

IMA Asia's forum sessions focus on how to build good businesses in Asia. Most of the insights come from forum members sharing their insights and experiences with their peers. To stimulate and inform debates we also invite leading thinkers from consultancies and institutions to join our sessions. If you are building a business in Asia, you should know what these people think and have a chance to debate ideas with them. We've listed below our commentators for Singapore Asia CEO Forum (ACF) and Asia Management Forum (AMF) sessions in 2025 and 2026 to date. The list covers outside consultants and advisors, members of IMA's Forum Advisory Board, and members of our forums. Please contact us if you'd like to see the slides or notes from a session associated with a commentator or if you'd like an introduction for follow-up, including arranging your own in-house meetings.

2025		
Session	Speaker/ Commentators	Bio
21 January – ACF Hiring, Retaining and Compensating Strategies for 2025	 Ravi Nippani Partner, Regional Industries and Solutions Leader – Mercer	Ravi Nippani is a Partner at Mercer, where he leads regional industries, solutions, and client forums across Asia. With more than two decades of consulting and HR experience, he advises global and regional organizations on Talent and Rewards, helping them design innovative, future-ready people strategies. Ravi's expertise spans organizational and people transformation, M&A, total rewards, talent management, skills frameworks, and career architecture. His work extends across a diverse portfolio of clients—from multinational corporations to high-growth, pre-IPO startups—covering markets in APAC, the Middle East, Africa, and North America. Having held leadership roles in India, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States, Ravi brings a uniquely global perspective to developing people strategies tailored to both developed and emerging economies. He is a frequent speaker, panellist, and contributor to industry publications, where he shares insights on evolving workforce trends and the future of work. Recognized for his strategic thinking and cross-market experience, Ravi is a trusted advisor to boards, CEOs, and HR leaders seeking to shape impactful talent and rewards initiatives worldwide. LinkedIn
21 January – AMF Hiring, Retaining and Compensating Strategies for 2025	 Anupama Puranik Founder & MD – Russell Reynolds Associates	Anupama (Anu) Puranik is the Co-founder and Managing Partner at The Third Perspective and a seasoned executive leadership advisor and coach with nearly two decades of experience in leadership advisory and executive search. Before establishing The Third Perspective, she worked with Spencer Stuart and Russell Reynolds in Singapore, specializing in executive search, assessment, and leadership development, with a focus on healthcare and family-owned businesses. Earlier in her career, she spent over 13 years in India in investment banking, equities, and private equity with IIT Investtrust, Sharekhan, and True North. Passionate about empowering young leaders, Anu draws on her extensive experience mentoring executives to help them develop their leadership style and presence, with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, particularly supporting women leaders and entrepreneurs in shaping their career journeys. She is also active in nonprofit and advisory roles, serving as a Board Governor for the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, contributing to Equal Ark and Lions Befrienders, and sitting on the Advisory Board of ASK Health, while mentoring young professionals at VLookUp. She holds a BSc in Microbiology and an MBA from Pune University, an Executive Master's in Change from INSEAD, along with certification in Hogan Assessments. LinkedIn

20 February – AMF Supply Chains & Operations to Geopolitical Risk	 David Wijeratne Partner – PwC	David Wijeratne is a Partner at PwC and leads the firm's International Growth Practice, advising organisations on international expansion, market entry strategies, global location analysis, supply chain transformation, and growth in emerging markets. With more than two decades of experience spanning consulting, strategy, sales, and marketing, he has worked extensively across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Japan, helping businesses navigate complex geopolitical and economic shifts to achieve sustainable growth. David is also a recognized thought leader on global trade, investment, and internationalisation, frequently contributing insights on the future of growth markets and business transformation. LinkedIn
26 February – AMF India's Consumer Demand Slowdown	 K Ramakrishnan MD, South Asia, Kantar Worldpanel	K. Ramakrishnan is the Managing Director for South Asia at Kantar Worldpanel, where he leads the region's consumer panel and insights business. With more than two decades of experience across marketing, branding, sales, and business strategy, he is recognized for his expertise in consumer insight mining and translating data into impactful commercial outcomes. Before joining Kantar Worldpanel, Ramakrishnan held senior leadership roles at Lenovo, Café Coffee Day, and TVS Motor Company, building a strong track record in brand development and strategic growth. His deep understanding of consumer behaviour and market dynamics has made him a trusted advisor to brands navigating fast-changing retail and consumption landscapes. Ramakrishnan also serves as an Independent Director at The Script Room, contributing his strategic and market knowledge to the agency's creative and business decisions. LinkedIn
8 Apr – CFO M&A Trends and Unlocking value	 Frank Debets Asia Pacific Customs and Trade Leader - PwC Singapore	Frank is the Managing Partner of PwC's Asian Worldtrade Management Services (WMS) practice, based in Singapore. He is the project and client relationship manager for some of the largest WMS clients, both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. On top of his managing and coordinating role, Frank advises companies on all aspects of the cross border movement of products, from a tax regulatory as well as logistics perspective. Frank has worked with many major multinationals to analyse and improve their trade risk management profile and maximise benefits from trade regulatory opportunities. His background is in supply chain management and he combines in his customs and trade work logistical considerations as well as tax and transfer pricing regulations. His focus is on valuation, preferential trading rules and export controls. Frank chairs the Supply Chain Management Committee of Singapore's American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), the Regional Trade Committee of Singapore's European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham), is an invited member of the Singapore Customs Advisory Committee and an FTA Advisor for International Enterprise Singapore. LinkedIn

8 Apr – CFO M&A Trends and Unlocking value	 Aw Wen Lie Partner, M&A – PwC Singapore	Lie Ay Wen is a Partner in the M&A Advisory practice at PwC Singapore, specializing in complex regional integrations, divestments, and corporate restructuring for multinational corporations, Private Equity, and Sovereign Wealth Funds across Europe and Southeast Asia. Her diverse career spans corporate restructuring at KLM Airlines, building her own design enterprise, and working with PwC Netherlands before relocating to scale PwC Singapore's Financial Services M&A practice. She holds an MBA from the University of Groningen and is also actively involved in the community, serving on leadership committees for the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS). LinkedIn
8 Apr – CFO M&A Trends and Unlocking value	 Eric Herman Managing Director – PwC Singapore	Eric Herman is the Managing Director and Transport & Logistics Advisory Lead within the Operations Transformation practice at PwC Singapore. With over 25 years of deep industry expertise across the Asia-Pacific region, he specializes in guiding multinational corporations and logistics providers through complex supply chain strategies, network designs, and operational transformations. Before joining PwC, Eric built an extensive leadership track record in the sector, serving in prominent roles such as Regional Managing Director for Contract Logistics at GEODIS APAC, Chief Executive Officer of CWT Logistics, and leading operations for Puma Energy in Indonesia, alongside foundational management positions at Maersk. LinkedIn
14 March – ACF & AMF Q1 AFU + India	 Adit Jain Chairman and Editorial Director – IMA India	Adit Jain is the Chairman and Editorial Director of IMA India, the business intelligence and advisory firm he founded in 1994. Before establishing IMA, he served as Vice President and Head of M&A at Lazard India, leading strategic advisory work for global clients. Over the past three decades, Adit has become a respected commentator on India's economic, political, and business landscape, advising senior leaders on strategy, risk, and the evolving operating environment. Beyond his corporate work, Adit is deeply engaged in social and conservation initiatives. He works closely with forest authorities in Madhya Pradesh on education, community development, and sustainability programs, and his foundation supports the schooling of thousands of children across the region. In recognition of his contributions to geography and exploration, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London, in 2009. His diverse interests and global perspective continue to shape his thought leadership and influence across business and policy circles. LinkedIn

