

Next-Era CEOs in Asia

Innovative CEOs offer insight on success

The economic outlook is currently dim in some regions, with Europe still struggling to come out of a deflationary period stemming from the sovereign crises, ongoing security risk in the Middle East and the Ebola outbreak. Amid such a situation, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's economic stimulus measures, "Abenomics," have faced challenges after Japan logged a drop of 7.1 percent in GDP on an annualized basis in the April to June period. The drop had been expected to be big because consumption tax was increased from 5 percent to 8 percent in April, but was even bigger than economists had expected.

According to the World Economic Outlook report issued in October by the International Monetary Fund, the global

economy logged a 3.3 percent gain year-on-year in 2013 and will probably register a similar number in 2014.

The IMF report pointed to the fact that developing economies grew much more than developed ones, and the former's growth this year will probably be higher than last year, while the latter's growth will probably shrink year-on-year.

Specifically, year-on-year growth in 2014 is expected to be 1.8 percent for developed economies, including the U.S., Europe and Japan, compared to a 4.4 percent increase for developing economies.

By country, the growth rates are predicted to be 1.8 percent for the United States, 3.2 percent for Britain and 0.9 percent for Japan. The eurozone economies should grow 2.2 percent this year.

In comparison, the corresponding growth rate is expected to be 7.4 percent for China, 5.6 percent for India, 0.2 percent for Russia and 4.7 percent for the five major economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The report says the IMF projects the world economy will grow 3.8 percent in 2015, while advanced economies are expected to rise 2.3 percent and emerging economies will jump 5 percent.

The Japanese economy is expected to grow by 0.8 percent, lower than the U.S. (2.3 percent), eurozone (1.3), Britain (2.7), China (7.1 percent), India (6.4) and the above-mentioned five ASEAN members (5.4). But Russia's growth is lower at 0.5

percent.

Asia's share of the world's aggregate gross domestic product is predicted to surpass 50 percent in the coming decades ending some two centuries of dominance by the West.

Meanwhile, the volatility of the yen is forcing an increasing number of Japanese businesses, large and small, to relocate to foreign soil, mostly in Asia.

In light of the growing importance of the Asian markets for the world economy and Japanese corporations' renewed advance into other Asian markets, The Japan Times Crossmedia Department is continuing the project 100 CEOs in Asia this year. This project gives readers insight into these 100 CEO's thoughts and ideas about where their sources of strength lie as they



carve a path to success in the growing Asian markets.

Here are the 100 CEOs and their words of wisdom. The full interview feature is available on our website, The Japan Times Online, at www.japantimes.co.jp/info/100-next-era-ceos.



Name
Company name
Comment

Shinichi Iwamoto

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