

Member News

- ✧ [Mukesh Ambani](#) of Reliance Industries encouraged students to be leaders during his convocation speech at the Institute of Management Technology.
- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. discussed his succession plans and recent decision to appoint three co-chief operating officers in an interview with *CommonWealth Magazine*. He also emphasized life skills, critical thinking, and lifelong learning during a speech at [Fu Jen Catholic University](#) in New Taipei City.
- ✧ [Kris Gopalakrishnan](#) of Infosys spoke at a leadership seminar at the Cambridge Judge Business School. He also shared his thoughts on India's 2012-2013 Union Budget in an interview with *The Economic Times' ET Now* and the economic recovery in the United States and European Union with [NDTV Profit](#).
- ✧ Lafarge's [Bruno Lafont](#) talked about his company's operations in India in an interview with *Business Standard*.
- ✧ Lawson's [Takeshi Niinami](#) was featured in the *Financial Times* for his efforts to expand store locations in India and around Asia.
- ✧ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. was ranked third on *Arabian Business's* 100 Most Powerful Arab Women 2012.
- ✧ SM Investments Corp.'s [Teresita Sy-Coson](#) was the focus of *Forbes Asia's* cover story entitled Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen. [Marjorie Yang](#) of Esquel Group and [Zhang Xin](#) of SOHO China also made the list. Zhang Xin was also profiled by [Amy Chua](#) for her success as a female entrepreneur and gave her insight on the Chinese property market in a *Reuters* article.
- ✧ Siam Cement Group's [Kan Trakulhoon](#) highlighted the importance of high value-added products and services during a speech at the ASEAN Business Forum in Bangkok.
- ✧ YTL's [Francis Yeoh](#) discussed Kuala Lumpur's retail transformation in an interview with the *New Straits Times*.
- ✧ [Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala](#) of Ayala Corp. authored an article on national competitiveness and discussed his company's record capital spending in a *Bloomberg* article.

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Summer Forum in Sydney

The Asia Business Council's 2012 Summer Forum was held on March 15-17 in Sydney. The Council hosted the Welcome Dinner at the Park Hyatt Hotel. Michael Smith of ANZ hosted the Forum Dinner at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

At the Round-Robin discussion, members cited opportunities for investment in innovation and technology as well as the growing market serving Asia's emerging middle class. Members expressed concerns over growing protectionism and populism. There were also worries about lingering macroeconomic issues in Asia and throughout the world, including contracting liquidity and slower growth in China, the unstable global financial environment, and volatile credit markets. Social inequity, especially youth unemployment, was noted as a growing issue; members agreed that Asia needs educational reform in order to meet economic interests and workforce needs.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard met with our members to discuss Australia's economic ties with Asia. She emphasized Australia's rich natural endowment, skilled human capital, and its legacy of reform. The Forum also featured outside speakers Al Gore and David Blood, who discussed sustainable capitalism that seeks to maximize long-term investing and economic value; David Flanagan and Rod Eddington, who talked about Australia's booming mining sector, with Asia driving demand growth; and Mark Daniell, who addressed succession issues for Asia's family businesses.

Forum materials and summaries are available on a members-only [Web site](#). The user name and password will be sent immediately following this message.