16 April – ACF Where to deploy capital in Asia	 Selena Ling Chief Economist & Head, Global Markets Research & Strategy – OCBC	Selena Ling is the Chief Economist and Head of Global Markets Research & Strategy at OCBC, where she leads a high-performing team responsible for macroeconomic commentary, fiscal forecasts, and trading recommendations across global fixed income, credit, and foreign exchange markets. A highly respected voice in the financial sector, she was conferred the prestigious Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) Fellow Award in 2017 and brings a wealth of public and private sector experience, having previously served in the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in Singapore. Beyond her executive role, Selena is a Vice President of the Economic Society of Singapore, sits on the Board of Governors for the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), and holds a Master's in Applied Economics from the National University of Singapore alongside a Bachelor's from the London School of Economics. LinkedIn
16 April – AMF Strategy for Engaging with the Startup Ecosystem in Asia (S.E)	 Aniruddha (Ani) Paul Chief Information Officer – Standard Chartered Bank	Aniruddha (Ani) Paul is a seasoned technology and transformation leader, currently serving as Global Head of Enterprise Transformation at Standard Chartered in Singapore. He has built a distinguished career spanning more than two decades across banking, insurance, and technology-driven business transformation. Ani began his journey as Managing Director of Cerulean, a software programming firm delivering e-business services globally. He then spent nearly a decade as CIO at ING Vysya Bank (now Kotak Mahindra Bank) in India, where he managed IT operations across retail, private banking, corporate banking, and risk functions, overseeing a network of 600 branches. In 2015, Ani joined ING Australia as CIO, later becoming Chief Data Officer at ING Group in the Netherlands. During his tenure, he spearheaded IT-driven re-engineering, data strategy, and enterprise-wide digital transformation initiatives. In 2022, he transitioned to Standard Chartered, taking on one of the bank's most critical global leadership roles, focused on transforming businesses through code, data, and process. Ani's career reflects a consistent focus on leveraging technology to drive large-scale organizational change, with expertise in application development, product innovation, and operational excellence. His move to Singapore underscores his role in shaping transformation strategies for one of the world's leading financial institutions. LinkedIn
16 April – AMF Strategy for Engaging with the Startup Ecosystem in Asia (S.E)	 Sanjay Uppal Founder & CEO – Finbotsai	Sanjay Uppal is the Founder and CEO of FinbotsAI, a Singapore-based AI-first company pioneering advanced, explainable, and scalable AI solutions for financial institutions. Drawing on more than 25 years of global banking experience, he leads the company's vision, product strategy, and growth across markets. Before founding FinbotsAI in 2017, Sanjay held senior leadership roles including Group CFO at Emirates NBD and Hong Leong Bank, as well as CFO positions across Taiwan, the Philippines, and the UAE at Standard Chartered Bank. He also served as Global Head of Strategy for Standard Chartered's Wealth Management business. A second-time founder, Sanjay previously built StraitsBridge, a specialist consulting firm serving financial institutions across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Under his leadership, FinbotsAI has been recognized globally, including winning "Product Innovation of the Year – Global Champion" at the IFC Global SME Finance Forum 2024. LinkedIn

16 April – AMF Where to deploy Capital in Asia (S.E)	 Prashant Agarwal Senior Partner - Deep Growth Labs	Prashant Agarwal is the Co-founder and Senior Partner at Deep Growth Labs, a Singapore-based management consultancy that helps organizations and high-growth startups scale through data, technology, and innovation-led growth. An alumnus of Harvard Business School with over 25 years of cross-functional experience bridging fintech, insurtech, and global technology, he previously served as the Head of Group Digital, Customer & Ecosystems Marketing at AIA, where he led digital transformation and corporate venturing across 18 regional markets. His extensive leadership background also includes pivotal roles at global giants such as Unilever, DBS Bank, Capital One, Genworth, and Dell. A recognized thought leader and author of the book <i>CLIFF</i>, Prashant frequently shares insights on career agility, digital transformation, and the future of work in an automated business landscape. LinkedIn
16 April – AMF Where to deploy Capital in Asia (S.E)	 Xu Sitao China Chief Economist – Deloitte	Xu Sitao is the Chief Economist of Deloitte China, leading the firm's economic and industry research. A prominent macroeconomist and regular media commentator on China's economy, his 30-year career includes a decade as China Chief Representative for The Economist Group, alongside chief economist and regional roles at institutions like Société Générale, ICBC (Asia), and Standard Chartered. He holds degrees from Peking University, the University of Connecticut, and Boston College, serves as a guest professor at Tsinghua University, and has sat on multiple corporate boards across Asia. LinkedIn
16 April – AMF Where to deploy Capital in Asia (S.E)	 Vivek Chhabra IMA Asia Advisory Board Member	Vivek Chhabra is an experienced CEO, CFO, and M&A leader with a strong track record across the Asia-Pacific region. Currently based in Singapore, he brings deep expertise in finance, strategic planning, business consulting, and financial advisory, built over a career spanning multiple markets including Singapore, India, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand. Vivek has held senior leadership roles across diverse industries and has led complex financial, operational, and transformation initiatives for regional and global organizations. He is associated with Grover Zampa Vineyards and is a member of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants. LinkedIn

24 & 25 April – AMF & ACF Navigating Global Trade Shifts with Deborah Elms	 Deborah Elms Head of Trade Policy – Hinrich Foundation	Dr. Elms is Head of Trade Policy at the Hinrich Foundation in Singapore. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Executive Director and Founder of the Asian Trade Centre (ATC). She was also President of the Asia Business Trade Association (ABTA) and the Board Director of the Asian Trade Centre Foundation (ATCF). Dr. Elms serves on the board of the Trade and Investment Negotiation Adviser (TINA) at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP). She was on the International Advisory Council for APCO (2021-2023) and was a member of the International Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Trade Professionals Alliance and Chair of the Working Group on Trade Policy and Law. She was also a member of the World Economic Forum's Trade and Investment Council for 2018-2020. Prior to founding ATC/ATCF and the ABTA, she was head of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations (TFCTN) and Senior fellow of International Political Economy at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Dr. Elms received a PhD in political science from the University of Washington, an MA in International Relations from the University of Southern California, and bachelor's degrees from Boston University. She is the author of numerous articles, editor of several books, and regularly published the Talking Trade Blog. Dr. Elms also routinely appears on television and in major newspapers and magazines around the world to comment on trade and economic issues. Dr. Elms also makes frequent appearances at a range of global trade and economic workshops, conferences, capacity building sessions, and negotiations. LinkedIn
8 & 9 May – AMF & ACF Techno-Nationalism with Alex Capri	 Alex Capri Senior Lecturer – National University of Singapore	Alex Capri is a former Senior Fellow and current Senior Lecturer in the Business School at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He also lectures in the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He teaches extensively in executive education programs for NUS and other globally renowned institutions. Alex is the author of <i>Techno-nationalism: How its Reshaping Trade, Geopolitics and Society</i> (Wiley), Sept. 2024. He has been based in Asia for 20 years. He was the Partner and Regional Leader of KPMG's International Trade & Customs Practice in Asia Pacific, based in Hong Kong and Singapore. He also was a Director in PwC's World Trade Management practice. Alex has advised clients on large scale cross-border business projects in more than 50 countries throughout Asia and the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. He is also a research fellow at the Hinrich Foundation, in Singapore, where he has authored a series of ground-breaking essays on international trade, technology and geopolitics. He is a regular panellist, author and workshop leader for the World Economic Forum (WEF). Alex writes a column in Forbes magazine and the Nikkei Asia and is a frequent guest on global television and radio networks, including BBC International, CNBC, Bloomberg and Channel News Asia. He holds an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, in International Political Economy and a B.Sc. in International Relations, from the University of Southern California. LinkedIn

