**April 18, 2013**

[**Chinese banks top Forbes Global 2000 list of world's biggest companies**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2013/apr/17/chinese-banks-forbes-global-2000)

The Guardian

For the first time, two Chinese firms have topped Forbes magazine's annual poll of the world's largest companies. The Chinese bank ICBC ousted Exxon Mobil as the world's biggest company, according to the magazine's 10th annual ranking of the world's top 2,000 firms. China Construction Bank bumped JP Morgan out of the second spot.

[**SunEdison and Petrobras will build one of the highest solar power plants in Brazil**](http://www.expansion.com/agencia/europa_press/2013/04/17/20130417144111.html)

Expansion

Solar energy provider SunEdison has signed an agreement with Petrobras to build "one of the largest" photovoltaic power plants in Brazil, which will generate 1.65 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year.

[**Veris Named "Best for the World" by B Corp**](http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130417-908272.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

The Wall Street Journal

Veris Wealth Partners, one of the nation's leading independent wealth advisors for sustainable and impact investors, announced today it was named to B Corp's list of companies voted "Best For The World."

**April 16, 2013**

[**Responsible Business 2013**](http://www.ft.com/intl/reports/responsible-business-2013)

FT Special Report

While many companies have embraced energy efficiency or resource management, some argue that corporate leaders must go beyond incremental change and transform their business models.

[**Enel GP pushes into emerging markets to boost earnings**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/16/enelgreenpower-plan-idUSL5N0D31VW20130416)

Reuters

Italy's biggest renewable energy company, Enel Green Power, expects core earnings to rise by as much as 60 percent in the five years to 2017 as it strengthens its presence in emerging markets.

[**Mexico says Nestle to sell Pfizer baby food business**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/15/us-mexico-nestle-idUSBRE93E0T320130415)

Reuters

Swiss food giant Nestle will sell the assets of U.S. pharmaceutical company Pfizer's baby food business in Mexico, a business it acquired globally in an $11.85 billion deal last year, Mexico's competition watchdog said on Monday.

[**German solar company to invest US$2.54 million in Brazil**](http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/archive/2013/april/beitrag/german-solar-company-to-invest-us254-million-in-brazil_100010888/#axzz2QcxneEDA)

PV Magazine

German solar company Ebitsch Energietechnik plans to invest 5 million Brazilian reales (US$ 2.54 million) in a photovoltaic project in the northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte.

[**EM private debt funds draw interest**](http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2013/04/16/em-private-debt-funds-draw-more-interest/#axzz2Qd3SoFSV)

Financial Times

Cordiant Capital, a Canada-based fund manager, is the latest to add to this small but growing sector with the launch of a $250m fund on Monday. According to Cordiant while 2012 was a record year for emerging markets bond issuance, the boom has largely bypassed the small and midsized companies that Cordiant is targeting because bond investors tend to focus on large listed companies.

[**Mexican, Spanish groups ink Pemex vessel deal**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/oilandgas/mexican-spanish-groups-ink-deal-for-pemex-vessels)

BN Americas

Mexican port and maritime services company Servicios Portuarios (Serport) has signed an agreement with Spanish firm Grupo Gabadi to build three barges for national oil company Pemex. The deal is part of an agreement Pemex signed last year with the local government of Spain's Galicia region. [Read Article](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/oilandgas/mexican-spanish-groups-ink-deal-for-pemex-vessels)

[**Brazil’s GranBio purchase 25% of U.S. company**](http://exame.abril.com.br/negocios/aquisicoes-fusoes/noticias/granbio-compra-25-de-companhia-americana)

Exame

Biotechnoloy company GranBio, which belongs to the family Gradin, is buying 25% of U.S. American Process Inc. (API). The investment in API marks GranBio’s entry of the U.S. market for clean energy.

[**The Future of Impact Investing**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paula-goldman/impact-investing_b_3087510.html)

The Huffington Post

Sir Ronald Cohen, widely regarded as the father of British venture capital, caused a stir with a recent post on the HBR-Bridgespan Insight Center: "Social Impact Investing is the New Venture Capital." The piece, co-authored with William Sahlman, argued that impact investing will be as transformative for society as the institution of venture capital has been for the state of entrepreneurship globally.

**April 11, 2013**

[**Aid dropping as donors become 'risk averse', claims OECD**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/apr/08/aid-dropping-donors-risk-averse-oecd)

The Guardian

Aid to the poorest countries is dropping because donors are becoming more "risk averse", according to a senior official from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[**DNDi Latin America pledges 2013 Carlos Slim Health Award to chagas disease**](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-04/dfnd-dla041013.php)

DNDi Press Room

The Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) Latin America today announced that it will pledge the US $100,000 Carlos Slim Health Award to Chagas disease, the leading parasitic killer of the Americas.

