency by the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business.
- ✦ [Arif Rachmat](#) of Triputra Agro Persada Group spoke on a panel about the outlook of the palm oil market at the Palm and Lauric Oils Price Outlook conference and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. He also spoke at the Jakarta Food Security Summit (*videos in Indonesian available upon request*).
- ✦ [Nazir Razak](#) of CIMB Group oversaw the implementation of a new work-from-home policy for working mothers.
- ✦ [Yasuhiro Sato](#) of Mizuho Financial Group commented on the development of the company's new smartphone payment and remittance services that use uniform, two-dimensional barcodes.

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U.S. Tariffs Targeting China Increase Concerns Over Escalating U.S.-China Trade Tensions

The latest U.S. tariffs on Chinese exports have sparked fears about a full-scale U.S.-China trade war. In a [Nikkei Asian Review](#) article, Minxin Pei argued that tensions between the U.S. and China will escalate as U.S. President Donald Trump takes further trade actions against China and hardline U.S. protectionists and security hawks grow closer, potentially resulting in large-scale disruption to global supply chains. In a [Council on Foreign Relations](#) article, Edward Alden recommended that the U.S. make its agenda clearer to China by laying out what it wants in return for removing tariffs and providing a path forward for a renewed economic relationship. While the tariffs aim to hurt China's tech sector, Ross O'Brien argued in a [Nikkei Asian Review](#) article that they are instead more likely to isolate and hurt the U.S. tech sector in the long-run. As reported in [Nikkei Asian Review](#), the U.S. wants to work with Taiwan to tackle high-tech intellectual property concerns with China. Tariffs targeting China have sparked concern among Asian economies, as seen in a [Jakarta Post](#) editorial, which outlined fears over an increase in Chinese steel in Indonesia. In a similar vein, Yoon Ja-young argued in a [Korea Times](#) article that South Korea's economy is especially vulnerable due to the large number of intermediate goods South Korea exports to China. However, recent revisions to the [Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement](#) removing additional steel tariffs on South Korea in exchange for benefits for American automakers demonstrate a positive shift in U.S.-Korea trade relations.

Nominations of Mike Pompeo and John Bolton Signal a Critical Shift in U.S. Foreign Policy

The nominations of Mike Pompeo and John Bolton for Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, respectively, signal a marked shift in the U.S.'s foreign policy approach. In a [ChinaFile](#) article, Robert Daly argued that Secretary Pompeo must develop a China strategy that recognizes the U.S.'s strengths and limitations, encourages the U.S. to be as active as China diplomatically and economically, fosters closer cooperation over common strategic concerns, and avoids overstating or understating the U.S.'s "China challenge." In a [Japan Times](#) article, Jesse Johnson argued that Secretary Pompeo's hawkish views could threaten the historic talks between the U.S. and North Korea. In a [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) article, Steven Feldstein contended that John Bolton's hardline views on North Korea and Iran, historical preference for force over negotiation, and desire to ensure U.S. global dominance increases the likelihood of international conflict. A known supporter of closer relations with Taiwan, John Bolton is also expected to advocate for increased visits by high-level U.S. officials to Taiwan and potentially alter U.S. military policy there, according to the [Taipei Times](#).

Upcoming Forum Dates

2018 Optional Council Trip to Israel, May 5-10

2018 Autumn Forum: Shenzhen, September 27-29

2019 Spring Forum: Yangon, February 28-March 2

2019 Autumn Forum: New Delhi, September 26-28

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