

“Money can’t buy friends, but you can get a better class of enemy.”
- Spike Milligan



On the Cover

We often hear of the concern that there is a lack of leadership in the world today. However, our interviews with many of today's top executives, several of whom are presented in this issue of LEADERS, provide us with optimism and a high degree of confidence that there are many strong men and women providing solid and effective leadership for

their businesses and for organizations of all types.

Carlos Slim, Chairman of Grupo Carso, is very confident in Mexico's growth potential noting that the country "has a healthy banking system, healthy macroeconomics, and a good labor pool." Noted for his extensive charity work, Slim says "the experience of the businessman is so important to solving social problems." With an intense focus on health and education, Slim notes that there are no limitations placed on the programs they support: "Our approach is that all we can do, we will do."

Dr. the Honorable Sir David K.P. Li leads The Bank of East Asia, Limited as Chairman and Chief Executive and it has delivered record results for shareholders every year since the 2008 global financial crisis. Li stresses the importance of developing talented people: "We have a deep-rooted culture of identifying and promoting talent and giving talented people responsibility." Li encourages an entrepreneurial environment "that provides managers both the freedom and the incentive to create new business opportunities for the bank."

As Chairman, President, and CEO of Southern Company, Thomas Fanning is no stranger to leading from the top when circumstances call for it. He states that, "Our intention as a company is to be a citizen wherever we serve; this means we have to be bigger than our bottom line." Fanning goes on to say that, "Southern Company is all about providing solutions – not rhetoric – to the problems facing the United States energy economy."

Michael Bloomberg has received well deserved praise for the way he has handled his duties as Mayor of New York City. Leaders around the globe praise him for helping pull the City through the financial crisis and continuing, and further building, the City's prominence as the capital of the world. The Mayor's letter introduces the section on New York, which presents a diverse mix of leaders discussing those things that make New York City a vibrant, exciting, and unique place.

Romania is a country benefitting from the foresight of leaders like their Prime Minister, The Honorable Victor Ponta. Swept into power following the rule of an unpopular administration, Ponta leads a social-democrat and liberal coalition government poised to win the fall elections and bring about new constitutional and administrative reforms. In encouraging future growth, Ponta says, "We are open to all investors who wish to develop businesses in Romania and the cabinet has already taken measures and will adopt several additional policies to support foreign investors."

In exclusive interviews that follow, Slim (page 10), Li (page 15), Ponta (page 22), Fanning (page 18), and Bloomberg (page 26), clockwise from top left, provide us with examples as to the leadership that will continue to guide us through the economic difficulties of the past five years and to productive growth that raises living standards for all. ●

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