# The Next Decade – Asia's Financial System in Transition:

Lessons from GFC, A-Share and Silicon Valley

#### **Andrew Sheng**

Distinguished Fellow, Asia Global Institute, the University of Hong Kong Hong Siew Ching Speaker & Seminar Series, LKY School, Singapore 26 January 2015

### **Key Points**

- GFC, rise of China, technological disruptions and other megatrends have turned finance on its head
- Debt driven model, supported by QE, is fragile, concentrated, unequal and unsustainable
- Financial business models must adapt to disruptions from tough regulations, supply chain shifts, lifestyle changes, rapid climate change, social inequities and technology
- Need to reduce excessive credit creation, promote equity over debt
- Re-booting 20th century lenses to see 21st century problems will change our way of managing financial stability and growth

### Section 1 The World

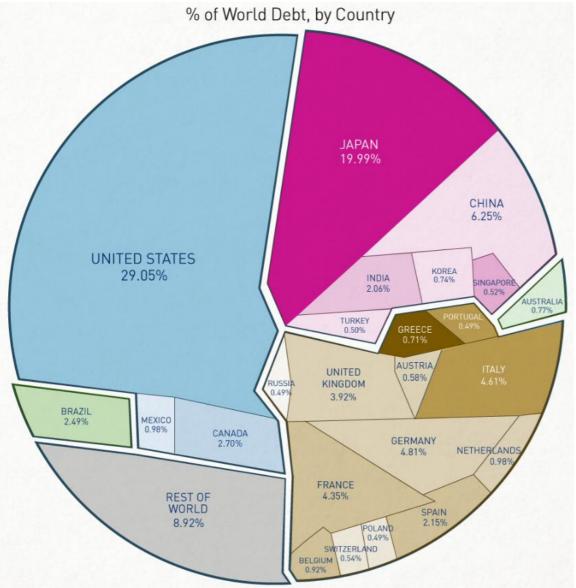
Finance in Major Transformational Challenge, Need Equity Cushion A Eureka Moment: Can Conventional Finance Cope with Huge Uncertainties?

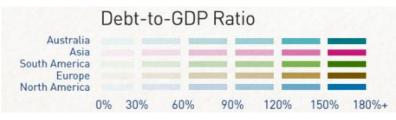


## Section 2 Growing Global Uncertainties

Higher risks of economic vulnerabilities from unknown unknowns

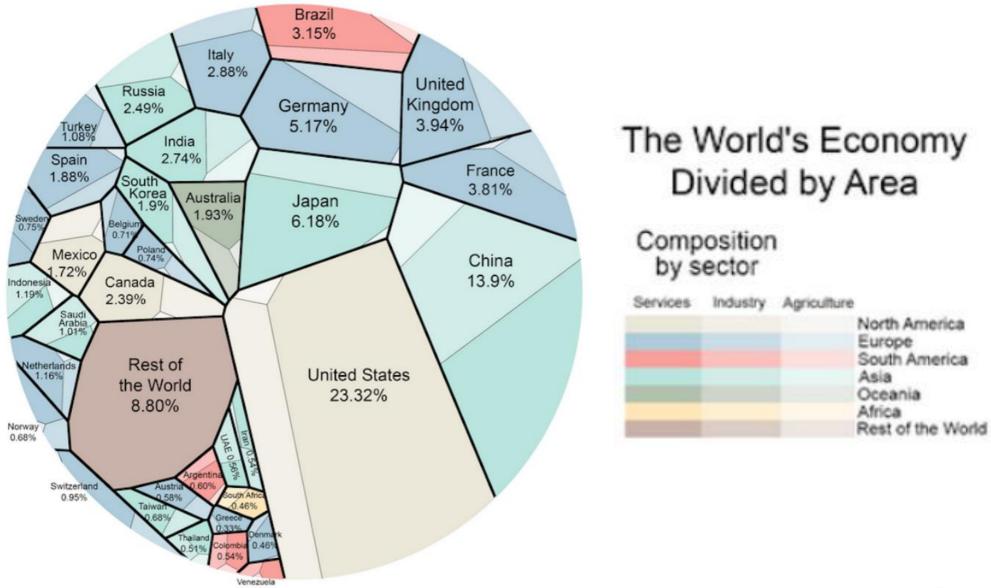
## Total Global Debt of US\$59.7 trn: US Alone Owes 29%