[**Mobile connections in Latin America to reach 711mn in 2013**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/telecommunications/mobile-connections-in-latin-america-to-reach-711mn-in-2013-study)

BN Americas

Mobile connections in Latin America are expected to reach 711mn this year, up from 645mn in 2012, research and consultancy firm Gartner said in a study.

[**Executives See Rise in Risks in Emerging Markets**](http://deloitte.wsj.com/riskandcompliance/2013/04/10/executives-see-rise-in-risks-in-emerging-markets/?KEYWORDS=latin+america)

The Wall Street Journal

Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP’s fifth annual “Look Before You Leap” survey found many executives concerned over compliance and integrity-related risks in emerging markets.

[**Mitsubishi heavy industries: first company in japan to join world ocean council**](http://www.mhi.co.jp/en/news/story/1304111644.html)

World Ocean Council

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) has joined the World Ocean Council (WOC) as the first Japanese entity to join the organization and the first from the shipbuilding industry.

**April 10, 2013**

[**Investing in Latin America's Water and Sanitation Solutions**](http://www.forbes.com/sites/ashoka/2013/04/09/investing-in-latin-americas-water-and-sanitation-solutions/)

Forbes

For the past three years, two early-stage social enterprises in South America—TOHL in Chile and X-Runner in Peru—have been hard at work creating the means to get us there.

[**Family Foundation Embraces Impact Investing**](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323550604578412400404012408.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

The Wall Street Journal

The man, in his late 20s, had recently learned about impact investing and wanted to introduce the concept to his family's foundation. He hoped to convince his family to invest the foundation's $30 million in assets that way.

[**Peru seeks to attract tech investment from China**](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-04/09/content_16386300.htm)

China Daily

Relations between Peru and China should help attract Chinese investment to spur the South American nation's technological development, the chief of Peru's Foreign Trade Society (ComexPeru) said Monday.

[**Mexico-Japan: building pipelines**](http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2013/04/09/mexico-japan-building-pipelines/#axzz2PsLgeIOI)

Financial Times

Tuesday’s announcement that Mexico has signed an agreement with Japan’s Mitsui Corporation to construct a gas pipeline for $460m was accompanied by the idea that the deal would provide cheaper and more abundant energy for Latin America’s second-largest economy.

[**Executives See Rise in Risks in Emerging Markets**](http://deloitte.wsj.com/riskandcompliance/2013/04/10/executives-see-rise-in-risks-in-emerging-markets/?KEYWORDS=latin+america)

The Wall Street Journal

Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP’s fifth annual “Look Before You Leap” survey found many executives concerned over compliance and integrity-related risks in emerging markets.

[**Totvs aiming for presence in all Latin American cities with over 500,000 inhabitants**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/technology/qtotvs-aims-for-presence-in-all-latin-american-cities-with-over-500000-inhabitants)

BN Americas

Brazilian software development group Totvs aims to have a presence in all Latin American cities with over 500,000 inhabitants, the company's director for the region, Jorge Fernando Bayá, told BNamericas.

[**Japanese consortium to develop US$850mn methanol to DME plant in Trinidad**](http://subscriber.bnamericas.com/Subscriber/index.jsp?idioma=I&tipoContenido=detalle&pagina=content&idContenido=614136&tipoDocumento=1)

BN Americas

Trinidad and Tobago's energy ministry has signed a project development agreement with Japan's Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company and Mitsubishi Corporation, and local group Neal & Massy, for a US$850mn methanol to dimethyl ether (DME) plant at the Union Industrial Estate at La Brea.

**April 9, 2013**

[**Kia Commits to Brazil Factory, Financing Still to be Decided**](http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/04/08/kia-commits-to-brazil-factory-financing-still-to-be-decided/)

Dow

The Brazilian importer of Kia Motor Co. said Monday he expects the carmaker to build a plant in Brazil, although details regarding who will foot the bill for the plant's construction are still undecided.

[**Foreign wind farms cause uproar in Mexican villages**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130406-foreign-wind-farms-cause-uproar-mexican-villages)

France 24

Foreign energy firms have flocked to a narrow region of southern Mexico, known as one of the world's windiest places, to build towering wind turbines, but some projects have angered and torn indigenous villages.

