

JULY 2016

Member News

- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., at a press conference after his company's annual meeting, said that mainland Chinese clients are the most important growth driver for his business.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia spoke on a panel at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Malaysia. He was also quoted in [The Star](#) on the continuing promise of the ASEAN market, and in the [Sin Chew Daily](#) on ASEAN's foreign equity ceiling policy for airlines. Additionally, he was interviewed by [CNBC-TV18](#) on plans to increase his firm's stake in its Indian unit.
- ✧ [Alan Joyce](#) of Qantas was interviewed in a video by the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) on risk-taking and adaptability, and touched on the firm's domestic competition and international expansion plans in the article. He also penned an article in the [Daily Telegraph](#) on how low tax encourages business investment and was quoted in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) on emissions reduction.
- ✧ [Henry Kravis](#) of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. was interviewed by Bloomberg where he discussed subjects ranging from the future of private equity to KKR's culture.
- ✧ [Azman Mokhtar](#) of Khazanah Nasional was on a panel at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Malaysia where he commented on ASEAN's progress and the TPP.
- ✧ [Hiroaki Nakanishi](#) of Hitachi was quoted in [Relocate](#) magazine prior to the Brexit referendum on the dangers of a Leave result. He also wrote a pre-vote op-ed in the [Daily Mirror](#) expressing his concern that Brexit would hurt international companies that have their European headquarters in Britain – and force them to rethink their investments there.
- ✧ [Takeshi Niinami](#) of Suntory Holdings discussed the challenges of integrating the \$16 billion purchase of U.S. distiller Jim Beam in the [Financial Times](#).
- ✧ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. was interviewed in a [Fortune](#) video where she explored the implications of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 project that will help Saudi Arabia reduce its reliance on oil, and in the article she touches on the progress of women's rights in education, the government, and the private sector.
- ✧ [Chartsiri Sophonpanich](#) of Bangkok Bank expressed his confidence in the high economic growth rate of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Laos in [The Nation](#).
- ✧ [Teresita Sy-Coson](#) of SM Investments was featured on a panel in a joint meeting between the Makati Business Club and the Philippines-U.S. Business Council where she stressed the importance for the new administration in the Philippines to focus on the ease of doing business.
- ✧ [Mark Tucker](#) of AIA Group spoke at the launch of the AIA Vitality initiative in Malaysia about integrating health and wellness benefits into life insurance. He also was quoted in the [Shanghai Daily](#) on his thoughts regarding reforms in China's insurance sector.
- ✧ [Francis Yeoh](#) of the YTL Group received the Muhammad Ali Award for Philanthropy for his work raising funds for the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center in Arizona.
- ✧ [Yang Yuanqing](#) of Lenovo spoke on his firm's launch of the Moto Z, a smartphone with modular accessories and the Phab2 Pro, the first smartphone to bring augmented reality technology to consumers.

Brexit Will Mean a Weaker Britain; Asia Reacts

The June 23 British vote to leave the European Union (EU) has sparked political and financial turmoil. [Robin Niblett](#) of Chatham House (who will be speaking on this subject at the Autumn Forum in Abu Dhabi) writes that markets will stabilize in the short term, but ultimately put the U.K. in a much weaker negotiating position as it tries to preserve access to continental Europe from outside of the EU. The majority of British voters believed that leaving the EU would let them take back control and better their lives, but fixing the U.K.'s internal weaknesses would require structural reforms that may hurt these people. Glenn Greenwald writes in [The Intercept](#) that this is an opportunity for the establishment to self-critique and genuinely explore the anti-establishment frustration of pro-Brexit voters. The [Nikkei Asian Review](#) reports that Brexit hurts Asian businesses reliant on Europe across the hospitality, manufacturing, and transportation sectors through declining share prices and lower European sales, and economists from Nomura are expecting further rate cuts throughout the region to support growth. South Korea was one of the first Asian countries to react by downgrading its GDP forecast and planning extra stimulus measures, but according to a research report from [Natixis](#), this could just be an opportunity for President Park's minority party to get parliament to pass her proposed stimulus package.

RBI Governor Forced Out by Critics

Widely respected for the stabilization of the Indian rupee, and for attracting foreign investment, Raghuram Rajan, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), [will not serve a second term](#) due to vocal criticism of his leadership. Rajan's critics were led by the outspoken Subramanian Swamy of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, who complained that the RBI Governor focused too much on reducing inflation. The [New York Times](#) writes that Swamy, who regularly and publicly attacks politicians, questioned Rajan's loyalty and commitment to India. Although Prime Minister Modi eventually rose to Rajan's defense, a [spokesperson for the Indian Congress](#) dismissed Modi's remarks as pointless, drawing attention to Modi's lack of control over the government. An op-ed in [Bloomberg](#) warns that Rajan's exit will hurt investors in the long run if his successor seeks to marginalize the RBI's authority and abandon the work he began in targeting inflation and cleaning up bad loans in the banking system.

AIIB Holds First Annual Meeting, Emphasizes Green Investment and Expansion Beyond Asia

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's (AIIB) President, [Jin Liqun](#), opened the bank's first annual meeting by emphasizing AIIB's commitment to investments that further sustainable infrastructure development, cross-border benefits, and the Paris Agreement's goal to combat climate change. [Xinhua](#) reports that the AIIB Board of Directors approved four loans totaling \$509

million to finance power infrastructure, housing improvement, and road-building projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Tajikistan. The AIIB expects to officially welcome new members in the beginning of 2017, and the [Financial Times](#) writes that the Beijing-based bank's list of prospective members includes countries in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. This expansion highlights China's global ambitions, especially its "New Silk Road" vision of connecting countries to China across Eurasia and beyond.

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Upcoming Forum Dates

2016 Autumn Forum: Abu Dhabi, September 22-24

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

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

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