Total Global Debt: \$59.7 trillion

## The World Economy in One Visualization

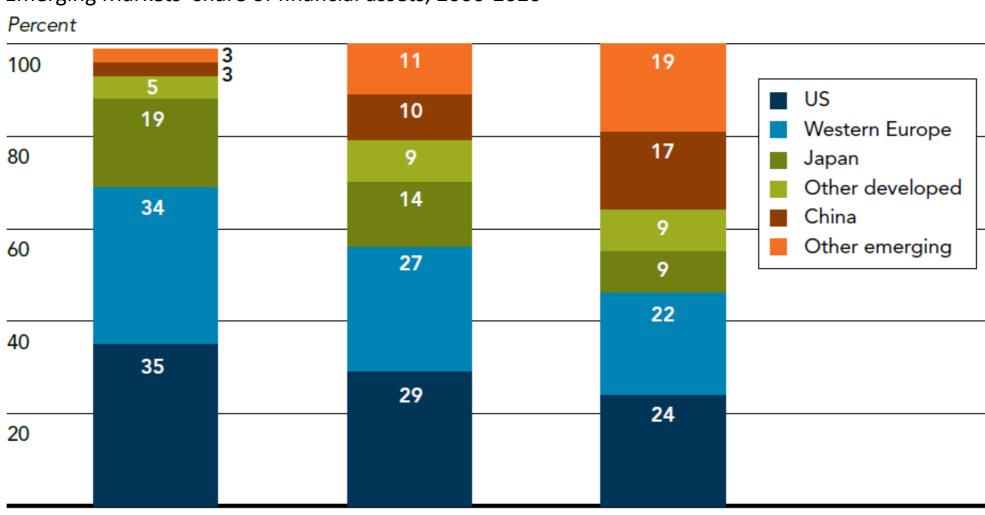


### Global Trends to 2030

- US National Intelligence Council (2013)
- Slowing global growth, with EME still growing faster than AME
- Climate change risks, including food and water security
- Multipolar world No single hegemon, multiple financial nodes and divergent development models (unlikely for a comprehensive, unitary and comprehensive approach to global governance and regulation)
- Growing potential for conflict
- → All these call for higher levels of equity cushion against unknown risks and uncertainty

### EM's Share of Financial Assets to Double by 2020

Emerging Markets' share of financial assets, 2000-2020



Source: McKinsey Global Institute, The Emerging Equity Gap: Growth And Stability In The New Investor Landscape (2011).

2020

2010

Source: NIC. 2012. "Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds."

2000

## Six Transformative Trends: Why We Need to Rethink Finance

- 1. Global Rebalancing Multipolar Cold War 2.0
- 2. Demography Dividends or Age burden?
- 3. Financialization and Debt Overhang Who pays?
- 4. Disruptive Technology Jobs and Creative Destruction
- 5. Climate Change Water, Food & Energy Stress
- 6. Governance Democracy, Market or State?

EMEs will bear burden of QE – those who reform fastest will be winners – building deeper equity and risk-sharing markets key to sustainability in more volatile world

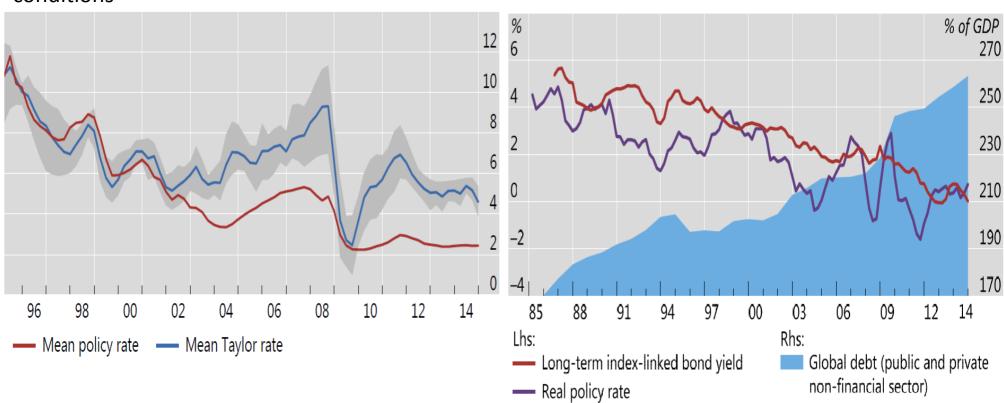
## Section 3 Walking Deeper into Debt Trap

