

To view this newsletter as a web page, click [here](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

[Member News](#)

[Singapore Focuses on the Future](#)

[Geopolitical Tensions Emerging as Increasingly High Threat To Global Economy](#)

[Upcoming Forum Dates](#)

SEPTEMBER 2017

**Member News**

- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia discussed the beginnings of the company and its role in driving urbanization of towns and small cities across Asia in an interview with *Forbes*.
- ✧ [Atsushi Horiba](#) of Horiba, Ltd. opened a new advanced emissions test center in England.
- ✧ [Alan Joyce](#) of Qantas was awarded for his executive leadership at this year's Airline Strategy Awards. He continues to advocate in favor of [same-sex marriage](#) as a public vote in Australia draws closer.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of HKEX revealed plans to initiate a blockchain-powered private market by 2018, which is expected to ease the securing of financing for smaller firms.
- ✧ [Hiroaki Nakanishi](#) of Hitachi will meet with British Prime Minister Theresa May regarding plans for the building of two nuclear reactors at a plant in Wales and over a bid for a new high-speed railway in the U.K.
- ✧ [Amin Nasser](#) of Saudi Aramco warned of an expected supply shortage even with renewed investment in the oil industry. He also discussed plans for Saudi Aramco's role in the building of an [energy city](#) between Dammam and Al-Ahsa, expected to attract global investment and foster innovation and entrepreneurship.
- ✧ [Penny Pritzker](#) of PSP Capital Partners voiced her concerns at the Fortune Brainstorm Tech 2017 regarding U.S. trade and fiscal policies and the importance for the government to create greater opportunity and prepare U.S. workers for 21<sup>st</sup> century work. She recently joined the [Cyber Readiness Institute](#), an organization aimed at helping small- and medium-sized companies develop their cybersecurity, as a co-chair.
- ✧ [Nazir Razak](#) of CIMB Group urged the government to analyze projects linked to the Chinese-led One Belt, One Road initiative based on their financial feasibility.
- ✧ [Anthoni Salim](#) of Salim Group discussed a new partnership with NUS Enterprise, the business arm of the National University of Singapore, on a startup incubation program focused on disruptive technologies.
- ✧ [Dong-Bin Shin](#) of Lotte Group implemented a "Smart Shopper" service in Lotte Department Store's Nowon, Seoul branch, allowing shoppers to simply scan the items they want to buy without having to carry a basket.
- ✧ [George Tahija](#) of PT Austindo Nusantara Jaya announced the opening of the Center for Marine Conservation, a new learning center run by Coral Triangle Center, which he hopes will create awareness among younger generations and inspire them to protect marine resources.
- ✧ [Yuanqing Yang](#) of Lenovo Group announced company plans to invest \$1.2 billion into artificial intelligence, big data, and the internet of things over the course of the next four years.

**Singapore Focuses on the Future**

As Singapore prepares for its September presidential election, questions over the nation's future are an increasing part of the national dialogue. [Tan Szué Hann](#) of infrastructure consultancy Surbana Jurong asserted that the country's future is one that should be centered on becoming a "smarter" nation through embedding more digital technologies into buildings and transportation infrastructure and setting the bar for sustainable urban development. A *Straits Times* article outlined the difficulties of integrating different payment systems, since using cash is both cheaper and considered more convenient, and advocated increased government investment in unifying payment schemes. Home Affairs and Law Minister [K. Shanmugam](#) expressed enthusiasm for the Chinese-led One Belt, One Road initiative, the latest in a series of statements that form part of a wide-ranging discussion about Singapore's relations with China.

**Geopolitical Tensions Emerging as Increasingly High Threat to Global Economy**

North Korea's Sept. 3 hydrogen bomb test raised Asia's geopolitical risks even further. Richard Haass of the Council on Foreign Relations argued in a *Project Syndicate* article that the key to Asia's economic miracle has changed in recent years from a reliance on rapid economic growth to the maintenance of peace and stability. In a recent *Fortune* article, Warren Buffett asserted that the only real economic threat to the U.S. economy is the conflict between the U.S. and North Korea. Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, in a more optimistic vein, stated in a *Project Syndicate* article that despite current tensions, ASEAN has been and will continue to be a bastion of peace in Asia.

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**Upcoming Forum Dates**

2017 Autumn Forum: Taipei, September 28-30

2018 Spring Forum: Manila, February 6-8

(2018 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony in Pyeongchang, Seoul February 9-10)

2018 Autumn Forum: Shenzhen, September 27-29

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