15 May – AMF Planning the next stage of your Career	 Alasdair Spink, Partner, Global Industrial Markets – Heidrick & Struggles	Alasdair specializes in supporting clients from Western global multinationals to private equity-backed portfolio companies in high-growth mode. He also works with established and emerging Asian families or government-backed companies pursuing international expansion. He has been involved in multiple mergers and acquisitions, advising companies to commercially and culturally adapt their leadership teams to address market opportunities. Since 2016, Alasdair has been based in Singapore where he supports industrial sector clients to appoint leadership teams at both regional headquarters level in Singapore and across the Asia-Pacific region. Alasdair began his career in executive search in the United Kingdom, focusing on private and public infrastructure. He supported business and government clients involved in large-scale capital projects, including the development of the London Olympic Park and the economic development of East London. Since 2010, Alasdair has been focused on Asia markets. Initially based in the Middle East, he moved to India in 2012, where he led the industrial practice, working with multinational clients to appoint local leadership to navigate the complexities of India. He also worked with Indian conglomerates to diversify their leadership teams in preparation for international expansion and financing. Alasdair's perspective on leadership in developed and emerging markets across Asia helps him guide business heads with the characteristics required to thrive in this complex region. LinkedIn
15 May – AMF Planning the next stage of your Career	 Chelsea Willson Engagement Leader – Heidrick & Struggles	Chelsea Wilson is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in leadership consulting and business strategy. Currently serving as an Engagement Leader at Heidrick & Struggles since July 2018, Chelsea specializes in senior-level executive search and leadership consulting services. Prior roles include Consultant, Senior Associate, and Associate at WAUC, where Chelsea led management consultations across various sectors, and Business Consultant, focusing on market evaluations and organizational restructuring. Additionally, Chelsea worked as a Cancer Immunologist Researcher at the Telethon Kids Institute from 2015 to 2017, collaborating on immunotherapy research. Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with First Class Honours in Immunotherapy from The University of Western Australia, and a Master of Business Administration from Curtin University. LinkedIn
20 May – ACF & AMF Post Trade war with Micheal Enright	 Micheal Enright Professor – Northeastern University	As a researcher, he has written definitive works on the strategies and organizations of multinational companies, the impact of foreign firms on China's economy, regional clusters, and the competitiveness of national and regional economies. As a teacher, he has taught EMBA, MBA, and undergraduate level courses in Strategy, International Business, International Trade and Competition, China's Business Environment, and China's Development. As an advisor, he has led projects that have reshaped national and regional strategies, altered the skylines of major cities, and transformed the strategies of major corporations. As a speaker and executive educator, he has engaged audiences in 40 countries on issues of international competitiveness, business strategy in complex and uncertain environments, and developments in China and Asia. As a Board Director, he has participated in the formulation and oversight of strategies for multi-billion dollar companies, while serving on Strategy, Audit, HR, and Remuneration Committees. LinkedIn

29 May – AMF Technology & Strategy: How to Prosper in an Uncertain World	 Jared Ragland Senior Director, Policy – Business Software Alliance	Jared Ragland serves as Senior Director, Policy — APAC at Business Software Alliance. Working with BSA members, he develops BSA’s international strategies to open markets and promote innovation and digital trade in important foreign markets in the Asia-Pacific region, including China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, among others. Before joining BSA, Ragland served as the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Attaché in the Shanghai Consulate General. Before that, he served as Director in the Office of Intellectual Property and Innovation in the Office of the US Trade Representative. From September 2005 to November 2007, Ragland served as the Science Policy Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to APEC in the State Department's Office of Economic Policy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Ragland received a Doctorate in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Washington in 2004, a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in East Asian Studies and Anthropology from the University of Arizona. He is based in BSA's Singapore office. LinkedIn
29 May – AMF Technology & Strategy: How to Prosper in an Uncertain World	 Wolfgang Dierker Global Head, Government Affairs & CSR – SAP	Wolfgang Dierker has assumed the role of Head of Global Government Affairs & Corporate Social Responsibilities at SAP as of February 1, 2025. He is an esteemed professional with an impressive 20-year career in government affairs across Germany and Europe. Before joining SAP, Wolfgang held numerous leadership positions, including General Manager of Corporate, External, and Legal Affairs (CELA) at Microsoft, Managing Director of Policy & Strategy for Apple Germany and Austria, and a 10-year tenure at General Electric (GE), where he was responsible for Government Affairs in Germany and Austria and also handled Digital Policy for Europe. Wolfgang began his career at the German Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications, and New Media (BITKOM), where he established the association’s economy and innovation policy department. He studied history, economics, and political science, earned a Ph.D. in contemporary history from the University of Bonn, and lectures at the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) in Berlin. LinkedIn
13 June – ACF & AMF Q2 AFU + Indonesia	 Doug Ramage Managing Director – Bower Group	Doug is the founding managing director of BowerGroupAsia Indonesia and a leading authority on Indonesia’s political, business and investment landscapes. With over 30 years of experience working in Indonesia, Doug has established himself as a trusted advisor to major global companies and the government, advancing policies that drive competitiveness, investment and market access, including in the healthcare, information and communication technology, energy, consumer goods, education and finance sectors. His approach to advocacy emphasizes win-win solutions that align with government priorities and contribute to Indonesia’s development. Doug concurrently serves as vice chair of the Indonesia Committee at the US-ASEAN Business Council. He previously chaired the American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia and held senior roles at the World Bank and the Asia Foundation in Indonesia, following an extensive academic career.

26 & 27 June – AMF & ACF Catch-up: Business Operation in Indonesia with Ian Betts 2 July – AMF How Strong is the Government market in Asia?	 Ian Betts Research & Development Advisor – Castle Asia	As a seasoned consultant with over thirty years of experience in the region, Mr. Ian Betts brings a wealth of expertise in risk management, strategic advisory, and political risk analysis in Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the broader APAC region. With a decade of prior experience in business advisory, Mr. Betts joined Hill & Associates, where he served for sixteen years in both global and regional roles and responsible for operations in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. LinkedIn
2 July – AMF How Strong is the Government market in Asia?	 Matt Warburton VP & Executive Dir., Operations, East & SEA – Jacobs	With more than 25 years of operational and project leadership experience, Matt is a visionary leader who has brought iconic projects to life across diverse sectors, including water, wastewater treatment, rail, power, telecommunications, international development and health. His extensive mega-program delivery portfolio spans the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa and Asia, shaping his expertise in advisory, project and program management, operations management and commercial controls and governance. By combining technical and delivery excellence with innovative thinking and a people-centric, collaborative leadership style, Matt empowers our team to turn clients' most ambitious visions into reality. In this dynamic role, Matt drives the success of our ESEA operations, leading critical initiatives that advance our strategic goals, accelerate growth, and strengthen our cultural foundation. A passionate advocate for inclusion and diversity, Matt is deeply committed to TogetherBeyond, ensuring its priorities are embedded in everything we do. Before stepping into this role, Matt served as project director for the Tuas Water Reclamation Plant in Singapore. He led a high-performance team through the design and construction phase of this mega development facility – a state-of-the-art, smart and energy-efficient water reclamation plant, which is critical to Singapore's sustainable water future. Matt holds a bachelors (honors) degree in civil engineering from the University of Salford. He is a proud Fellow of the Association of Project Management (FAPM) and an active member of the Project Management Institute (PMI). LinkedIn
2 July – AMF How Strong is the Government market in Asia?	 Sherine Lee Head of Greater Asia Region Finance & Controllership – HP Inc	Sherine Lee is the Head of Greater Asia Region Finance & Controllership at HP Inc, where she leads financial governance, strategic planning, and operational excellence across one of the company's most dynamic markets. With more than two decades of international finance experience, she has held multiple senior roles within HP, including leadership positions in global FP&A, sales operations, and transformation finance. Known for her high-energy leadership style and ability to drive clarity in complex environments, Sherine is a trusted advisor to senior executives and a key contributor to HP's regional growth strategy. She is a graduate of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. LinkedIn

