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- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey & Co. co-authored an article for The Huffington Post highlighting McKinsey's "Focusing Capital on the Long Term" initiative. He was also interviewed by Oxford University's [Cherwell](#) newspaper, where he spoke of his time at Oxford and the ways in which technological change is affecting McKinsey.
- ✧ [Morris Chang](#) of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. spoke at the commencement ceremony of Asia University in Taichung, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate of engineering.
- ✧ [Tony Fernandes](#) of AirAsia accepted the "Asia and World's Best Low Cost Airline" award during the Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- ✧ [Tomson Li](#) of TCL Corp. spoke on his company's plans for expansion in Southeast Asia and India during the China-South Asia Expo.
- ✧ [Anand Mahindra](#) of Mahindra & Mahindra Co. spoke to the *Economic Times* on his company's readiness to take the lead in Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" initiative.
- ✧ [Yasuhiro Sato](#) of Mizuho Financial Group spoke at the Japanese Bankers Association Conference in favor of changes to the Japanese corporate governance code that make it easier for banks to sell their holdings.
- ✧ [Chartsiri Sophonpanich](#) of Bangkok Bank was quoted by the *Phnom Penh Post* regarding his plans for expansion in Cambodia.

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The Future of Sino-U.S. Relations

Top U.S. and Chinese officials met in Washington D.C. in June for the annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue amidst growing tensions over the South China Sea and cybersecurity. In an interview with [The Diplomat](#), Harvard University professor Joseph Nye underscored the importance of diplomacy to address issues in the Sino-U.S. relationship and counseled the U.S. government to pursue a policy of further integrating China into the international system. Evan Osnos, writing in the *New Yorker*, argued that both parties in the defining bilateral relationship of the 21st century should focus on areas of common interest such as trade, Middle East security, and the environment; President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington in September is a significant opportunity to advance those shared interests.

Vietnam Moves to Attract Foreign Investment

Vietnam has increased limits to foreign ownership on the majority of publicly listed domestic companies, a move that showcases reform momentum within the Communist Party of Vietnam. According to [FinanceAsia](#), Vietnam's "Law on Investment," which removes a 49% ownership cap and allows foreign investors to take 100% stakes in public companies, will significantly increase the attractiveness of the Vietnamese market to international investors and provide the foreign capital necessary to move forward with SOE privatization. Vietnam is also expected to benefit from further integration with global trade through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as [Vietnam News](#) reports that the removal of tariffs with the U.S., compliance with international standards, and predictability associated with TPP ratification will make Vietnam an attractive destination for investment and could increase GDP by 30% over the next ten years.

Lessons from South Korea's Startup Economy

The *New York Times Magazine* reported on the nascent startup scene in Seoul, highlighting the city's fast and affordable broadband infrastructure and potential for startups to rapidly reach scale among South Korea's dense and connected urban population. The article points out that Silicon Valley should learn from Korea's early adoption of mobile payments and app monetization strategies. Nathan Millard, writing in [TechinAsia](#), argues that South Korea is transitioning to an economy built upon entrepreneurship with the help of the government, as evidenced by the current administration's pledge to invest \$3.2 billion in the "creative economy" over the next three years. However, an editorial in the [Chosun Ilbo](#) cautions that pouring government money into startups will not be enough to encourage an ecosystem based on innovation; startups will need to eventually compete with the Korean *chaebol*.

Modi Scales Up Smart Cities in India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an initiative targeted at scaling up smart city development in India. [The Indian Express](#) reports that the Smart Cities Mission aims to develop 100 cities selected by an application process and use information technology and big data analysis to deliver urban services more efficiently. According to the *Hindustan Times*, India's present urbanization rate of 30% is expected to double within 10-15 years; the rapid increase in urbanization needs to be managed by creating smart cities that offer multiple modes of public transit, along with energy-efficient buildings and electricity sourced by renewables. The *Washington Post* argues that Modi should not get carried away with ambitions of grandeur, and that the initiative should focus on addressing the need for basic services such as water and electricity that many Indian cities lack.

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