
Kishore Mahbubani



Kishore Mahbubani is a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS).

Mr Mahbubani has been privileged to enjoy two distinct careers, in diplomacy (1971 to 2004) and in academia (2004 to 2019). He is a prolific writer who has spoken in many corners of the world.

In diplomacy, he was with the Singapore Foreign Service for 33 years (1971 to 2004). He had postings in Cambodia, Malaysia, Washington DC and New York, where he twice was Singapore's Ambassador to the UN and served as President of the UN Security Council in January 2001 and May 2002. He was Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Ministry from 1993 to 1998. As a result of his excellent performance in his diplomatic career, he was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singapore Government in 1998.

Mr Mahbubani joined academia in 2004, when he was appointed the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School), NUS. He was Dean from 2004 to 2017, and a Professor in the Practice of Public Policy from 2006 to 2019. In April 2019, he was elected as an honorary international member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which has honoured distinguished thinkers, including several of America's founding fathers, since 1780.

Mr Mahbubani was awarded the President's Scholarship in 1967. He graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Philosophy from the University of Singapore in 1971. From Dalhousie University, Canada, he received a Master's degree in Philosophy in 1976 and an honorary doctorate in 1995. He spent a year as a fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University from 1991 to 1992.

He has achieved several "firsts" in his two careers. He was the Founding Dean of the LKY School, the founding Director of the Civil Service College, the first Singapore Ambassador to serve on the UN Security Council, the first Singaporean to publish articles in globally renowned journals and newspapers like *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *New York Times* and the *Financial Times* and co-authored articles with distinguished global thought leaders like Kofi Annan, Klaus Schwab and Larry Summers. Mr Mahbubani has never shied away from taking on new challenges.

He is also a prolific author, having published nine books: *Can Asians Think?*; *Beyond the Age of Innocence*; *The New Asian Hemisphere*; *The Great Convergence*; *Can Singapore Survive?*; *The ASEAN Miracle* (co-authored with Jeffery Sng); *Has the West Lost It?*; *Has China Won?*; and *The Asian 21st Century*, an open access book which has received over 3 million downloads. His memoir, *Living the Asian Century*, will be released in August 2024.

Mr Mahbubani has received significant international recognition for his many accomplishments. The Foreign Policy Association Medal was awarded to him in New York in June 2004 with the following opening words in the citation: "A gifted diplomat, a student of history and philosophy, a provocative writer and an intuitive thinker". He was listed as one of the top 100 public intellectuals in the world by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines in September 2005, and included in the March 2009 *Financial Times* list of Top 50 individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism. He was selected as one of *Foreign Policy's* Top Global Thinkers in 2010 and 2011. In 2011, he was described as "the muse of the Asian century". He was selected by *Prospect* magazine as one of the top 50 world thinkers for 2014.