17 July – ACF Competing & working with outbound Chinese firms 15 August – ACF Building an effective M&A capacity in Asia	 Esther Yee Special Counsel – King & Wood Mallesons	Esther Yee is a Special Counsel in the South and South East Asia Corporate and M&A practice and is based in our Singapore office. Esther's practice spans cross-border acquisitions, disposals, joint venture arrangements and strategic investments and fundraisings, including late stage investments into start-ups and exits. She also advises issuers and underwriters on IPOs and secondary issuances across Asia. Esther has practiced in Asia for over 12 years, with transaction experience in sectors such as resources, renewables and infrastructure, technology and financial institutions. Prior to joining King & Wood Mallesons, Esther worked with a leading UK law firm in London and Hong Kong and most recently with a Magic Circle firm in Hong Kong. LinkedIn
17 July – AMF Competing & working with outbound Chinese firms	 Godelieve van Dooren CEO Marsh McLennan Southeast Asia - Mercer	Based in Singapore where she has lived for the past 15 years, Godelieve van Dooren spearheads the growth and expansion of Mercer in South East Asia's high growth markets of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, helping companies navigate the health, wealth and career needs of the fast-evolving workforce in the region. Her expertise in designing and delivering impactful people solutions empowers Mercer's clients in their business and workforce transformation as they navigate the realities of a rapidly changing environment. Prior to this role, Godelieve was the Regional Industries and Solutions Leader for Asia Pacific. She established Mercer's Employee Benefits Solutions and grew the firm's benefits benchmarking and design consulting across the region. From 2013 to 2016, she led Mercer's Career Insights business across eight markets in ASEAN. In recent years, she has played a critical role in growing Mercer's Regional Solutions and expanding Mercer's Human Resources Industry networks comprising of large High-Tech, Life Sciences, FMCG, Chemical, Retail and Hospitality companies – where she worked with leading clients to shape progressive and sustainable HR programs. Godelieve holds a MA in Law from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. LinkedIn
17 July – AMF Competing & working with outbound Chinese firms	 Amanda Lees Partner – King & Wood Mallesons	Amanda is a cross-border dispute resolution specialist based in our Singapore office. She assists her clients to resolve disputes through international arbitration, litigation and mediation. Amanda is an expert in international arbitration in the Asia Pacific region, including in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia. Amanda has significant experience in both commercial and investment treaty arbitration. She also acts as international counsel in complex cross border litigation. Amanda is quick to grasp complex and technical disputes across a range of industry sectors, including energy and resources, commodities, construction, finance, insurance, telecommunications, technology, manufacturing and consumer goods. Amanda takes a strategic approach to dispute resolution that keeps her client's commercial objectives at the fore. Signifying Amanda's expertise and reputation in the field, she is regularly appointed as arbitrator and is on the arbitrator panels of leading arbitral institutions. She is a director of the Singapore branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and has taught arbitration procedure and law to hundreds of lawyers across the Asia Pacific. Amanda is also a regular speaker at international conferences. Amanda is the Head of KWM's Singapore Dispute Resolution practice, and Head of KWM's International Arbitration practice in Australia and Singapore. LinkedIn

17 July – AMF Competing & working with outbound Chinese firms	 John Shum Partner – King & Wood Mallesons	John Shum is a partner in our Banking & Finance practice, based in our Singapore office. John has been advising financial institutions, corporate borrowers and funds for over twenty years on banking, financing and restructuring matters, including: Structured finance, Leveraged and acquisition finance, Syndicated finance, Real estate finance, Trade finance, General corporate finance, Project finance, Fund finance, Share-backed finance In- and out- of- court restructuring (including under US Chapter 11 and the new Singapore insolvency regime) Prior to Singapore, John practiced in London, Miami, New York and Hong Kong SAR. He speaks Mandarin, Cantonese and Bahasa Indonesian. John focuses on cross-border financings and restructurings in the South East Asia market, as well as in Hong Kong and China. LinkedIn
5 August – AMF Building an effective M&A capacity in Asia	 Haze Zhang M&A Strategy and Commercial Leader, Greater China and Southeast Asia – Mercer	Haze Zhang is Mercer's M&A Strategy and Commercial Leader for Greater China and Southeast Asia, where she specializes in operational and HR due diligence, post-deal integration, and identifying synergy opportunities for corporate and private equity clients. A Senior Principal at Mercer with a strong background in M&A advisory services, she leads complex transactions from pre-deal assessment through integration execution, helping organizations quantify synergies and implementation costs with precision. Haze holds a Global Executive MBA from INSEAD and a Master's Degree in Organization and Human Resource Management from the University of Hong Kong. LinkedIn
5 August – AMF Building an effective M&A capacity in Asia	 Lisa Mecalf Chief Financial Officer, Asia – Aurecon	Lisa Haw Medcalf is the Chief Financial Officer (Asia) at Aurecon Group Brand, bringing expertise in regional financial leadership and strategic financial planning. Their background reflects a strong focus on infrastructure finance leadership, demonstrated through diverse roles at Aurecon and AECOM. Within Aurecon's management consulting environment, Lisa progressed through positions including Middle Controller (Asia, East), Manager, Finance (Singapore, Malaysia), and Regional & Middle Transformation Leader (Asia, East). Prior to Aurecon, Lisa held positions at AECOM, including Myanmar Regional Controller (Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka) and Working Capital Southeast Senior Manager, Financial Planning Analysis (Asia), contributing to financial operations across Southeast Asia. Earlier roles at AECOM included Southeast Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis (Asia). Lisa's experience also includes serving as Regional Director, Finance & Middle (Asia Pacific, East) at Gensler, where they managed regional financial performance and led financial teams within the architecture, engineering, and design firm. Their work history includes Travel Retail Senior Finance Analyst (Asia) and Southeast Finance Analyst (Asia) at Edrington, and Financial Analyst at Merck & Co. Assignments have also included Cost Controller & Senior Cost Controller at Bouygues Construction. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) from the National University of Singapore, demonstrating applied business administration principles. LinkedIn