[**Peru greenlights 700MW-plus hydro**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/electricpower/peru-greenlights-700mw-plus-hydro)

BN Americas

Peruvian authorities have approved a hydro plant that would boast over 700MW planned for regions Cajamarca and Amazonas, BNamericas has learned.

[**Consortium lands Paraguay transmission project**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/electricpower/consortium-lands-paraguay-transmission-project)

BN Americas

Paraguay has awarded a contract to build a transmission line to bolster supply to capital Asunción's metropolitan region. The Andean Development Corporation and the OPEC Fund for International Development are helping the finance the project which will complement the 500kV Itaipú-Villa Hayes line.

**April 8, 2013**

[**Huawei revenue up 9.8 percent to $35.57 billion, profit up 34 percent in 2012**](http://www.telecomlead.com/telecom-equipment/huawei-revenue-up-9-8-percent-to-35-57-billion-profit-up-34-percent-in-2012/)

Telecom Lead

In the American region, Huawei experienced robust growth in infrastructure networks across Latin America, and enjoyed prosperity in the consumer business in North America. The successes in the American region helped Huawei generate 31.846 billion yuan in sales revenue, an increase of 4.3 percent year-on-year.

[**Mexico, China ink crude export deal**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/oilandgas/mexico-china-inks-crude-export-deal)

BN Americas

Mexico's Pemex this month will begin exporting crude to Chinese oil company Sinopec, said CEO of the former, Emilio Lozoya in a meeting with Chinese leaders.

[**Bimbo Completes Purchase of Beefsteak for $ 31.9 million**](http://www.expansion.com/2013/04/06/empresas/distribucion/1365206632.html)

Expansion

Grupo Bimbo, one of the largest bakeries in the world, has completed the purchase of the brand Beefsteak for $ 31.9 million, as part of the bankruptcy proceedings of the American Hostess Brands.

[**Latin America looks to earn from e-waste**](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2013/04/05/Latin-America-looks-to-earn-from-e-waste/UPI-45211365154168/)

UPI.com

Brazil passed new legislation to regulate electronic waste recycling after a U.N. Environment Program report warned the Latin American country could face serious health issues and degradation of its quality of life.

Carlos Slim takes the triple jump

Financial Times

Late last month, the Mexican telecoms tycoon snapped up exclusive Latin American broadcast rights for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Slim’s move illuminates several features of América Movíl’s strategy.

[**Google’s reported plan to buy WhatsApp for $1 billion would really tick off Facebook**](http://news.yahoo.com/google-reported-plan-buy-whatsapp-1-billion-really-115043496.html)

Yahoo News

Google and WhatsApp have reportedly been locked in negotiations about an acquisition for more than a month — and WhatsApp is pushing for nearly $1 billion valuation, Digital Trends recently reported.

[**Peru is a competitive platform for Asian investments**](http://www.andina.com.pe/Ingles/noticia-peru-is-a-competitive-platform-for-asian-investments-454063.aspx)

Agencia Peruana de Noticias

Peru is an competitive platform for Asian companies in the Latin American’s Pacific as the Andean country provides ample opportunities to develop business and reach the top markets of North America, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, said Peruvian President, Ollanta Humala.

**April 5, 2013**

[**Mexican labour: cheaper than China**](http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2013/04/05/made-in-mexico-now-cheaper-than-china/#axzz2PaoGiz8n)

Financial Times

Could labor in Mexico now actually be cheaper than in China? Yes, according to Carlos Capistran, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Not only are average hourly manufacturing wages in Mexico now lower than those in China in constant dollar terms, they are 20 per cent less.

[**Peru thirsts for capital water supply**](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/a71079b6-746f-11e2-80a7-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2PaoIhsct)

Financial Times

In the case of Peru’s capital and its adjacent port city of Callao, water supplies and sewage services are a central issue: currently, out of a total of 9m people, almost 1.9m residents lack access to those services.

[**Burger King Latin America leverages soccer partnership**](http://www.qsrweb.com/article/210797/Burger-King-Latin-America-leverages-soccer-partnership)

QSR Web

La Liga BBVA, a professional division of the Spanish football league, has once again partnered with the Burger King brand and Pepsi for a promotion aimed at engaging soccer fans.

**April 4, 2013**

[**Japanese Universities set to accept Brazilian science majors**](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/04/03/national/universities-set-to-accept-brazilian-science-majors/)

Japan Times

Japanese universities are being asked to accept about 1,300 Brazilian science majors over the next three years in a program funded by the South American country aimed at building its industrial development and helping Japanese firms advance into its market.

