

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Survey: US interest rate hike, China GDP slowdown of greatest concern to Investment Managers

*Informal poll conducted at the Investment Management Association of Singapore ("IMAS")
16th Annual Conference*

Rough findings include;

- **Product innovation, new distribution technology and the upcoming Asia fund passport scheme identified as having significant potential impact over the next 5 years.**
- **Rising cost of governance (35%) and a lack of product innovation (30%) are perceived as the biggest threats, while new technology paradigms and demographic shifts were identified as key innovation drivers.**
- **Respondents are looking west for the greatest equity market opportunity with the mature markets of the European Union (39%) and the United States (29%) topping the poll.**

Singapore, April 2nd. Informal survey results find that the impending US interest rate hike and China GDP slowdown as issues of the greatest concern for investment managers in 2015. The brief survey was conducted among attendees at the IMAS 16th Annual Conference.

Held on March 26, the event was widely attended by members of the investment management industry within Asia-Pacific.

The conference opened with a keynote address from the Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport, Mrs. Josephine Teo, who paid tribute to the late Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. During her speech, Senior Minister Teo announced initiatives to open up retail investor access to corporate bond issuances, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), and introduced the Singapore Savings Bond scheme.

Chairman of IMAS, Mr. Nicholas Hadow said, "The 16th IMAS Conference this year has been a tremendous success. We are pleased to see the keen participation of so many of our members, engaging in discussions and topics that will help to shape our industry's future."

Discussions covered the quest for investment returns and the global investment outlook with Dr Luke Spajic from PIMCO advising to "keep your credits close but your sovereigns even closer" while Mr. Peter Perkins from the Macro Research Board commented that "kicking the can is better than biting the bullet on Greece".

Popular breakout sessions were held on the hot button topics of Asian and emerging market investment, and the rise of regional fund passport schemes. A lively discussion was also held on Asian retail distribution with Mr. Marc Desmidt, head of Strategic Product Management, commenting that BlackRock is thinking "provocatively" about applying social media to their investment strategies.

The conference was also joined by Mr. Simon Kahn, CMO APAC for Google who gave exclusive insights on developing a culture of innovation outlining their guiding principles at Google. Mr. John Rice, Vice Chair of General Electric gave the plenary session on how their organisation utilises technology to enhance their speed to market describing GE as "an emerging markets company".

The conference ended on an enjoyable keynote dialogue between Ms. Haslinda Amin, Bloomberg TV anchor and Mr. Martin Gilbert, co-founder of Aberdeen Asset Management. Born in Malaysia, when Martin was asked about why Singapore was chosen as Aberdeen's Asia Pacific headquarters, he responded, "we came here when no-one else was here. It's what sets you apart" and identified the move to Asia as the best thing Aberdeen Asset Management has ever did.

About IMAS

The Investment Management Association of Singapore (IMAS) was formed on 22 September 1997. It is a representative body of investment managers spearheading the development and growth of the industry in Singapore.

By fostering high standards of professionalism and promoting exemplary practice among members, the Association seeks to set the benchmark for the investment and fund management industry in Singapore.

It also serves as a forum for members in discussions as well as a collective voice where representation is needed on behalf of the investment management industry, facilitating training for its members, and contributing towards investor education.

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