15 August – ACF Building an effective M&A capacity in Asia	 Esther Yee Special Counsel - Mallesons	Esther Yee is a Special Counsel in the South and South East Asia Corporate and M&A practice and is based in our Singapore office. Esther's practice spans cross-border acquisitions, disposals, joint venture arrangements and strategic investments and fundraisings, including late stage investments into start-ups and exits. She also advises issuers and underwriters on IPOs and secondary issuances across Asia. Esther has practiced in Asia for over 12 years, with transaction experience in sectors such as resources, renewables and infrastructure, technology and financial institutions. Prior to joining Mallesons, Esther worked with a leading UK law firm in London and Hong Kong and most recently with a Magic Circle firm in Hong Kong. Esther is qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales and Hong Kong, and is fluent in written and spoken Mandarin. LinkedIn
15 August – ACF Building an effective M&A capacity in Asia	 Allan Gabor Principal & President – Shanghai Goal Advisory	Allan Gabor is the Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai (AmCham Shanghai) and a veteran global executive with over 25 years of leadership experience across Asia's healthcare, biopharma, and electronics industries. He previously served as President of Merck China and Managing Director of its Electronics business, following a highly successful 25-year tenure at Pfizer where he acted as Chairman and General Manager for China. Recognized for his deep economic and technological contributions to the region, Allan has twice been honoured with the prestigious Magnolia Award by the Shanghai municipal government. LinkedIn
21 August – AMF India Outlook	 Amitendu Palit Senior Research Fellow & Research Lead – NUS	Dr. Amitendu Palit is a Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead (Trade and Economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. He is an economist specializing in international trade, investment, supply chains, free trade agreements, cross-border data flows, and the Indian economy. A former official in India's Ministry of Finance, he has extensive experience in economic policymaking and has advised international organizations including the World Economic Forum, ILO, and UNDP. He is also a widely recognized author and media commentator on trade and economic issues. LinkedIn

12 September – ACF & AMF Q3 + Demographic Outlook	 Clint Laurent Founder & GM – Global Demographics Ltd	Dr. Clint Laurent is a demographic economist and CEO of Global Demographics Ltd., specializing in global population trends and their impact on markets, economies, and healthcare. His expertise includes demographic forecasting, consumer markets, labor forces, and China's population dynamics. He advises organizations on long-term strategic planning by using demographic insights to identify future growth opportunities and changing consumer demand. LinkedIn
9 October – ACF The outlook for US-China relations	 Scott Kennedy Deputy Director – Centre for Strategic & International Studies	Scott Kennedy is a senior adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at CSIS. He is a leading expert on Chinese economic policy, U.S.-China relations, industrial policy, innovation, and global economic governance. His work focuses on China's economic development and its global impact, and he is a widely published author, researcher, and commentator on U.S.-China commercial and policy issues. LinkedIn
15 October – AMF Winning in Asia with Cultural Intelligence	 Robert Gilby Founder & CEO – Blue Hat Ventures	Rob is a senior consumer and media technology leader with over 20 years of experience, including 12 years in leadership roles at Disney. He specializes in Asia-Pacific market strategy, business transformation, commercial growth, strategic partnerships, technology-driven innovation, and organizational leadership. His expertise also includes talent development, governance, and adapting global strategies for local markets. LinkedIn

15 October – AMF Winning in Asia with Cultural Intelligence	 Nihar Prasad Vice President, Strategy – Coca Cola	Nihar R. Prasad is a senior strategy leader with extensive experience driving growth, transformation, and commercial excellence across the Asia-Pacific region. As Vice President of Strategy for ASEAN & South Pacific at The Coca-Cola Company, he leads long-term strategic planning, market development initiatives, and cross-functional growth programs across one of the company's most dynamic business units. With a background spanning management consulting, business development, operations, and corporate strategy, Nihar brings a multidisciplinary approach to solving complex business challenges. Prior to joining Coca-Cola, he served as a Management Consultant and Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, where he advised global clients on strategy, performance improvement, and organizational transformation. Earlier in his career, he held business development and risk management roles at Abengoa and Larsen & Toubro, building a strong foundation in commercial strategy and large-scale project execution. Nihar holds an MBA from INSEAD and an engineering degree and has lived and worked across multiple geographies. Known for his passion for “cracking business problems and finding opportunities,” he focuses on enabling hyper-growth through ambitious strategy, empowerment, and solution-oriented leadership. LinkedIn
15 October – AMF AI Adoption - Should you move fast & break things?	 Andreas Hauser Founder & CEO – AIQURIS	Andreas built TUV SUD's global AI Quality and Industry 4.0 businesses and served on the Asia Pacific Board. Previously he led advanced R&D at Siemens, including initiatives in robotics, autonomous systems, and safe AI. He holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics and is a certified IEEE Ethical Lead Assessor. Andreas is known for translating emerging technologies into structured, standards-aligned solutions for complex environments. LinkedIn
15 October – AMF AI Adoption - Should you move fast & break things?	 Daryl Cox Partner – King & Wood Mallesons	Daryl is a partner in the Technology Law team in KWM's M&A group. He is a cross-border technology and data lawyer, having practised for over 18 years across Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. He now based in Singapore and focuses on Asia. This global experience provides Daryl with a unique perspective when advising investors, operators and corporates on digital infrastructure transactions and projects (including relating to data centres, fibre, subsea cable, satellite and connectivity), complex commercial arrangements, technology and telecom M&A, policy and regulation. Daryl also advises on data, privacy, digital regulation and the development and implementation of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. LinkedIn

15 October – AMF AI Adoption - Should you move fast & break things?	 Siddharth Deshpande Regional Chief Information Security Officer, Asia Pacific and Japan – Palo Alto Networks	With 18 years of experience in the technology and cybersecurity domains, Siddharth Deshpande is Palo Alto Networks' Regional CISO for the Asia Pacific and Japan Region. His key areas of focus are cloud security, network security, SASE and SOC transformation. His passion is helping provide a practical lens to cybersecurity transformation to help customers accelerate time to value for their cybersecurity strategy. In this role, he leads both business and technical focussed advisory engagements around these key topics to the largest corporations and government agencies in the region. He joined Palo Alto Networks from Akamai where he was a key technology leader focussed on emerging cybersecurity domains across Asia-Pacific and Japan. Prior to Akamai, Siddharth spent almost a decade at Gartner where he was a strategic advisor to organizations across the Asia-Pacific and Japan region as well as globally around a variety of emerging and established cybersecurity domains. LinkedIn
17 October – ACF What's Next: The Post-Career Roadmap	 Jon Goldstein Managing Partner – PageGroup	Jon Goldstein is the Managing Partner and Head of Page Executive in Southeast Asia and India, the executive search division of PageGroup. Based in Singapore, he brings nearly two decades of executive search experience entirely focused within Asia, specializing in C-suite, Board, and Independent Director placements for multinational corporations and Private Equity firms across the region. Having joined PageGroup in Tokyo in 2005, Jon spent over a decade expanding the firm's footprint across Mainland China before relocating to Singapore in 2017 to assume his current regional leadership remit. Beyond senior placements, he oversees PageGroup's regional corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and pioneered the launch of the Michael Page ESG recruitment team to place sustainability executives across Asia.
27 October – ACF China's Outlook with Arthur Kroeber	 Arthur Kroeber Founding Partner & Head of Research – Gavekal Dragonomics	Arthur co-founded the China-focused research service Dragonomics in Beijing in 2002 and was the editor of its flagship journal China Economic Quarterly through 2017. Since Dragonomics' 2011 merger with Gavekal he has been head of research for the combined operation. Before founding Dragonomics, he spent 15 years as journalist specializing in Asian economic affairs, and reported from China, India, Pakistan and other Asian countries. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Economics at the NYU Stern School of Business, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the National Committee on US-China Relations, and a senior non-resident fellow of the Brookings-Tsinghua Centre in Beijing. His book "China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know" was published by Oxford University Press in 2016, with a second edition in 2020, and is widely used in university classrooms. LinkedIn