Global Debt Outpaced World Growth, Debt Deflation Cycle

# Debt Trap? Downward Bias in Interest Rates, Upward Bias in Debt

Unusually accommodative global monetary conditions

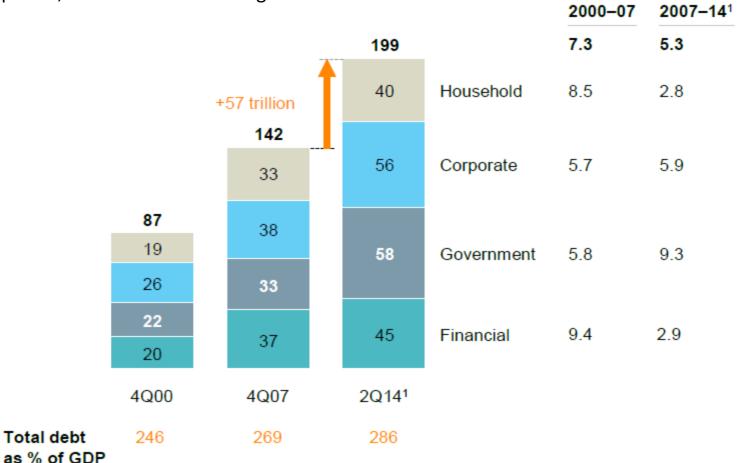
Interest rates sink ... as debt soars



Sources: IMF, World Economic Outlook; OECD, Economic Outlook; national data; BIS calculations. Source: Claudio Borio. 2015, September. "Challenges for the global economy: A narrowing road?" BIS.

## Global Debt Increased by US\$57 trn since 2007, Outpacing World Growth

Global stock of debt and equity outstanding by type, US\$ trn, end-period, constant 2013 exchange rates



1 2Q14 data for advanced economies and China; 4Q13 data for other developing economies.

Total debt

Sources: Haver Analytics; national sources; World economic outlook, IMF; BIS; McKinsey Global Institute analysis. Source: McKinsey Global Institute. 2015. "Debt and (not much) Deleveraging."

Compound annual

growth rate (%)

## Crude Leverage Ratio (Bank Assets + Debt Market/Stock Market Cap) 2013 data

					US\$ trillion
	GDP	Stock Market Cap	Debt Market	Bank Assets	Crude Ratio (%)
World	75.5	62.6	97.3	126.7	358.8
Europe	16.7	12.6	30.0	48.7	625.6
US	16.8	22.3	34.5	15.9	226.0
Japan	4.9	4.6	12.3	11.5	517.4
UK	2.7	4.0	5.8	10.4	405.0
<b>Emerging Markets</b>	29.1	11.2	11.2	33.9	402.7
Asia	13.8	6.0	5.8	24.3	501.7
China	9.5	3.4	4.1	20.2	714.7

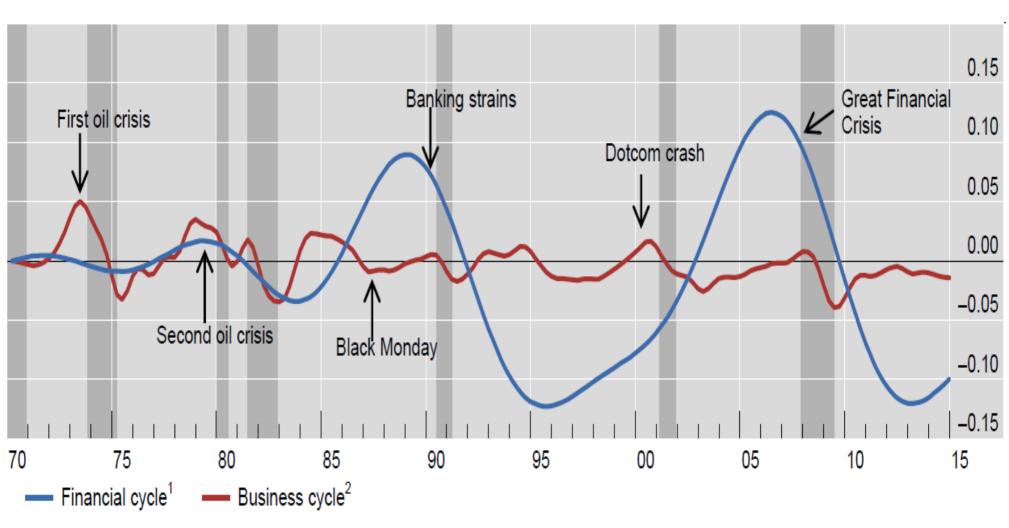
## Financial Repression Main Cause of Inequality



- Global central bank assets, including FX reserves, total US\$22.6 trillion, larger than combined GDP of U.S. & Japan
- 83% of world's equity market cap supported by ZIRP
- 50% of world government bonds yield 1% or less
- In 2014, government bond yields fell to all-time lows (Japan, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Korea, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland)

### Financial Cycle Growing Larger and Deeper

### - Threat of Secular Deflation - New Mediocre

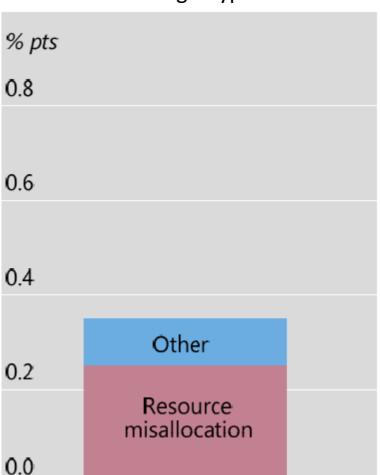


Source: Drehmann et al (2012), updated.

