

## **Sanyo**

1. How did Sanyo become a successful company? What were the leading products of the company when it was doing well? What were the keys to the success?
2. What is the relationship between Sanyo and Panasonic (Matsushita or Matsushita Konosuke the founder thereof)?
3. How did the company start performing poorly in the 1990s? What kind of role did the legacy of the success play in the firm's failure? Is there any link between the company's underperformance and its past success and Japan's 1990s recession?
4. What happened to the firm after its failure? Are Chinese home appliance firms interested in Sanyo? Why?
5. Are there any similarities between Sanyo and other Japanese electronic firms such as Sony, Panasonic, and Sharp?

## **Long-term Credit Bank of Japan (LTCB) and Japan's Banking Crisis**

1. What was the original role of LTCB?
2. Some say LTCB should have been closed in the 1980s since, by that time, the bank lost its *raison d'être*. Why do they argue so?
3. What is the mechanism of the banking crisis of 1997? How did LTCB fail?
4. What are the similarities and differences between Japanese and American banking crises?
5. What company acquired LTCB? Why? What was the general public's perception on the acquisition?

## **Honda**

1. What kind of person was Honda Soichiro? Are his philosophies reflected in the company's way of doing business?
2. Why and how did Honda become successful first in the U.S. not in Japan (in terms of selling automobiles)? Why did Honda leave Japan? Why didn't Honda have a good relationship with Japan's famous (or infamous) Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)? What kind of 'industrial policy' did MITI pursue in the 1960s and 1970s?
3. Why did Honda become successful in the early 1970s?
4. What kind of supply chain system does Honda have? What is the role of China for the company? What about Thailand?

## **Livedoor**

1. What kind of person is Mr. Takafumi Horie?
2. How did he succeed in expanding his company Livedoor (a web portal in Japan)?
3. What is the Horie scandal? What was he arrested for?
4. He claimed a (public) firm is supposed to be owned by shareholders, not the management of the firm as believed among traditional Japanese companies. What is the traditional view on management among Japanese corporations?
5. Why did young people support him while older generations didn't tend to support him?
6. The August 31 issue of The Economist has several articles on him.

## **Huawei**

1. Who is the founder? What is his background? Has his background helped his business?
2. What kind of company is Huawei? How did the company become successful in China? What part of China did the company start becoming successful? Where in the world did the company start becoming successful?
3. Australia has taken restrictive measures against Huawei. And the U.S. and some European companies are nervous about the firm's penetration into their markets. Why? What do they claim? What are the refutations by the firm against such claims?
4. What is the firm's strategy into the U.S.? How has it been doing in terms of getting into the U.S. market?

## **Lenovo and the government**

1. How was the firm founded? How has the relationship with the government been? Has it been helpful?
2. What was the impact of the firm's purchase of the personal computer division of IBM on the firm itself and the personal computer market?
3. Has the government provided subsidies to the firm? What has been the firm's strategy on expanding market shares? How is the firm's pricing strategy?
4. What is the prospect of the firm given that tablets are becoming more popular than traditional personal computers?
5. How is the firm's research and development (R&D) strategy?

## **China Investment Corporation**

1. What does the bank do?
2. What is the “sovereign wealth funds”? What do they do? Provide some international comparison. Why do some governments possess SWFs? What are the main motivations?
3. Some claim that CIC models itself after Singapore’s SWF. Provide some information about Singapore’s SWF.
4. Is CIC influential? Why does China hold such a massive amount of international reserves?
5. What did CIC in the immediate aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008?

## **U.S. QE3, China, and its slowdown**

1. What is “quantitative easing (QE)”? What are the differences among QE1, QE2, and QE3?
2. What are the impacts of QE on emerging market economies, especially China, India, and Brazil?
3. What is the “operation twist”? What is the main point of the policy?
4. What is the “tapering of the QE”? How can that affect emerging market economies? What can be the impact on China?

## **“The IMF Crisis” in Korea**

1. Why do Korean people call the crisis of 1997-98 “The IMF Crisis”?
2. How did it happen? Were there any other economies that experience a similar crisis?
3. What were the policy responses to the crisis? How did President Kim Dae Jung handle the crisis?
4. How was the economy doing in the aftermath of the crisis? What are the main reasons for the post-crisis performance of the economy?
5. Discuss briefly how the economy is doing right now. Any similarities with the 1997-98 crisis?

## **Korean IT revolution**

1. How is South Korea’s IT technology, environment, and infrastructure (compared to other countries)?
2. Why has Korea become the Asian IT hub?

3. What is the relationship between IT-oriented industrial policy and the “IMF Crisis”? what was the views of President Kim Dae Jung? Discuss the “middle income trap” in reference to the country’s IT policy.
4. How is IT being used in education in Korea?
5. What is the relationship between Samsung and the government? Does the firm recruit many Japanese engineers?
6. What is the prospect of Korea’s high-tech industry? Has Korea surpassed or will it surpass Japan? What about its technology level compared to China?

### **Hon Hai Precision Industry or Fixconn**

1. What does the firm do? How has the firm’s relationship with Apple been?
2. Why do many Taiwanese firms go to mainland China? When did that trend start?
3. Why did the firm get criticized so much in 2011-12?
4. What are the labor conditions in China in general? Are the unions strong? What are the wage levels?
5. How is the relationship with Apple now (esp. given that Apple’s smartphone share has been declining)?

### **Overall of the Vietnamese Economy**

1. What have been the country’s traditional industries? Are there any traits particular to Vietnamese workers?
2. Are there any geographical divisions within the country (in terms of industries, politics, culture, etc.)? Do they affect the country’s economy and business?
3. What is Doi Moi?
4. How is the country’s relationship with the U.S.? Does the country welcome American firms? Which countries provide foreign direct investment to the country more than others?
5. How is the country’s relationship with China? Any territorial disputes? Do they affect Chinese firms interested in doing business in Vietnam?
6. How are the financial markets doing nowadays? Any impact of the global financial crisis of 2008?