14 November – ACF & AMF Q4 Vietnam	 Matthieu Francois Partner – Index Partners	Matthieu Francois is a Partner at Index Partners, based in Ho Chi Minh City, where he leads the firm's growth across the consumer, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors, with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. Before joining Index Partners, he spent 13 years at McKinsey & Company, advising leading businesses across ASEAN on growth strategy, retail, consumer goods, e-commerce, pricing, and go-to-market transformation. Having led more than 80 projects across the region, Matthieu is widely recognized for his deep understanding of Southeast Asia's evolving consumer landscape and emerging business models. He holds a degree from HEC Paris. LinkedIn
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Session	Speaker/ Commentators	Bio
16 January – ACF Geopolitics of Trade with Simon Evenett	 Simon Evenett Professor of Geopolitics & Strategy – IMD Business School	Simon J. Evenett is the Professor of Geopolitics and Strategy at IMD and a globally recognized expert on international trade, investment, and geopolitical dynamics. With nearly 30 years of experience guiding executives and boards, his work bridges the intersection of corporate strategy, public policy, and markets, focusing heavily on modern challenges like industrial policy resurgence, protectionism, and US-China rivalry. To provide real-time policy data, he founded the St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade—which hosts the Global Trade Alert, the New Industrial Policy Observatory, and the Digital Policy Alert—and launched the Crux of Capitalism initiative to analyze firm performance across 21 major economies. A widely published author of over 250 works and Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment, Evenett has previously served with the World Bank and the UK Competition Commission, and held academic positions at the University of St. Gallen, Oxford, Brookings, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Michigan. LinkedIn
16 January – AMF Trade wars, industrial policies & supply chains with Deborah Elms	 Deborah Elms Head of Trade Policy – Hinrich Foundation	Dr. Elms is Head of Trade Policy at the Hinrich Foundation in Singapore. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Executive Director and Founder of the Asian Trade Centre (ATC). She was also President of the Asia Business Trade Association (ABTA) and the Board Director of the Asian Trade Centre Foundation (ATCF). Dr. Elms serves on the board of the Trade and Investment Negotiation Adviser (TINA) at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP). She was on the International Advisory Council for APCO (2021-2023) and was a member of the International Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Trade Professionals Alliance and Chair of the Working Group on Trade Policy and Law. She was also a member of the World Economic Forum's Trade and Investment Council for 2018-2020. Prior to founding ATC/ATCF and the ABTA, she was head of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations (TFCTN) and Senior fellow of International Political Economy at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Dr. Elms received a PhD in political science from the University of Washington, an MA in International Relations from the University of Southern California, and bachelor's degrees from Boston University. She is the author of numerous articles, editor of several books, and regularly published the Talking Trade Blog . Dr. Elms also routinely appears on television and in major newspapers and magazines around the world to comment on trade and economic issues. Dr. Elms also makes frequent appearances at a range of global trade and economic workshops, conferences, capacity building sessions, and negotiations. LinkedIn

9 February – ACF & AMF Business Strategies for Changing ASEAN Consumer Markets	 Shivika Mansata Partner, Singapore – Bain & Company	Shivika Mansata is a seasoned consultant in the Consumer Products and Performance Improvement practices, bringing over a decade of experience across Asia and Africa. Specializing in business strategy and end-to-end transformation, she has a proven track record in growth acceleration, route-to-market excellence, supply chain optimization, and driving EBITDA improvements. Her expertise also includes supporting private equity clients through complex diligences and post-merger integrations, alongside developing market-entry strategies for countries like Vietnam, China, and Malaysia. Prior to joining Bain, she worked on strategic initiatives for emerging markets at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Yale-NUS College, and Bridge International Academies. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree in economics and finance from Singapore Management University. LinkedIn
12 February – AMF Malaysia Outlook	 James Chin Professor, Asian Studies – University of Tasmania	James Chin is Professor of Asian Studies. He was inaugural Director of the Asia Institute Tasmania, University of Tasmania. He deals with governance issues in Southeast Asia, especially Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. He also does research on island nations in the South Pacific. His views are regularly sought after by major news outlets around the world, including Strait Times, South China Morning Post, The New York Times, The Financial Times, BBC World TV, CNBC and Bloomberg. He also writes commentary for leading publications around the world. He is currently the vice-president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Tasmania Branch. Before joining The University of Tasmania, James was the foundation head of the School of Arts And Social Sciences (SASS), Monash University, Malaysia campus. During his time in Monash Malaysia, he built SASS into the leading social science school in Malaysia. He has a strong track record of media and community engagement.
13 March – ACF & AMF Q1 Repositioning China	 Yihao Zhang IMA Asia Advisory Board Member	Yihao Zhang is a technology and innovation leader at GE HealthCare, focused on advancing AI-driven healthcare solutions and digital transformation. With expertise spanning artificial intelligence, data science, and medical technology, Yihao works at the intersection of healthcare and technology to develop solutions that improve clinical workflows, enhance operational efficiency, and support better patient outcomes. Passionate about translating cutting-edge research into real-world impact, Yihao collaborates with multidisciplinary teams to drive innovation that helps shape the future of precision care and intelligent healthcare systems. LinkedIn

17 March – ACF An Interaction with Umesh Pandey, Pheu Thai Party, Thailand	 Umesh Pandey Advisor – Pheu Thai Party	Umesh Pandey is a Thai politician, journalist, and current Thai Trade Representative appointed under Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Within the Pheu Thai Party, he has served as an economic adviser to the party's economic policy committee and was previously appointed as a vice-minister to advise former Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin. Prior to his political career, Pandey had a prominent nearly three-decade professional background in banking and media, notably serving as the editor-in-chief of the <i>Bangkok Post</i> from 2016 until 2018, when he was removed from his post after refusing to tone down coverage critical of the country's military government. In his current capacity, he focuses heavily on promoting international trade, strengthening supply chains, and positioning Thailand as a prime destination for foreign investment. Linkedln
18 March – AMF AI & Talent Strategy	 Anand Shankar Chief Strategy & Transformation Office – Aon	Anand is a seasoned strategist and human resources expert who currently leverages over three decades of global experience in his role at TMTC. An alumnus of The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a Marshall Goldsmith certified coach, he specializes in driving transformational change, building talent excellence, and establishing corporate learning academies. His distinguished consulting career includes serving as the Global Chief Commercial Officer for Aon Hewitt and later as a Senior Partner at Deloitte, where he led the HR Transformation practice and anchored major integrated talent overhauls for massive global conglomerates and financial institutions. Having spent 25 years working across five countries in three continents before returning to India in 2018, Anand is recognized as a global authority on the future of work, organizational design, and market dynamics across the APAC and MEA regions. Linkendln
19 March – ACF Adjusting Operations to the Iran War Disruption	 Nenad Pacek President – Global Success Advisors	Nenad Pacek is the founder and president of Global Success Advisors and the EMEA Business Group, widely recognized as a leading global authority on the international economy, emerging markets, and corporate growth strategies. A trusted advisor to multinational executive teams, he conducts hundreds of annual consultations and is distinctively known for delivering his strategic insights without slides or written notes. Prior to his current roles, Pacek spent nearly two decades at The Economist Group (Economist Intelligence Unit) as Executive Vice President, during which he chaired over 100 high-profile Government Roundtables with heads of state and cabinet ministers worldwide. Driven by a passion for economic history, geopolitics, and emerging market development, he leads a handpicked team of erudite analysts to help corporations navigate and predict global economic shifts. Linkedln