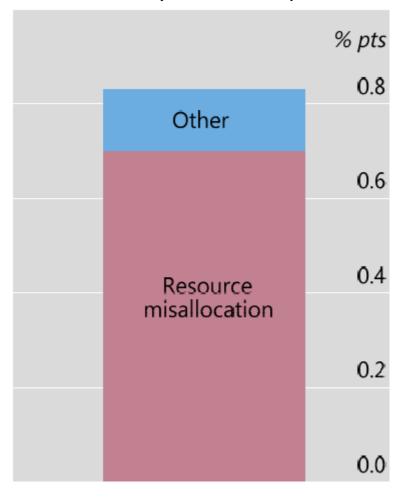
Source: Claudio Borio. 2015, November. "Revisiting Three Intellectual Pillars of Monetary Policy Received Wisdom" BIS.

# Financial Booms Sap Productivity by Misallocating Resources

Annual cost during a typical boom ...



... and over a five-year window post-crisis



# Debt-Deflation Depression: 9-step Cycle to Depression – Irving Fisher (1933)

### Displacement – boom due to new profits

- 1. Debt liquidation leads to distress selling
- 2. Contraction of deposit currency
- 3. Fall in level of prices
- 4. Fall in net worth of business
- 5. Fall in profits
- 6. Reduction in output, trade and employment
- 7. Pessimism and loss of confidence
- 8. Hoarding and slowdown in circulation
- 9. Complicated disturbance in rate of interest

## From Global Excess Savings to Excess Credit to Bubbles

- Stage 1 Displacement (US current account deficit rises)
- Stage 2 Surplus countries finance more US deficit US loses monetary control (Bernanke surplus savings argument)
- Stage 3 US and EU banks create excess credit off-balance and off-shore – big bubble
- Stage 4 Subprime and EU crises (2007-9) QE and ZIRP
- Stage 5 China RMB 4 trn package turned out to be RMB40 trn credit splurge – EME/commodity bubble
- Stage 6 2015 stock/debt/property market peaks, A share intervention, global slowdown

### Balance Sheet Recession – Richard Koo (2011)

- Japan experience breakdown in monetary transmission: bursting of debt-financed bubble
- Post bubble corporate deleveraging with zero interest rate policy took 10 years
- Huge wealth loss (¥1,500 trn), land price down 87%, government stimulus, but big debt overhang
- Initially did not remove domestic excess capacity increased FDI in Asia for cheaper labour and created Asian bubble
- Only recovered from deflation when Yen depreciated and exports to China grew
- But structural reforms hindered by aging demographics

### Section 4 The Future of Asian Finance

End of Debt Cycle, Rebuilding Equity

## Future of Finance – End of the Debt Cycle

- If Asia will become a major player in the global economy, the IMF study argues that Asian finance needs to take a bigger role, including:
  - Better managing accumulated saving
  - Efficiently mobilizing saving
  - Investing in human and physical capital
  - Deepening capital markets to escape a "middle income trap"
  - Supporting economic and financial integration of ASEAN

## Stylized Facts on EME Finance:

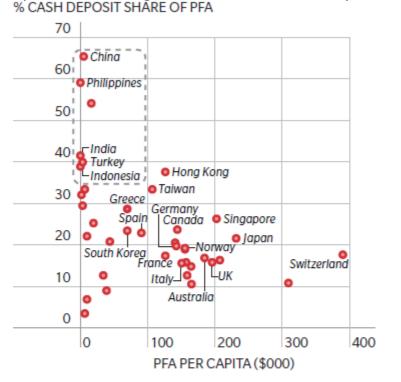
#### Emerging Market Finance – Sheng (2016) Forthcoming

