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Member News

- ✧ [Erramon Aboitiz](#) of Aboitiz Equity Ventures commented on Aboitiz Foundation's donation of \$10 million to the Asian Institute of Management to help nurture talent in data science and innovation in the Philippines and the region.
- ✧ [Jason Chen](#) of Acer said that the company is considering working with manufacturers outside China and stressed that innovation and flexibility is the key to respond to the Sino-U.S. trade war.
- ✧ [Ping Cheng](#) of Delta Electronics spoke to *Bloomberg* about shifting production away from China to places like Southeast Asia and India amid escalating Sino-U.S. trade tensions.
- ✧ [Lance Gokongwei](#) of JG Summit announced plans to earmark \$50 million for investing in digital ventures and emerging technologies in Southeast Asia.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing announced plans for the London Metal Exchange, a HKEX subsidiary, to expand its warehousing operations in mainland China.
- ✧ [David K.P. Li](#) of Bank of East Asia will step down as Chief Executive from July and hand over the job to his two sons, while he remains Executive Chairman.
- ✧ [Takeshi Niinami](#) of Suntory talked about the company's premiumization strategy and expansion in the U.S., its approach in [handling](#) a Japanese whisky shortage, and opportunities for its Scotch and gin brands.
- ✧ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. retired as CEO from May. She has been [named](#) Chairwoman of a new bank resulting from the merger of Saudi British Bank and Alawwal Bank.
- ✧ [Penny Pritzker](#) of PSP Partners and the Pritzker family made a \$100 million donation to the University of Chicago to create the first school of molecular engineering in the U.S.
- ✧ [Nazir Razak](#) of Ikhlas Capital spoke to *Bloomberg* about a potential rebound in Malaysia's stock market and currency, and prospects for the private equity industry in Southeast Asia.
- ✧ [Dong-Bin Shin](#) of Lotte Group met U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House following the opening of a chemical plant in Louisiana, one of the biggest investments in the U.S. from a South Korean company.
- ✧ [Peter Voser](#) of ABB, who in April took over as acting CEO, expects faster revenue growth despite difficult economic conditions in Europe; he stressed that changing the company's culture will take time.
- ✧ [Yuanqing Yang](#) of Lenovo said that the company will be flexible in adjusting its global supply chain to reduce the impact of U.S. tariff hikes and has contingency plans to increase production at overseas bases like Mexico.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) of Ayala Corp. discussed plans to invest in sustainable and responsible tourism. He also [spoke](#) of Ayala's relief efforts to aid victims of the Pampanga earthquake.

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U.S.-China Technology Cold War Heats Up with Huawei Ban

Sino-U.S. tensions have escalated with the U.S. effectively banning Huawei from the American market, a move that prompted Google and other U.S. suppliers to suspend business with the Chinese firm, according to [Channel News Asia](#). Maa Zhi Hong wrote in [Asia Times](#) that the ban marks the beginning of a new tech cold war and accelerates the creation of a digital iron curtain, which forces the world to choose between two mutually exclusive technological systems. Although a 90-day reprieve on the ban was granted, Louise Lucas of the [Financial Times](#) noted that the move was more an olive branch to Huawei's overseas suppliers than to Huawei, whose global 5G ambitions will likely be thwarted. While some developing countries in Asia are unlikely to share the U.S.'s security concerns over Huawei, Syed Khasru argued in [Nikkei Asian Review](#) that China should not take Asian cooperation for granted but must provide safeguards against intelligence breaches. Drawing comparisons with the Cold War between the U.S. and a declining Soviet Union, Nouriel Roubini wrote in [Project Syndicate](#) that a new Sino-U.S. cold war would be more destructive to the world, especially with China being a fully integrated player in the global supply chain and trade system.

Incumbents to Keep Power in Asian Elections, But Face Headwinds

Voters in several Asia-Pacific economies have cast ballots in major elections for new leadership and representation. Following a surprise win for Australia's ruling conservatives, John McCarthy wrote in [East Asia Forum](#) that the Morrison government should forge a diplomatic strategy that balances its economic relations with China and security ties with the U.S. Mihir Sharma argued in [Bloomberg](#) that a second term for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi should include bolder reforms to address unresolved challenges such as job creation and bureaucracy, as well as bottlenecks arising from the new tax regime and bankruptcy code. Writing for [Al Jazeera](#), Richard Heydarian noted that President Rodrigo Duterte consolidated power in the midterm elections in the Philippines, paving the way for the introduction of controversial reforms, including the lifting of presidential term limits. Meanwhile, protests in Indonesia over President Joko Widodo's re-election results prompted Michael Vatikiotis to write in [Nikkei Asian Review](#) that competitive politics will require more oversight if democratic elections are to thrive in Southeast Asia.

China Takes Up Challenge to Build a More Sustainable Belt and Road

Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged to make the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) greener in the face of growing backlash against the sustainability records of BRI projects. Helena Wright argued in [China Dialogue](#) that China needs to capitalize on the growing appetite for low-carbon investments abroad and support its clean energy manufacturing industries at home. Sun Xi wrote in [Asia Times](#) that BRI's

success would require Chinese companies and funders involved in the initiative to adhere to international environmental, social and governance safeguards. The Chinese government should play the role of gatekeeper in scrutinizing socio-environmental risks of BRI projects prior to the financing stage, according to a [SupChina](#) commentary. A [Forbes](#) article suggested that while setting more stringent rules for overseas investments is important, it is also crucial that China exercises its “green soft power” and shares the lessons it has learned in clean energy by offering technical support to BRI countries.

Upcoming Forum Dates

2019 Autumn Forum: New Delhi, September 26-28

2020 Spring Forum: Tokyo, March 26-28

2020 Autumn Forum: Riyadh, October 22-24

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