9 April – AMF Indonesia with Yanuar	 Yanuar Nagroho Senior Visiting Fellow – ISEAS	Yanuar Nagroho is a Senior Visiting Fellow at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. His work focuses on the intersection of public policy, digital transformation, governance, and social innovation, with particular interest in how technology shapes democratic institutions, public service delivery, and inclusive development. Drawing on experience across academia, government, and the nonprofit sector, Yanuar contributes to research and policy dialogue on digital governance, artificial intelligence, and the future of policymaking in Southeast Asia. LinkedIn
15 April – ACF Can AI drive better performance in Asia with	 Jeff Walters MD & Senior Partner – The Boston Consulting Group	Jeff Walters is a seasoned consultant who leads Boston Consulting Group's Tech & Digital Advantage practice and serves as the AI lead for BCG X in Asia Pacific, while also heading BCG X in Greater China. Since joining the firm in 2003, he has worked extensively with consumer goods companies and retailers, leveraging deep expertise in China's evolving consumer landscape, e-commerce, and digital transformation. His extensive client engagements cover growth strategy, mergers and acquisitions, geographic expansion, and retail operations, including designing replenishment algorithms for one of the world's largest retailers. Prior to his career at BCG, Walters specialized in signal processing algorithms for various Silicon Valley firms and worked in the field of solar physics. LinkedIn
15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Can AI drive business results in Asia?	 Nathan Wangliao Head of Business Operations, APAC - Building Cognition	Nathan Wangliao is a strategy and business operations leader with a diverse background across tech startups and management consulting. He currently serves as the Head of Business Operations (APAC) for Building Cognition and leads Product Marketing and BizOps at HeadsUp.ai. Prior to moving into the startup ecosystem, he worked as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company. Nathan holds a law degree from the University of Cambridge, where he also co-founded <i>Hack Cambridge</i>, the university's official annual hackathon. Today, he is highly active within the tech community, frequently sharing guides and strategic mental models to help other corporate professionals successfully transition into startup and tech operator roles. LinkedIn

15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Can AI drive business results in Asia?	 Elayne Gan GM & Head of B2B, APAC - Dow Jones	Elayne Gan is the General Manager for Asia Pacific (APAC) and Vice President, Head of B2B Sales at Dow Jones. As a key member of the company's executive leadership team in the region, she oversees strategic direction, revenue generation, and corporate operations across its diverse business units. Known for a human-centered approach to executive management, Elayne champions emotional intelligence, diversity, and psychological safety as critical drivers for corporate innovation and navigation through tech-driven changes like AI. LinkedIn
15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Can AI drive business results in Asia?	 Sujay Tawde Managing Director, Kuala Lumpur Business Center – Steelcase	Sujay Tawde is the Managing Director of the Kuala Lumpur Business Center for Steelcase Asia Pacific. In this role, he leads the company's shared services and global business hub operations in Malaysia. A recognized leader in the Global Business Services (GBS) and shared services landscape, Sujay frequently shares insights on operational excellence, workplace solutions, and driving efficiency within regional business centers. LinkedIn
15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Unlocking Collaboration in Asia	 Saikat Chatterjee Managing Director - Colabworx	Saikat Chatterjee is the Managing Director and founder of Collabworx, a specialized leadership and organizational consulting firm. With over 20 years of experience in transforming and scaling leadership teams, he acts as a strategic advisor to growth-stage founders and private equity-backed leaders across the SaaS, logistics, e-commerce, and tech-enabled services sectors. At Collabworx, Saikat focuses on introducing structured "people operating systems," clarifying decision rights, and establishing operational frameworks that reduce founder dependency and empower leadership teams to run independently. LinkedIn

15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Unlocking Collaboration in Asia	 Hirotaka Ishizaka Chief Sustainability Officer – Mitsubishi Corporation	Hirotaka Ishizaka is the Chief Sustainability Officer at Mitsubishi Corporation Singapore Branch. Since joining the company in 1990, he has developed solutions and businesses throughout the world in multiple industries, with a focus on utilizing technology and finance. Previously, he was the Head of the Strategic Planning Department (Business Development and Intelligence) in Singapore, prior to which he led the US Japan Venture Capital Fund project team within the company's Private Equity Dept in Tokyo. He holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from Keio University and an MBA from IMD. LinkedIn
15 April – AMF Strategy Evening - Unlocking Collaboration in Asia	 Monila Kothari IMA Advisory Board Member	Monila Kothari is an experienced global business leader and board director with over three decades of expertise spanning specialty chemicals, consumer goods, and biotech. She currently serves as an Independent Non-Executive Director at CPL Aromas and Novonesis, and advises Shandi Global on strategic growth and innovation. Previously, Monila spent two decades at Givaudan, where she led Asia Pacific Taste & Wellbeing operations, driving organic growth, M&A integration, and sustainability initiatives. Holding an MBA and a Pharmacy degree from Mumbai University and an INSEAD corporate governance certification, she is recognized for her leadership in innovation, ESG, and talent development across multicultural teams. LinkedIn
22 April – ACF China Market Trends & leadership challenges with Pierre Cohade	 Pierre Cohade Chairman, China – IMA Asia	Pierre Cohade is a highly accomplished global executive and board member with extensive Fortune 200 governance experience, particularly within audit committees. He currently serves as a Non-Executive Director for Johnson Controls International and CEAT, chairs IMA's CEO Forum for China, and recently concluded his tenure as the Audit Committee Chair for Deutsche Bank China. In his executive career, Cohade was one of the very few Western executives to lead a Chinese-owned business as the CEO of Triangle Tyre, where he modernized governance and prepared the company for its IPO. He also previously served as President of Goodyear Asia Pacific, engineering a massive financial and operational turnaround, and held senior global leadership roles at Groupe Danone and Eastman Kodak. Recognized for his civic contributions, Cohade served on the Shanghai Mayor's advisory council and was awarded the Magnolia Award, the Shanghai government's highest honor for foreign residents. He holds a business management degree from SKEMA Business School and an MBA from Penn State University. LinkedIn

14 May – ACF Strategy Evening - Restructuring Asia Pacific Operations	 Alan Koo Regional President and Managing Director, APOC – Arkema Group	Alan Koo is a senior business leader at Arkema with more than two decades of experience in the specialty chemicals industry. As Regional President for Acrylic Monomers in Asia, he leads the company's regional strategy, commercial growth, and operational excellence across one of Arkema's key businesses. Alan is passionate about advancing sustainable materials and helping customers accelerate innovation in areas such as low-carbon technologies, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation industrial applications. Drawing on extensive international leadership experience, he works closely with partners across the value chain to drive business growth while supporting the transition to a more circular and sustainable economy. LinkedIn
14 May – ACF Strategy Evening - Restructuring Asia Pacific Operations	 Gabe Carter Chief Executive, Asia – Aurecon	Gabe Carter is Chief Executive for Asia at Aurecon, where he leads the company's business across nine locations, driving growth and delivering innovative engineering, design, and advisory solutions for clients throughout the region. With more than 20 years of experience in the engineering sector, including over a decade working across Asia, Gabe has extensive expertise in infrastructure, the built environment, and complex multidisciplinary projects. Throughout his career, he has led major developments spanning commercial, healthcare, aviation, data centres, defence, and mixed-use precincts. Passionate about sustainability, digital innovation, and collaborative leadership, Gabe is committed to helping clients create resilient, future-ready communities across Asia. LinkedIn
14 May – ACF Strategy Evening - Capturing ASEAN's Profitable Growth Opportunities	 Greg Lukasik Senior Vice-President & CEO, Southeast Asia – Ecolab	Gregory Lukasik is Vice President and General Manager for Southeast Asia at Ecolab, where he leads the company's business across the region, helping customers improve operational performance while advancing sustainability. With extensive international leadership experience across industrial and institutional markets, Gregory is focused on delivering innovative solutions that optimize water use, enhance food safety, improve operational efficiency, and reduce environmental impact. He works closely with customers and partners to support resilient, sustainable growth through science-based technologies and data-driven insights. LinkedIn