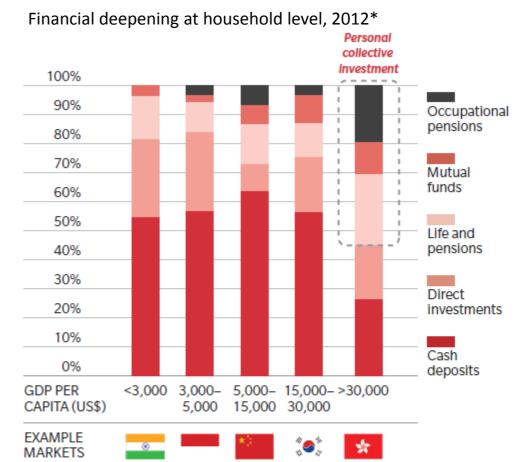
- 1. EME GDP and finance grew faster that AEs. At end-2013, the financial sectors in Asian EMEs amounted to 262% of GDP, compared to 517% for G4 economies
- **2. EME financial sector dominated by banking** (total bank assets = 116.5% of GDP end-2013), larger than debt and stock markets (38.5% of GDP respectively)
- **3. EME equity markets in EMEs grew rapidly,** from US\$1.8 trillion to US\$11.2 trillion end-2013, or 17.9% of world total market capitalization, but still half EME's share of global GDP (38.5%)
- **4. EME financial derivatives markets marginal relative to capital markets in AEs.** In 2011, 90% exchange-traded derivatives in AEs (N. America & Europe)
- **5. FX market dominated by AEs,** with G4 reserve currencies accounting for 78% of daily global FX turnover (2013)
- 6. EMEs share of global FX reserves rose to \$8 trn. Or 66% of global FX reserves at end-2013. NIIP of G3 (excluding Japan) was US\$9.6 trn at end-2013
- 7. Global capital flows increasing rapidly in both absolute and relative size, with inflows and outflows having significant impact on the EMEs
- **8. EME financial markets lacked long-term institutional investors,** esp. pension, life insurance and sophisticated asset managers

## Asia Lacks Long-term Institutional Investors

Total insurance + pension (AUM) ≤ 20% of GDP for most Asian EMEs, 64% in Eurozone, 152% in U.S.

Share of personal financial assets, 2012: Held in cash, deposits and savings account for each country



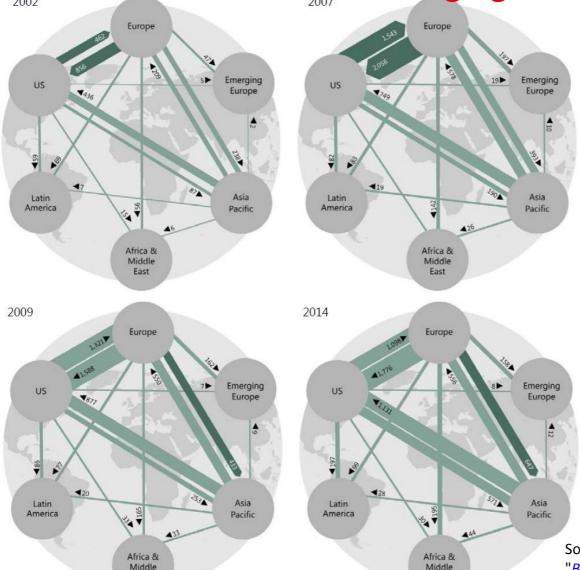


\* Excludes home equity.

Source: IMF world economic outlook database, OECD, Oliver Wyman analysis.

Source: Sheng, Ng & Edelmann. 2013. "Asia Finance 2020: Framing A New Asian Financial Architecture.

## Banks in Asia-Pacific Now Account for More than 50% of International Claims on Emerging Asia-Pacific



US dollar-denominated crossborder claims (US\$ bn)

#### 2007-2014

- Cross-border bank lending to Asia surged by US\$636 bn (U.S.: US\$382 bn, Europe: US\$254 bn)
- Cross-border bank claims between U.S. and Europe contracted by US\$724 bn

Source: Avdjiev, McCauley & Hyun Song Shin. 2015. "Breaking Free of the Triple Coincidence in International Finance." BIS Working Papers 524.

## Key Areas for Reform in Asian Finance

- 1. Need to think beyond QE and Basel III to have regulation and design "fit for purpose"
- 2. Key areas of reform are: shift towards long-term funding insurance/pensions/asset management institutionalization; reduce financial repression; increase equity capital and trade finance for SMEs, improve long-term infrastructure funding; identify vulnerabilities in shadow banking; accelerate asset securitization and capital market deepening. Establish deposit insurance/bank resolution and exit mechanisms
- 3. Use combination of Technology and Institutional Design
- Regional cooperation can be achieved through multilateralization of currency swaps; SME trade and infrastructure funding mechanisms

## **Rebuilding Equity Markets**

#### 1. Resource Allocation

- Primary market, IPOs and SME crowd funding
- Secondary shifting to long-term institutional

#### 2. Price Discovery

- Pricing of new SMEs and start-ups
- Re-look at short-selling, hedging and margin financing effects on market fundamentals

#### 3. Risk Management

- Re-look at risk management model, big data and stress tests
- 4. Corporate Governance
  - How to rein in excesses
  - Use of social discipline name and shame?