[**Mexican leader to visit China, Japan**](http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/113421-mexican-leader-to-visit-china-japan.html)

Business Recorder

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto will head to China and Japan this week in a bid to deepen the Latin American nation's foothold in the Asia-Pacific region, the Senate announced Tuesday.

[**China Auto Maker Chery to Build Brazilian Motor Factory**](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20130402-708260.html)

The Wall Street Journal

The capacity of the motor factory, and how much money will need to be invested to build the factory, are still being decided, chief executive for Brazil operations Luis Curi said Monday, according to a video posted on the Automotive Business news agency website.

[**Banco do Brasil May Raise $6 Billion With Insurance IPO**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-03/banco-do-brasil-may-raise-6-billion-with-insurance-ipo.html)

Bloomberg

Banco do Brasil SA, Latin America’s biggest lender by assets, may raise as much as 12.2 billion reais ($6 billion) in an initial public offering for its insurance unit that would be the region’s largest since 2009.

[**Uruguay’s Antel to invest in Hondutel**](http://eng.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Pais/Uruguaya-Antel-quiere-invertir-en-Hondutel)

El Heraldo

Uruguay's government formalized a proposal to purchase a 51% stake in the Honduran Telecommunications Company (Hondutel).

**April 3, 2013**

[**US$ 500 million Green bond sets Korea apart as global environmental leader**](http://reneweconomy.com.au/2013/korea-as-global-environment-leader-73539#mc_signup)

RE News

The Kexim Bank bond is backed by an assurance that all funds will be channeled into green investment projects. The projects are to be certified by a reputable third party, namely the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO) in Oslo. This protects you, the professional investor, from future legal liability.

[**Xoom's "POWR" Expands to Latin America**](http://finance.yahoo.com/news/xooms-game-changing-powr-expands-170619298.html)

Yahoo Finance

Xoom Corporation, a global online money transfer provider, launched POWR (Pay Only When Received), to Filipino remitters last month. Today, Xoom announces that the breakthrough initiative is now available to qualifying remitters throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

[**Obama Proposes Tax-Free Infrastructure Investing for Non-US Pensions**](http://ai-cio.com/channel/NEWSMAKERS/Obama_Proposes_Tax-Free_Infrastructure_Investing_for_Non-US_Pensions.html)

CIO

Foreign pension funds may be able to invest tax-free in US infrastructure and real estate, if the White House garners support.

[**DirecTV's Stock Could Pass $60 Easy With Strong Latin American Growth**](http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/04/02/directvs-stock-could-pass-60-easy-if-latin-america-remains-strong/)

Forbes

We estimate that about 25% of DirecTV‘s value can be attributed to its operations in Latin America, making its implied worth of $8.5 billion.

[**What It Means To Be A Philanthropist - Gen Xers and Millennials Weigh In**](http://www.forbes.com/sites/groupthink/2013/04/01/what-it-means-to-be-a-philanthropist-gen-xers-and-millennials-weigh-in/)

Forbes

Entrepreneurs like Brin and Zuckerberg will be joined by Gen Xers and Millennials starting to inherit $40 trillion, much of which will be designated for charitable giving.

**April 2, 2013**

[**Japan’s NEC wins ICT system contract for another Brazilian soccer stadium**](http://www.asahi.com/english/articles/TKY201303280166.html)

The Asahi Shimbun

NEC Corp. has been selected to provide information and communication technology (ICT) for a third soccer stadium in Brazil, part of its continuing support of smart city development in the region.

[**Mexico's Alsea buys out local Starbucks operation**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/international/afp_asiapacific_business/mexico-s-alsea-buys-out-local-starbucks-operation/624442.html)

NewsAsia

Latin America's largest food operator, Alsea, said on Monday it had bought out the Mexican subsidiary of US mega-coffee chain Starbucks.

[**Korean company SK Telecom has taken corporate social responsibility into the future with hi-tech strategy to help students**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/engineers-educational-robot-children-learning-difficulties)

The Guardian

In a departure from the typical corporate social responsibility program of sending employee volunteers to help in the classroom, SK organized a team of engineers to develop and pilot a smart robot – Albert – equipped with educational software to help children with learning disabilities.

[**Brazil launches billion-dollar energy plan**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/business/2013-04/02/c_132278234.htm)

Xinhua News

Brazil's Development Bank (BNDES) announced on Monday the launch of a 3-billion-real (1.5-billion-U.S. dollar) plan to develop the country's energy sector. Under the plan, the bank and the research financing company Finep will offer financing lines with low interest rates to private companies investing in energy research.