14 May – ACF Strategy Evening - Capturing ASEAN's Profitable Growth Opportunities	 Guillaume Nagy Executive Vice President, SEA & APAC – Clarins	Guillaume Nagy is Executive Vice President for Southeast Asia and Agents at Clarins Group, where he oversees the company's operations across Southeast Asia and manages its distributor network throughout the Asia-Pacific region. With more than two decades of leadership experience in the beauty and luxury sectors, he has held senior regional roles at Clarins, Clarks, Puig, and Yves Saint Laurent Beauté. Based in Singapore, Nagy is focused on accelerating sustainable growth, strengthening omnichannel retail, and expanding Clarins' presence across diverse and fast-growing Asian markets. LinkedIn
14 May – ACF Strategy Evening - Capturing ASEAN's Profitable Growth Opportunities	 Yanik Kiermeier MD SEA & Regional CFO, Asia Pacific – Homag	Yanik Kiermeier is Managing Director for Southeast Asia and Regional Chief Financial Officer for Asia Pacific at HOMAG, a global leader in integrated solutions for the woodworking industry. Based in Singapore, he oversees the company's strategic growth across Southeast Asia while leading financial operations for the Asia-Pacific region. With extensive international experience in finance, business transformation, and operational leadership, Kiermeier focuses on driving sustainable growth, operational excellence, and digital innovation to support HOMAG's expanding regional footprint.
14 May – AMF Can Global Capabilities Deliver Regional Success?	 Sarmad Saleem CFO, Purina Petcare, Asia, Oceania & Africa – Nestle	Sarmad Saleem is Chief Financial Officer for Purina PetCare across Asia, Oceania, and Africa at Nestlé. He leads the finance function for one of the company's fastest-growing regional businesses, partnering with commercial and operational teams to drive profitable growth, strategic investments, and financial transformation. With extensive international experience in finance leadership, business partnering, and performance management, Saleem is focused on enabling sustainable growth, strengthening decision-making through data-driven insights, and supporting Nestlé Purina's expansion across diverse and dynamic markets. LinkedIn

19 May – AMF China's Consumer Landscape & Competition with Natalie Cade	 Natalie Cade Founder – China IQ	Natalie Cade is the Founder of China IQ, a strategic advisory firm that helps organizations understand and navigate China's evolving business, consumer, and geopolitical landscape. With deep expertise in China market strategy, cross-cultural leadership, and international business, she advises executives and organizations on managing risk, identifying opportunities, and building effective engagement strategies. Cade is a sought-after speaker and thought leader on China-related trends, helping businesses make informed decisions in an increasingly complex global environment. LinkedIn
6 May – CFO Q2 CFO AFU	 David Koh MD, Co-Head of Transaction Banking APAC – SMBC Group	David Koh is Managing Director and Co-Head of Transaction Banking for Asia Pacific at SMBC Group. He leads the bank's transaction banking business across the region, working with corporate and institutional clients to deliver integrated cash management, trade finance, and treasury solutions. With extensive experience in corporate banking and financial services, Koh focuses on driving client-centric innovation, supporting cross-border business growth, and strengthening SMBC's transaction banking capabilities across Asia Pacific. LinkedIn
12 June – ACF & AMF Q2 Indonesia	 Doug Ramage Managing Director – Bower Group	Doug is the founding managing director of BowerGroupAsia Indonesia and a leading authority on Indonesia's political, business and investment landscapes. With over 30 years of experience working in Indonesia, Doug has established himself as a trusted advisor to major global companies and the government, advancing policies that drive competitiveness, investment and market access, including in the healthcare, information and communication technology, energy, consumer goods, education and finance sectors. His approach to advocacy emphasizes win-win solutions that align with government priorities and contribute to Indonesia's development. Doug concurrently serves as vice chair of the Indonesia Committee at the US-ASEAN Business Council. He previously chaired the American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia and held senior roles at the World Bank and the Asia Foundation in Indonesia, following an extensive academic career.

17 June – AMF Vietnam Outlook with Micheal Kokalari	 Michael Kokalari Chief Economist – VinaCapital	Michael Kokalari, CFA serves as VinaCapital’s Chief Economist, where he is responsible for providing thought leadership and technical acumen on a wide range of global and local macroeconomic issues with a view towards maximizing the firm’s investment performance. Michael Kokalari has worked in Vietnam for over 10 years, prior to which he was a derivatives trader in Tokyo & London where he ran multi-billion dollar trading books for JP Morgan Chase, Credit Suisse First Boston, Lehman Brothers, and Paribas. Mr Kokalari co-authored the CFA guide to Credit Derivatives, and co-authored “Risk Management: Foundations for a Changing Financial World”, with Nobel Prize winners Myron Scholes of Harvard University and William Sharpe of Stanford University. Mr Kokalari holds Masters Degrees in Business, Engineering and Mathematics from Stanford University, and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at the Harvard Business School.
10 Jul – ACF Strategies for Managing Geopolitical & Political Risk in Asia	 Alex Feldman Partner, SEA – The Asia Group	Alexander Feldman is a Partner at The Asia Group with over 35 years of experience across business, government, and media, specializing in Southeast Asian public policy and geopolitical risk management. He previously served as President of Boeing Southeast Asia, where he oversaw commercial and defense operations across 12 countries, established offices in Jakarta and Hanoi, and supported over \$16 billion in sales. From 2009 to 2021, Feldman led the turnaround of the US-ASEAN Business Council as its President and CEO, growing it to represent more than 170 American multinationals. His extensive public service includes roles in the administrations of both Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, notably serving as Assistant Secretary of State leading the Bureau of International Information Programs. A frequent media commentator and member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Feldman also holds a background in regional media management with CNBC Asia, MTV Asia, and STAR TV, and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Linkedln
10 Jul – ACF & AMF Strategies for Managing Geopolitical & Political Risk in Asia	 Andy Staples Editorial Director, Asia - Fortune	Andrew Staples is an Editorial Director for Fortune Asia, based in Singapore. Appointed to the role in April 2026, he leads the region's editorial and live-media strategy alongside co-director Lee Williamson. His work focuses on driving multimedia coverage, hosting live journalism events, and expanding Fortune’s executive networks, with a particular emphasis on cultivating the Fortune Global 500 and Fortune Southeast Asia 500 C-suite communities. Prior to joining Fortune, Dr. Staples spent nearly two decades as an Asia specialist, holding senior positions at The Economist Group including Editorial Director and Head of Policy & Insights (APAC) at Economist Impact, and Global Editorial Director of The Economist Corporate Network. He holds a PhD in International Political Economy from the University of Sheffield and is also the founder of the boutique advisory firm GeoPol Asia. Linkedln