#### 5. Human Learning and Adapting

- Markets are eco-systems that learn and adapt
- Education of investors, SMEs and regulators on complexity and risks of markets

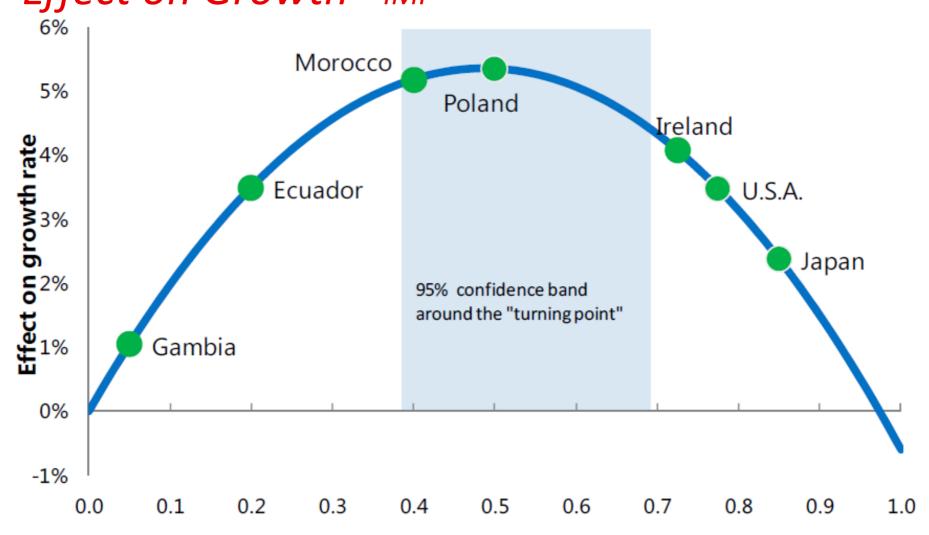
## Adapting Equity Markets to "Best Fit"

- Demographics How to get equity markets to finance young SMEs, funded by pension, insurance and social security funds
- Technology Use new technology to raise crowdfunding and equity for SME and start-ups
- Infrastructure funding Use long-term sukuks to finance infrastructure
- Corporate governance Use social media to monitor 24x7x360° markets and "name and shame" those who violate ethics and law

## A-share and Silicon Valley Lessons

- Stock markets are not independent of local culture, institutional framework and demographic profile
- "IFC" model of EME stock markets under-estimated the difficulties of building up whole eco-system of strong SMEs and innovation start-ups that play a role in mature secondary market development (IPO is exit mechanism)
- Result is that NYSE model replicated in many EMEs, forgetting about supporting infrastructure of deep L-T institutional investors, angel investors and availability of SMEs that can grow into corporate leaders
- Instead, EME stock markets often overloaded with SOEs, oligopolistic private corporates, with speculative and immature retail investors – resulting in weak corporate governance, predatory behaviour in market manipulation etc., high volatility, & lack of access by SME
- In turn, under-developed stock markets result in dominance in fragile financial system with overleveraged banks, corporates & governments 29

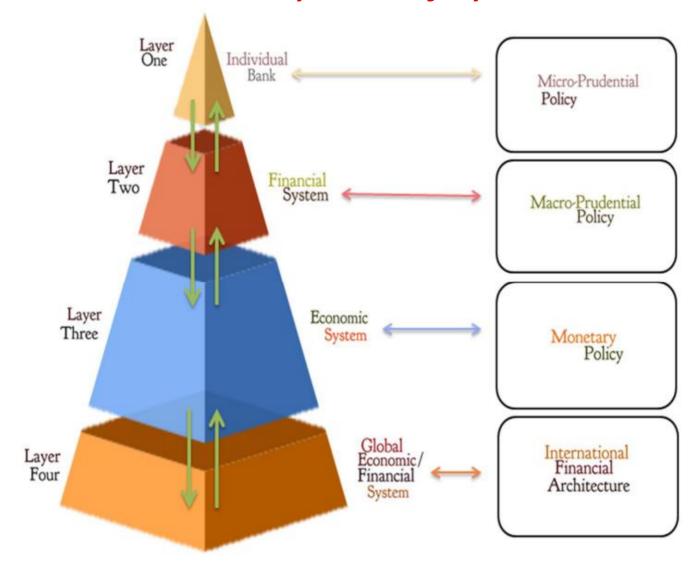
## There are Limits to Financial Development: Effect on Growth – IMF



Source: IMF staff estimates.

