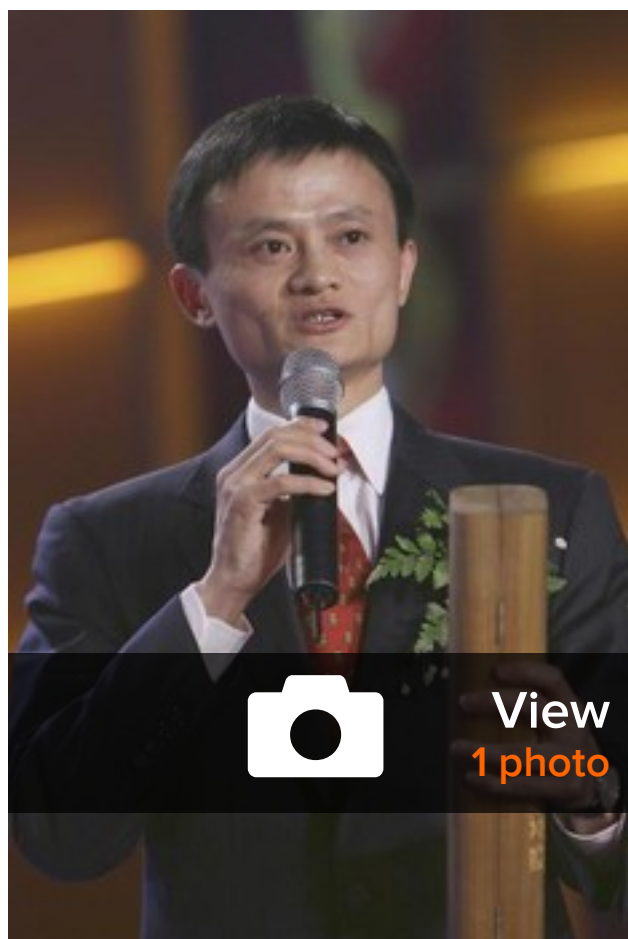


Jack Ma will not be a lonely billionaire in China

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Jack Ma is not a household name yet in the West. Nonetheless in the geo-economical arena, he is becoming more influential each day. In the June 14th issue of *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, Jack Ma (aka Ma Yun) of China was featured in an article called “The Loneliest Billionaire in China” due to the chaos that his empire faced in the past 18 months.



View
1 photo

China Photos & Getty Images



Natalie Behring/WCPV via Getty Images

Born in Hangzhou, China, the 47-year-old billionaire came from an average family. As he humbly said in many interviews, he is not smart. He actually failed the highly competitive college entrance exams twice. With persistence, he graduated from Hangzhou Teachers College with a bachelor's degree in English and became a lecturer in English and International Trade at Hangzhou Electronic University.

Jack is neither Bill Gates nor Steve Jobs. He knows little about technology. He founded China Yellowpages in 1995. In 1999, he founded Alibaba.com, a China-based business-to-business marketplace site. Like the fable says that sesame opens the door for him in an unimaginable way. Just in two years, the World Economic Forum selected Jack as a "Young Global Leader". Alibaba.com now serves more than 79 million members from more than 240 countries and territories. Additionally, he also owns Taobao Marketplace, Tmall.com, eTao, Alibaba Cloud Computing and Yahoo! China. His Alibaba Group is estimated at \$35 billion dollars.

Owing to his accomplishments and influence, Jack Ma has been recognized as "25 Most Powerful Businesspeople in Asia" by Fortune in 2005, "Businessperson of the Year" by BusinessWeek in 2007, one of the 30 "World's Best CEOs" by Barron's in 2008, "World's 100 most influential people" by Time in 2009, "Top 10 Most Respected Entrepreneurs in China" by Forbes China in 2009, and the "2009 Economic Person of the Year: Business Leaders of the Decade Award" by China Central TV Station.

This scrawny Internet tycoon is soft spoken but with big ideas. He was selected by Forbes Asia as one of "Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy" for his generous contribution to disaster relief and poverty in 2010. His true idea of charity is not handing out money or food though. He fosters the idea that "small is beautiful". He wants to provide platforms to millions of creative hard-working individuals to sell their

ideas, products and services online. To Ma, giving people opportunities to work, thrive and become successful is the best charity. This dynamic ex-English teacher is an eloquent speaker and has been invited to Stanford University, Harvard University, Charlie Rose Show, Financial Times, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, and many other important venues to speak on this idea. See a video on the left.

His annual Alifest (aka the Netpreneur Summit) has becoming a creativity magnet that world leaders like the former US president Bill Clinton, micro-credit pioneer Muhammad Yunus, Hollywood superstar turned governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Chairman and CEO of Starbucks Howard Schultz, President and CEO of eBay John Donahoe, former U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman and the basketball star Kobe Bryant all attended the event before.

According to BusinessWeek, Jack now reached agreement with Yahoo! to buy back half of Yahoo!'s holding of Alibaba Group. His other allegations are going away. His days as a lonely man are leaving him.

Actually, last August I interviewed Kung Fu movie superstar [Jet Li](#) in Washington DC. Li mentioned that he and Jack Ma are partners and they plan to promote [Tai Chi](#) worldwide. On Sept 10, Jet Li and Jack Ma become co-founders of [Taiji Zen](#), a China-based international company, whose mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle globally. In early Dec, I reported that Jet Li representing Taiji Zen signed a contract with Chinese Wushu Association to promote Tai Chi worldwide. In April, Taiji Zen reached an agreement with Talent Magazine, focusing on business leadership, and the latter will publish Taiji Zen Magazine.

Jack does not preach things that he does not believe himself. He is learning Tai Chi himself and when he travels, he brings a personal trainer with him. With his act in promoting Tai Chi, Jack Ma will find out that he will be in a good company with millions of Tai Chi practitioners in the world.

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Violet Li

Tai Chi Examiner

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