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- ✧ [Dominic Barton](#) of McKinsey & Co. co-authored an article for the *Harvard Business Review* on the need to elevate the role of human resources executives.
- ✧ [Jamshyd Godrej](#) of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. launched vaccine- and blood-protection refrigerator units especially designed to cope with India's erratic electricity supplies.
- ✧ [Charles Li](#) of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. discussed the recent market volatility in China and the transparency of Chinese markets.
- ✧ [David K.P. Li](#) of The Bank of East Asia spoke to *China Daily* about his bank's expansion plans and the economic opportunities for young Hong Kong workers in mainland China.
- ✧ [Nazir Razak](#) of CIMB Group wrote about the importance of prioritizing English proficiency without sacrificing vernacular languages.
- ✧ [Francis Yeoh](#) of the YTL Group of Companies donated € 1 million to the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.
- ✧ [Yang Yuanqing](#) of Lenovo Group shared his thoughts on the elements of smart connectivity in the future of technology.

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Implications of China Equities Downturn

China's stock market slide has prompted a massive government market support operation and questions about the wisdom of current policies and the general health of the Chinese economy. Despite the dramatic pullback of stocks, the *Wall Street Journal* reports that IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde is confident in the resilience of the Chinese economy and its ability to withstand such volatility. Lagarde said the recent turbulence will not affect Beijing's push to have the yuan included as an IMF reserve currency. In an editorial written for the *Brookings Institution*, Arthur Kroeber suggests that the reaction from the Chinese government may be a strategy to buy time for the Chinese Securities Regulatory Commission to address inherent problems associated with speculative trading on margin. There is a stark contradiction between the self-regulating nature of the financial market and the controlled and centralized Chinese economy, and as Orville Schell writes in *The Guardian*, the future of this transition will remain unclear until the Chinese leadership can reconcile its Maoist tendencies with promises of the "Chinese dream". (As mentioned above in Member News, Hong Kong Exchanges CEO [Charles Li](#) provides his insight.)

Nuclear Deal Signals Potential for Iranian Economic Emergence

Iran's historic deal with the United States and five other nations to limit its nuclear capabilities in exchange for lifting economic sanctions could be not only a diplomatic turning point but one with wide-ranging business and political implications. Council on Foreign Relations' President Richard Haass, writing in *Project Syndicate*, cautions that the success of the nuclear agreement depends upon the enforcement of limits to Iran's uranium stockpiles and enriching capabilities; Iran's economic re-emergence could lead to further geopolitical instability in the Gulf region if it uses formerly frozen assets to back unstable groups in the area. The *Financial Times* reports that Iran's re-integration with the global economy could increase its oil output to five million barrels a day, potentially driving down crude prices. Major US oil companies have not had a presence in Iran since the 1979 Islamic uprising and are among those interested in energy deals that Tehran hopes will be worth up to \$100 billion. Iran is the Gulf's most populous country; the *Wall Street Journal* writes that its nearly 80 million people have an affinity for Western brands and they are garnering attention from foreign companies including Apple, Coca-Cola, and Boeing.

"Make in India" Attracts Foreign Technology Investment

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative received a big boost in July when Taiwanese electronics supplier Hon Hai Precision Industries (which does business as Foxconn and is among Apple's largest manufacturers) announced that it plans to open up to 12 new factories and employ as many as one million Indian workers by 2020. The *Financial Times* notes that Foxconn is diversifying its manufacturing base from mainland China to India in order to keep labor costs down and supply technology companies looking to attract Indian consumers. The *Economic Times* says that technology manufacturing in India will start out at the level of assembly; analysts say Prime Minister Modi will need to set more encouraging policies for businesses to relocate engineering and development functions. Peter Drysdale of the *East Asia Forum* writes that in order for Modi's "Make in India" to boost growth, politicians need to streamline the complex tax regime, ease restrictive employment regulations, and improve the poor infrastructure that hinders the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing industry.

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