Source: Sahay et al, Figure 7, pg.16.

## Systems May be More than Sum of Parts: *Topology* of Macro-Financial System of Systems – Haldane (2015)



## Waves of Digital Disruption –

All Businesses Will Need Digital Strategy



1995+

2010+

2015+

2020+

Music Photography Video Rental

Print Media TV

Travel

HR



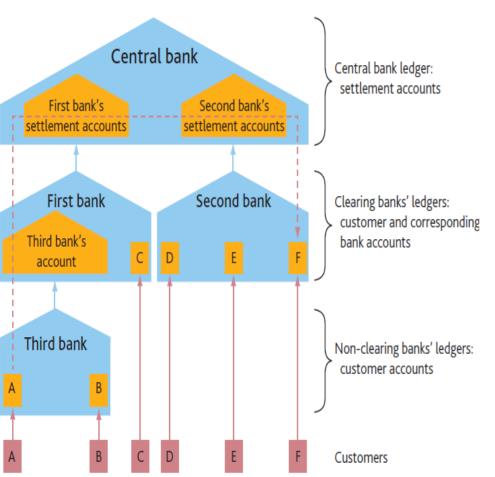
**Education** 

Telco

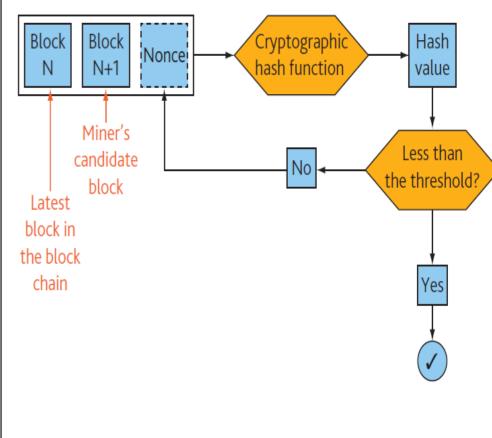
All Safe havens will be subject to digital disruption

# Block Chains Changed the Trust Game in Financial Data Security

Traditional tiered payment system

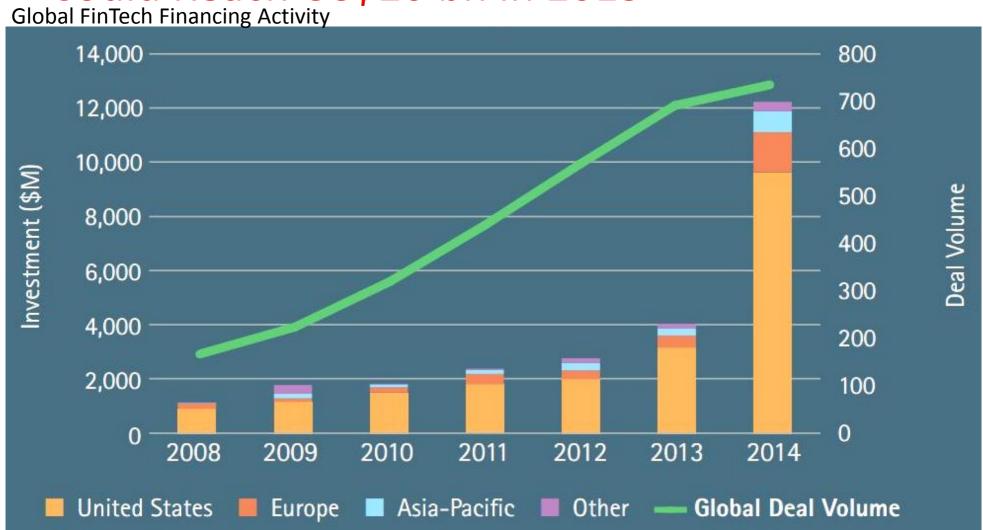


Block Chain technology: Bitcoin's proof of work scheme



Source: Robleh Ali. 2015. "<u>Innovations in Payment Technologies and the Emergence of Digital Currencies</u>." BoE Quarterly Bulletin 2014 Q3.

