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- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey & Co. wrote an op-ed for *The Globe and Mail* urging the need for businesses to make long-term investments in order to create jobs and achieve sustainable growth.
- ✧ [Ronnie C. Chan](#) of Hang Lung Properties Ltd. gave the concluding remarks at the 4th Nobel Laureates Symposium on Global Sustainability, stressing the importance of both market forces and government policies in combating climate change.
- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company had a dialogue with former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke at an economic forum hosted by local publication *Business Weekly*.
- ✧ [Alan Joyce](#) of Qantas spoke to *The Sydney Morning Herald* about the need for marriage equality in Australia.
- ✧ [Henry Kravis](#) of KKR won the Lifetime Achievement Award at *Institutional Investor's* 2015 Investment Management Awards. He and his wife Marie-Josée also [donated](#) \$100 million to Rockefeller University to fund a new research laboratory building.
- ✧ [Azman Mokhtar](#) of Khazanah Nasional Bhd. was profiled by *Institutional Investor* on the fund's investment strategy.
- ✧ [Hiroaki Nakanishi](#) of Hitachi was named an Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.
- ✧ [Lubna Olayan](#) of Olayan Financing Co. was featured in a profile by Bloomberg Business.
- ✧ [Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi](#) of Thai Beverage Co. was quoted by AsiaOne on the company's expansion plans.
- ✧ [Michael Smith](#) of ANZ spoke to the *Australian Financial Review* about his strategic priorities and the effects of higher capital reserve requirements on banks.
- ✧ [Teresita Sy-Coson](#) of SM Group spoke to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* regarding her confidence in the Philippine economy.
- ✧ [Mark Tucker](#) of AIA Group was quoted by CNBC on Asia's rise in the global insurance market and his company's commitment to the region.

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

Mine Deal a Positive Sign for Mongolian Economy

The Mongolian government and mining giant Rio Tinto have agreed upon a \$5.4 billion expansion of Mongolia's Oyu Tolgoi copper mine, the nation's largest. The [Telegraph](#) reports that the deal signals Mongolia's rise as a copper superpower and will have a turnaround effect on the Mongolian economy, which has stagnated over the past two years with the softening of global demand for commodities. The [Nikkei Asian Review](#) notes that the mine is expected to generate one-third of Mongolia's GDP. [Quartz](#) points out that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of a \$1 billion credit line to Mongolia for infrastructure development signaled his confidence in the country's growth and could clear the way for more trade in uranium, coal, and copper.

Modi's First Year

One year after his inauguration, assessments of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration are cautiously positive but emphasize the need to convert reform rhetoric into action. [The Wall Street Journal](#) reports that Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" pledge has fallen short of the promised 12-14% per year growth in manufacturing, as India still struggles with an infrastructure gap and entrenched political opposition to land reforms. Economist Dhiraj Nayyar, writing in [The Hindu](#), counters that the chief successes of Modi's first year are primarily political in nature, as Modi is balancing the need for his BJP party to win state-level elections with his ultimate goal of driving economic growth. A [Bloomberg View](#) editorial argues that Modi needs to exercise his political capital to further relax restrictions on foreign direct investment, including simplifying the corporate tax code and encouraging India's states to compete amongst each other for investment.


Robotics and Asian Manufacturing

The rise of robotics could upend the manufacturing industry in Asia. An [Economist](#) article on robotic sewing highlights the possibility that garment companies will use automation to bring production closer to home, thus reducing demand for low-wage labor in emerging Asian nations. An article in [Singapore Business News](#) argues that increased adoption of robotics in manufacturing has the potential to create jobs, as former industrial workers can be trained to operate and service robots. Robotics could also help developed Asia; the [Australian Financial Review](#) reports the launch of the Prime Minister Abe-endorsed Robot Revolution Initiative Council in Japan, which aims at advancing the use of robotics to address Japan's aging workforce and declining productivity.

Asia's Innovation Hub

The competition is heating up for the city that can claim the title of Asia's innovation capital. According to data compiled by the *Asian Venture Capital Journal* and published by the [Wall Street Journal](#), Singapore's startups attracted the most investor funding with \$319 million in 2014, compared to Tokyo's \$179 million, Seoul's \$72 million, and Hong Kong's \$34 million. Meanwhile, Google has chosen to inaugurate its first Asian "startup campus" in Seoul, and the initiative is targeted to provide discounted workspace and mentorship to promising Korean ventures. [Business Korea](#) writes that Google chose to open its third campus in Seoul because of South Korea's internet infrastructure and rapid adoption of next-generation digital technologies such as the Internet of Things. Asia Business Council Program Director Janet Pau wrote an editorial in the [South China Morning Post](#) arguing that Hong Kong has the technology infrastructure and intellectual property regime necessary to incubate Asian startups, however Hong Kong must expand its market reach and obtain more support from established industry in training tech talent.

Upcoming Forum Dates



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

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