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SCHOOL of ADVANCED
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The Hopkins China Forum and



The University of Chicago Alumni Club

cordially invite you to:

Who's Still Catching the Growth Wave in China? (and other reasons to be optimistic)

Francis Bassolino

Founder and Managing Partner of Alaris Consulting

Aina Konold

Chief Financial Officer of The Gap, China

Thursday, April 14th, 2016
19:15pm –20:30 pm

cafésambal authentic malaysian
cuisine & bar

259 Jiashan Lu, Jiashan Market, Block A, No 37, near Jianguo Xi Lu
嘉善路 259 弄 37 号嘉善老市 A 栋, 近建国西路, 地铁九号线嘉善路站

Admission: 50RMB

19:00 – Doors Open
19:15 – Lecture
20:00 – Q&A
20:30 – Mixer/Drinks/Dinner

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

Despite its slowing economy, China still offers enormous opportunities for growth and cost reduction. Retail sales continue to increase by more than ten percent per annum and growth in disposable income continues to create attractive market segments. Cost reduction specialists see money lying around China's factories, distribution points and retail shelves. With all of these opportunities, why does China often confound most investors and operators? What are the impediments to generating returns and what should we be watching for in the coming year?

Francis Bassolino is Founder and Managing Partner of [Alaris](#), a management consultancy based in Shanghai, specializing in generating proprietary information and working alongside management and investment teams to develop and implement strategic objectives. For the last thirty years, he has worked as an investor and advisor developing strategies, structures and implementation plans to find growth and cost reduction opportunities in Asia. Bassolino is a graduate of the [Hopkins-Nanjing Center](#) and holds an MBA from the [University of Chicago's Booth School of Business](#).

Aina Konold is the VP and CFO of Gap Inc.'s Greater China retail business and was recently elected to the Board of Governors of AmCham Shanghai. Aina is responsible for all finance and accounting functions, strategic sourcing, and loss prevention in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. She is part of the executive team that created and executed a long range plan that built over 100 stores for Gap Inc. in Greater China since 2010. The team achieved sales of almost \$300 million in 2013, just three years after opening, and is on track to reach \$1 billion by 2016. In March of 2014, the China team opened the first Old Navy store in China, only three years after opening the first Gap store. Konold attended Stanford University and started her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

About Hopkins China Forum: Hopkins China Forum events are organized under the auspices of The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at editor@shanghai-review.org.