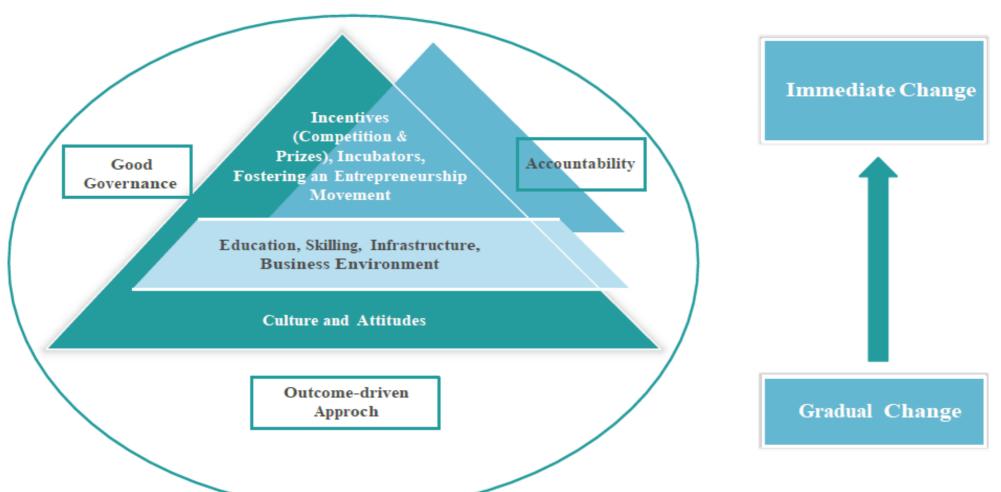
# Global FinTech Financing ≈ US\$12 bn in 2014, Could Reach US\$20 bn in 2015



Sources: Accenture and CB Insights.

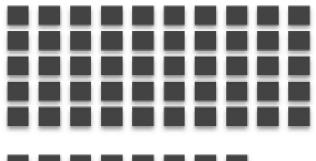
## Indian AIM Pyramid (Bottom-up) to Train Entrepreneurship and Innovation for All Sectors

The AIM Pyramid Framework to examine entrepreneurship

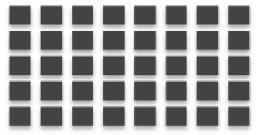


## **Bank Branches Disappearing**

Channel usage intensity and frequency by 2015 in %



**Mobile Banking** 



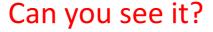
**Desktop / browser Banking** 



Software (i.e. Quicken)



Cash / non-cash ATMs

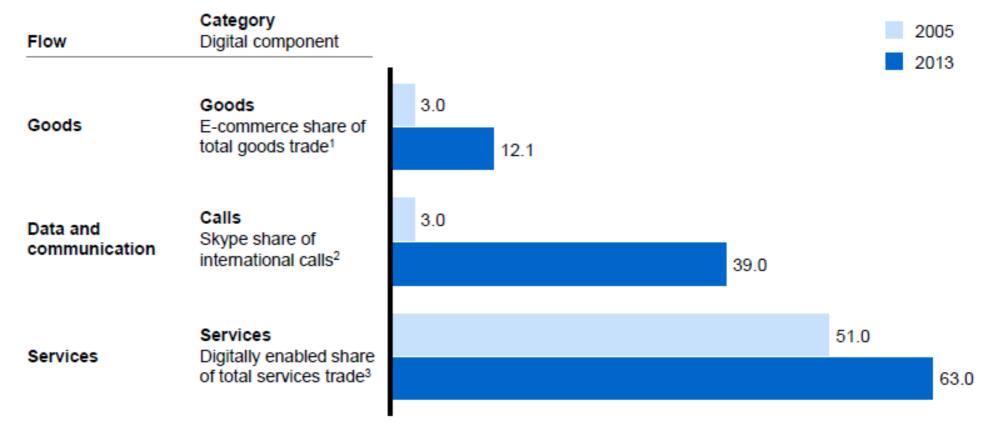






### Digital Component has Growing Share of Global Flows

Share of selected cross-border flows that are digital, %



Note: 1 Based on China data; 2 Excludes other VOIP minutes; 3 Based on US data.

Sources: iResearch; Telegeography; OECD; US Bureau of Economic Analysis; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Source: McKinsey Global Institute. 2014. "Global Flows in a Digital Age."

### **Conclusions**

- Asia in midst of very exciting transformation into New Economy, but there will be lots of pain
- Excessive credit creation is harmful to financial system stability. Need to reduce reliance on debt and shift to equity
- EMEs can shift to equity due to their sizeable savings
- We are in the Information Age. Faster and cheaper information sources arising from New data can change economic and financial reporting – can lead to faster policymaking and implementation
- Finance can no longer be through debt. Only way is through equity – more risk-sharing, better resilience and identification of ownership (and commitment to long-term efficiency, stability, resilience and sustainability)

## Thank you

Q&A to altsheng8@gmail.com and www.andrewsheng.net