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- ✧ [Khalid A. Al-Falih](#) of Saudi Aramco has been appointed Minister of Health of Saudi Arabia and [Chairman of the Board](#) of Saudi Aramco. He also spoke to [Caixin](#) about collaboration opportunities in China's oil and related industries and Saudi Arabia's role as a critical partner in the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.
- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties Ltd. was quoted by Bloomberg Business on the economic impact that limiting mainland Chinese shoppers will have on Hong Kong.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in a piece written by Virgin Group founder Richard Branson. He also launched [Tune Labs](#), a start-up accelerator that funds young entrepreneurs in ASEAN, and was quoted by [Malay Mail Online](#) on the need to form an ASEAN regional airline authority.
- ✧ [Peter T. Grauer](#) of Bloomberg L.P. spoke to *China Daily* about Bloomberg's China expansion and his view on China's economic reforms.
- ✧ [Kuok Khoon Hong](#) of Wilmar International Ltd.'s partnership with environmental NGO Forest Heroes to eliminate deforestation in the palm oil industry was profiled by Grist.
- ✧ [Bruno Lafont](#) of Lafarge Group was interviewed by the *Financial Times* about his company's merger with Holcim, which will create the world's largest cement company by revenue.
- ✧ [Aloke Lohia](#) of Indorama Ventures was interviewed by Bloomberg on his company's overseas acquisition strategy.
- ✧ [Yoshihiko Miyauchi](#) of ORIX Corp. spoke with Bloomberg on the need for Japanese companies to focus on long-term shareholders.
- ✧ [Takeshi Niinami](#) of Suntory Holdings Ltd. was interviewed by *Fortune* on expanding the whisky business in the American market.
- ✧ [Hari Sankaran](#) of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services spoke to *Business Standard* on challenges facing the infrastructure industry and the potential of renewable energy in India.
- ✧ [Yasuhiro Sato](#) of Mizuho Financial Group was quoted by the *Wall Street Journal* on the potential impact of tougher capital reserve requirements on Japanese banks and [announced](#) that Mizuho Financial Group would be a Gold Partner of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.
- ✧ [Takumi Shibata](#) of Nikko Asset Management Co. spoke to *Pensions & Investments* on the challenges and opportunities presented by the movement of Japanese public pension funds into equities.
- ✧ [Atsushi Yoshikawa](#) of Nomura Holdings, Inc. announced that Nomura Holdings would be a Gold Partner of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.

To send us member news, or for member news questions, please click [here](#).

Asia in the Spotlight for Climate Change Action

Former Asia Business Council member and current U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker led a trade delegation of 24 business leaders in the U.S. clean technology industry to China last month. [China Daily](#) reports that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang urged Washington to lift bans on high-technology exports to China, while Penny Pritzker [advocated](#) for stronger enforcement of intellectual property rights and noted progress on applying anti-monopoly law. Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. wrote an editorial for [Caixin](#) further highlighting the need for top-level engagement and cooperation between the U.S. and China in order to solve environmental challenges that transcend national borders. Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Asia Society co-hosted the Symposium on Global Sustainability, where participating Nobel Laureates signed a [memorandum](#) urging politicians, business leaders, and members of civil society in Asian cities to come together to reduce emissions by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and making buildings more energy-efficient.

Prime Minister Abe's U.S. Visit and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Washington D.C. to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama and shore up U.S. Congressional support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#), President Obama made the case for the TPP as a measure to establish a rulebook for trade in Asia. In an analysis of Prime Minister Abe's Congressional address, [Foreign Policy](#) notes that Abe painted Japan as an ally in spreading free and fair trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region, but the two leading countries must solve issues of domestic opposition and tariff barriers. Chandran Nair, founder of Hong Kong's Global Institute for Tomorrow, makes an argument in the [Straits Times](#) that the TPP is designed to ensure that trade in Asia will happen on American terms, and that countries in ASEAN should participate in the negotiations as a bloc as a means of obtaining more bargaining power.

Forty Years After Reunification, Vietnam Looks to the Future

Forty years after reunification in 1975, Vietnam has made strides to integrate into the global economy and stands to benefit significantly as a signatory of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The [Philippine Star](#) notes that Vietnam has pursued a development strategy similar to the East Asian tiger economies by welcoming foreign investment. Writing in the [New York Times](#), Tuong Lai, a sociologist and political advisor, urged his country's leadership to sign on to the TPP in order to make Vietnamese products more competitive and expand its manufacturing base, steps that will be critical to achieving economic development. Besides lowering trade barriers and increasing FDI, Vietnam will need to foster domestic innovation and entrepreneurship in order to escape the middle-income trap. The [Wall Street Journal](#) reports that an increasing number of the Vietnamese diaspora who left in 1975 are returning and bringing much-needed capital and expertise to Vietnam's emerging economy.

Upcoming Forum Dates

2015 Autumn Forum: Seoul (note location change), September 16-18
2016 Spring Forum: Singapore, February 18-20
2016 Autumn Forum: Dubai (location to be confirmed), September 22-24

- ✧ Reviews of Asia Business Council Executive Director Mark Clifford's *The Greening of Asia: The Business Case for Solving Asia's Environmental Emergency* have been published by [The Economist](#) and [Financial Times](#).

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