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The STARS of ASIA

Dhirubhai Ambani
Details overleaf

*The region needs radical reform.
Here are 50 Asian leaders who
are at the forefront of change.*

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It may be the worst economic crisis in half a century. But even in the midst of turmoil, there are men and women stepping forward to help Asia reinvent itself. We call them Asia's stars. Some are making gutsy bets on expansion during the downturn. Others are pushing Asia toward greater accountability — to shareholders or to voters.

THE STARS OF ASIA

Crisis or no crisis, these 50 men and women are making a difference

POLICYMAKERS	KIM DAE JUNG, age 76	PRESIDENT	SOUTH KOREA
	ZHU RONGJI, 66	PREMIER	CHINA
	N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU, 69	CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH	INDIA
	LEE YUAN-TSEH, 61	PRESIDENT, ACADEMIA SINICA	TAIWAN
	TARRIN NIMMANHAEMINDA, 52	FINANCE MINISTER	THAILAND
	AMARET SILA-ON, 65	CHAIRMAN, FINANCIAL SECTOR RESTRUCTURING AUTH.	THAILAND
	YOU JONG KEUN, 52	ECONOMIC ADVISER	SOUTH KOREA
	KOHEI NAKABO, 58	PRESIDENT, HOUSING LOAN ADMINISTRATION CORP.	JAPAN
	LEE HSIEN LOONG, 46	DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER	SINGAPORE
	LIU HONG, 34	DIR. GEN., LEG. AFFAIRS, CHINA SECUR. & REG. COMM.	CHINA
MANAGERS	ANWAR IBRAHIM, 50	DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER	MALAYSIA
	JOSEPH YAM, 50	CHIEF, HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY	HONG KONG
	CHRISTINE LOH, 42	LEGISLATOR	HONG KONG
	MARTIN LEE, 60	LEGISLATOR	HONG KONG
	CHEN SHUI-BIAN, 47	MAYOR OF TAIPEI	TAIWAN
	MARJORIE YANG, 45	CHAIRMAN, ESCUEL GROUP	HONG KONG
	NOBUYUKI IDEI, 60	PRESIDENT, SONY	JAPAN
	WANG XUAN, 61	CHAIRMAN, FOUNDER ELECTRONICS	CHINA
	AKIHIRO WADA, 64	HEAD OF R&D, TOYOTA	JAPAN
	EUGENIO LOPEZ III, 45	CEO, ABS-CBN BROADCASTING	PHILIPPINES
ENTREPRENEURS	PAN NING, 61	CHAIRMAN, GUANGDONG KELON	CHINA
	MORRIS CHANG, 66	CEO, TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MFG. CO. (TSMC)	TAIWAN
	SURESH KRISHNA, 61	CHAIRMAN, SUNDARAM FASTENERS	INDIA
	B.K. SYNGAL, 55	CHAIRMAN, VSNL LONG-DISTANCE CARRIER	INDIA
	STEVE CHANG, 43	CEO, TREND MICRO	TAIWAN
	JONNEY SHIH, 45	CHAIRMAN, ASUSTEK COMPUTER	TAIWAN
	N.R. NARAYANA MURTHY, 52	FOUNDER, INFOSYS TECHNOLOGIES	INDIA
	KENJI ENO, 58	FOUNDER, WARP	JAPAN
	SIM WONG HOO, 42	CEO, CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY	SINGAPORE
	WU YING, 38	VICE-CHAIRMAN, UTSTARCOM USA	CHINA
FINANCIERS	MICHAEL YING, 50	CHAIRMAN, ESPRIT HOLDINGS	HONG KONG
	MASAYOSHI SON, 40	CEO, SOFTBANK	JAPAN
	WILLIAM E. HEINECKE, 45	CEO, MINOR GROUP	THAILAND
	DHIRUBHAI H. AMBANI, 65	FOUNDER, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES	INDIA
	JOSE A. CONCEPCION III, 40	CEO, RPM CORP.	PHILIPPINES
	TONY TAN CAKTIONG, 45	CEO, JOLLIBEE FOODS	PHILIPPINES
	VICTOR FUNG, 52	CHAIRMAN, PRUDENTIAL ASIA INVESTMENTS	HONG KONG
	DEEPAK S. PAREKH, 53	CHAIRMAN, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORP.	INDIA
	JUNICHI LUJIE, 52	PRESIDENT, NOMURA SECURITIES	JAPAN
	KIM JUNG TAE, 52	PRESIDENT, DONGWON SECURITIES	SOUTH KOREA
OPINION SHAPERS	HSU TA-LIN, 54	CHAIRMAN, HAMBRECHT & QUIST ASIA PACIFIC	TAIWAN
	YOSHIIHIKO MIYAUCHI, 63	PRESIDENT, ORIX	JAPAN
	MUHAMMAD YUNUS, 58	FOUNDER, Grameen Bank	BANGLADESH
	TETSUYA CHIKUSHI, 62	TELEVISION COMMENTATOR	JAPAN
	MARI PANGESTU, 41	ECONOMIST, REFORMER	INDONESIA
	JANG HA SUNG, 45	SHAREHOLDER ACTIVIST	SOUTH KOREA
	ZHANG YIMOU, 46	FILM DIRECTOR	CHINA
	GURDEV S. KHUSH, 62	PLANT GENETICIST	PHILIPPINES
	MEENAKSHI RAMAN, 39	LAWYER, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST	MALAYSIA
	ALBERT CHEUNG, 51	RADIO COMMENTATOR	HONG KONG

DHIRUBHAI AMBANI

Dhirubhai H. Ambani remembers when he was a small producer of synthetic textiles in Bombay in the 1960s, snubbed and dismissed by India's established textile barons and local bankers. Today, he is India's showcase entrepreneur. His Reliance Industries Ltd. is a petrochemical giant that earned \$418 million last year on sales of \$3.4 billion. Reliance shares are among the most widely held in India.

Unlike most other Indian industrialists, Ambani was not a child of privilege. At 17, he was pumping gas in what is now Yemen. After returning to India in the 1960s, he started Reliance as a trading company and then plowed into synthetic fibers and oil refining. Ambani's knack for maneuvering around India's bureaucracy and his tendency to "think big, think fast, and think ahead" meant he was ready when reforms began in 1991. By 2000, he hopes Reliance will have \$10 billion in annual sales and be a world-class,



low-cost producer. He has already adopted international standards to make Reliance stock more appealing to foreign investors.

While the day-to-day management is handled by his sons Anil and Mukesh, Ambani, 65, remains chief strategist and visits the office everyday dressed in his customary white-cotton shirt. He also says he harbors no grudge against those who slighted him. "I still call them 'Sir,' because I can't forget my old days," says Ambani.