

## IN THIS ISSUE

[Member News](#)[Asia's Top Risks in 2012](#)[Closer Taiwan-China Economic Ties](#)[China's Deepening Collaboration with Saudi Arabia](#)[The Resilient Dragon](#)**Member News**

- ✧ [Mukesh Ambani](#) of Reliance Industries and [Anand Mahindra](#) of Mahindra & Mahindra were listed as India's best performing CEOs by *BusinessToday*. Mr. Mahindra emphasized the importance of being a trusted brand in [Business Standard](#).
- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties discussed the Chinese real estate market in an interview with *Bloomberg Television* and shared his thoughts on land policy in Hong Kong at the [Better Hong Kong Foundation](#). Mr. Chan, in addition to [Li Dongsheng](#) of TCL and [Levin Zhu Yunlai](#) of China International Capital Corp., spoke at the [Asian Financial Forum](#) in Hong Kong. Mr. Li also discussed expanding operations in North America in an interview with *TWICE*.
- ✧ KKR's [Henry Kravis](#) emphasized the role of private equity firms during a speech at the [Monaco Venture Capital Association](#).
- ✧ The Bank of East Asia's [David K.P. Li](#) was named Commander of the French Legion d'Honneur.
- ✧ Kikkoman's [Yuzaburo Mogi](#) discussed adjusting operations to match demand in an interview with *Just-Food*.
- ✧ [Penny Pritzker](#) of TransUnion stepped down from her role as chairman of Vi, a retirement community chain.
- ✧ CIMB's [Nazir Razak](#) was featured in *Forbes* for his leadership at CIMB and work on ASEAN economic integration. He was also appointed President Commissioner of [CIMB Niaga](#).
- ✧ [Stan Shih](#) of iD SoftCapital was featured in a Rescucom article for his career in business and technology innovation.
- ✧ [George Tahija](#) of PT Austindo Nusantara Jaya was appointed as a Trustee of the Darden School Foundation at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

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**Asia's Top Risks in 2012**

The newly released World Economic Forum report entitled [Global Risks 2012](#) identifies Chinese economic slowdown, Japan's governance failure in the wake of the March 11 disaster, and failure to respond to climate change as top risks for Asia this year. At the recently concluded Davos meeting, Japanese [Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda](#) expressed the need "to prevent the spread of the European crisis into the Asian region." Indeed, Asia's economic fortitude will be tested by the spillover from financial instability in the Eurozone, argues a recent [IMF survey](#).

**Closer Taiwan-China Economic Ties**

A full cross-strait economic policy agenda is at the top of Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's priorities for his second term. The reelection gave him a strong mandate and an extra four years to establish closer economic ties with China. The scope of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) between Taiwan and China is expanding, with [tariffs](#) eliminated on 437 items from Taiwan to China including automotive parts, machinery, petrochemicals, and textile fabrics from January 1, 2012. [Agreement on a cross-strait investment protection pact](#), which liberalizes Chinese investments in Taiwan, will become a top priority for Taiwan this year.

**China's Deepening Collaboration with Saudi Arabia**

The January visit to Saudi Arabia by China's prime minister, Wen Jiabao, focused on ensuring energy security for China and increasing its economic ties with the country. [Saudi Aramco and Sinopec](#) signed a \$10 billion deal to develop a 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Yanbu. The two countries also inked several energy agreements, including [nuclear energy collaboration](#) and a Protocol of Cooperation between Saudi petrochemical SABIC and Sinopec to build a [petrochemical plant in Tianjin](#). China expressed its willingness to invest in Saudi Arabia's [huge oil and gas resources](#), as well as ports, railways, and infrastructure. A *Financial Times* article says that Saudi Arabia is expected to allow foreigners to invest directly in its \$340 billion stock market later this year, providing huge investment opportunities for China. Read [more](#).

**The Resilient Dragon**

China's economy appears to be holding up better than many people had feared. [Jim O'Neill](#) of Goldman Sachs argues that 8.9% fourth quarter growth, stabilizing property prices, rising wages, and yuan appreciation all augur well for sustained growth. [Jonathan Anderson](#) of UBS notes that China is now using materials like steel and cement more efficiently, also a good long-term sign. World Bank chief economist [Justin Yifu Lin](#) says that the Chinese economic model of development – which "exploits the benefits of backwardness" by using foreign technology and investment while providing transitional protection to some sectors – can enable other developing nations to achieve similar levels of growth.

Boyuan Foundation's [Qin Xiao](#) authored an article on Chinese market reform in the *Financial Times*.