
Ideas Into Action

For this edition of “The Power of Ideas,” the Milken Institute Asia Center invited senior leaders to offer their insights on issues close to their hearts. The pages that follow exemplify the spirit of the Institute’s work and speak to the pertinent issues faced by leaders in Asia.

As we have seen once again, developments in Asia exert great impact on the global economic outlook, influence public policy and shape corporate strategy around the world. For individual countries in the region, the key challenge is achieving higher levels of development and more inclusive and sustainable growth.

In that task, Asia has natural advantages. The growing middle class and increasingly educated population offer not only a vibrant consumer market with rising disposable incomes, but also an expanding skilled workforce and sophisticated management expertise. Besides being a driver of growth at home, Asia’s workforce deepens the talent pool for skills much needed in the developed and developing worlds.

With this emerging middle class that easily interacts with the rest of the world, longstanding schisms are exposed, creating tensions in both old and new societies. To name a few, the Islamic State’s ability to attract the well-educated and affluent, the societal transformation brought about by the internal migration of Chinese workers and the erosion of traditional values such as filial piety in aging Asian societies.

In spite of Asia’s enormous stores of capital, the translation of finance into tangible improvements in people’s lives has been uneven at best. What opportunities will the array of road, rail and seaport infrastructure projects offer? More broadly, against

the backdrop of slowing economic growth in China and other parts of East Asia, along with resistance to structural reforms in the United States and Europe, how can investors and policymakers navigate the path before them?

At the Milken Institute, we believe these challenges can be surmounted as we bring minds and deeds together. These articles in “The Power of Ideas” reflect the need for change and serve as a call to action.

We are grateful to all our contributors for their insights.



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