Seminar on EU’s Instantaneous Events  
Reading-Report

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1. Hua Wei data privacy:

Huawei Cloud is making good inroads into the South African market thanks to its security, compliance, and in-country data centers and support.

Reflection on Huawei Data Privacy Concerns

In recent years, Huawei has been at the center of numerous controversies, with one of the most significant being concerns over data privacy. As the Chinese tech giant has expanded its global reach, questions about how it handles user data and its relationship with the Chinese government have become increasingly prevalent. Reflecting on this issue prompts considerations not only about Huawei's practices but also about broader implications for data privacy and international relations.

At the heart of the Huawei data privacy debate lies the concern that the company may be subject to Chinese government influence or control, raising questions about the security and privacy of user data. The fear is that Huawei could be compelled to provide sensitive information to Chinese authorities, either voluntarily or through legal mandates, posing risks to user privacy and national security in countries where Huawei operates.

This issue raises fundamental questions about the balance between national security interests and the principles of data privacy and user rights. Governments around the world are grappling with how to address these concerns while also benefiting from the technological advancements and economic opportunities that companies like Huawei offer. It underscores the need for robust regulatory frameworks and international cooperation to safeguard data privacy in an increasingly interconnected world.

From a personal perspective, the Huawei data privacy concerns serve as a reminder of the importance of being vigilant about the technologies and platforms we entrust with our data. As individuals, we must be aware of the potential risks and take steps to protect our privacy, whether through understanding privacy policies, using encryption tools, or advocating for stronger data protection laws.

Moreover, this issue highlights the complexities of navigating the global landscape of technology and geopolitics. As consumers and citizens, we are increasingly confronted with choices that have implications beyond our immediate interactions, prompting us to consider not only the features and benefits of products and services but also their broader societal and political ramifications.

In conclusion, the Huawei data privacy concerns represent a multifaceted issue with far-reaching implications for individuals, governments, and the global tech industry. Addressing these concerns requires a balanced approach that upholds both privacy rights and national security interests while fostering transparency, accountability, and cooperation among stakeholders. As we navigate the complexities of the digital age, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and engaged in shaping policies and practices that promote a safe and secure digital environment for all.

1. GlobalWafers (TSMC) Move to Germany

It was Feb. 1, 2022, the first day of the Year of the Tiger. The clock was winding down, and when it hit 6:59 a.m. in Taiwan, GlobalWafers Co. Chairperson Doris Hsu (徐秀蘭) and the many other executives gathered were extremely tense but ready for whatever was about to happen.

Reflecting on GlobalWafers (TSMC) Move to Germany

The recent decision by GlobalWafers, a major player in the semiconductor industry and parent company of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), to establish a manufacturing facility in Germany marks a significant development in the global tech landscape. This move prompts considerations about the factors driving such a decision and the potential implications for both the semiconductor industry and the broader geopolitical context.

At the forefront of this decision is the growing recognition of the importance of semiconductor manufacturing capabilities in ensuring national and economic security. As the world becomes increasingly reliant on semiconductor chips for a wide range of applications, including smartphones, automobiles, and critical infrastructure, countries are seeking to bolster their domestic semiconductor industries to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers and mitigate supply chain risks.

Germany's appeal as a destination for GlobalWafers' new manufacturing facility reflects the country's strengths in engineering, innovation, and skilled workforce. By establishing a presence in Germany, GlobalWafers aims to leverage these strengths to expand its production capacity and meet the growing demand for semiconductor chips in Europe and beyond.

From a broader perspective, the GlobalWafers move to Germany underscores the shifting dynamics of global tech competition and the rise of new players in the semiconductor industry. Traditionally dominated by companies in East Asia, particularly Taiwan, South Korea, and China, the semiconductor market is witnessing the emergence of new manufacturing hubs and players in Europe and North America.

This trend has significant implications for global supply chains, trade relations, and geopolitical dynamics. As countries vie for leadership in key technologies like semiconductors, competition and cooperation in the tech sector are increasingly shaped by considerations of economic competitiveness, national security, and strategic interests.

From a personal standpoint, the GlobalWafers move to Germany prompts reflection on the interconnectedness of global economies and the role of technology in driving innovation and economic growth. As consumers and citizens, we rely on semiconductor chips in virtually every aspect of our daily lives, from communication and transportation to healthcare and entertainment. Understanding the factors influencing semiconductor manufacturing decisions helps us appreciate the complexities of the global tech ecosystem and the implications for future technological advancements and societal progress.

In conclusion, GlobalWafers' decision to establish a manufacturing facility in Germany highlights the evolving nature of the semiconductor industry and the strategic importance of semiconductor manufacturing capabilities in today's interconnected world. As countries and companies navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital age, collaboration, innovation, and strategic investments will be essential in shaping the future of technology and ensuring a more resilient and prosperous global economy.

1. The economy of Taiwan, mainland China, and Europe.

The People’s Republic of China currently has severe economic problems to contend with that could also spill over to Germany. On top of that, relations between advanced economies in the West and China have worsened noticeably of late, as reflected in an uptick in trade and geopolitical tensions. The Bundesbank singles out geopolitical developments as a major source of risk to economic relations. “If these risks materialise, Germany’s economy could take a huge hit,” the Bank’s experts write in an article exploring Germany’s dependence on China. The article looks into the extent to which Germany’s economy could cope with an economic crisis in China or an abrupt decoupling from that country. It also considers potential supply chain disruptions and, in particular, the risks to financial stability

Reference

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