



Kishore Mahbubani

Kishore Mahbubani is a distinguished diplomat and academic with over five decades in public service and academia. His profound insights on global policy, East-West relations, and diplomacy make him a sought-after keynote speaker for corporate events worldwide.

KEY TOPICS

- The Asian Century
- Global Challenges Calling for Global Solutions
- China, US and EU relations

BIOGRAPHY

Kishore Mahbubani: A Visionary Leader in Diplomacy and Academia

[Kishore Mahbubani](#) has spent five decades dedicated to shaping global perspectives in diplomacy and public policy. With 33 years in the Singapore Administrative Service, 13 years as the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and his current role as a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, Mahbubani has impacted global policy, education, and East-West relations profoundly. For corporate event planners seeking a speaker with unmatched experience in diplomacy, his stories and insights offer invaluable lessons on leadership, resilience, and global cooperation.

Decades of Service as a Diplomat

In his career as a Singapore diplomat, Kishore Mahbubani undertook significant assignments worldwide, shaping policy and representing Singapore's interests on the global stage. One of his earliest and most challenging assignments was in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during the 1973-74 conflict, where he worked amid daily shelling. Mahbubani also served in key diplomatic posts in Kuala Lumpur, Washington D.C., and at the United Nations, where he represented Singapore as Ambassador from 1984 to 1989 and again from 1998 to 2004. His dedication earned him the prestigious Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1998, recognising his contributions to Singapore's international stature.

Leadership and Academic Excellence

Following his diplomatic service, Mahbubani transitioned into academia as the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Under his leadership, the school quickly became a part of the elite Global Public

Policy Network, alongside Columbia University, the London School of Economics, and Sciences Po in Paris. Despite his extensive administrative duties, Mahbubani contributed prolifically to global thought, publishing nine books. His best-known works, such as *Can Asians Think?*, *The New Asian Hemisphere*, and *The ASEAN Miracle*, have sparked debate and encouraged critical examination of Western and Asian relations. His most recent book, *Has China Won?*, has further positioned him as an influential voice on US-China relations and Asia's role in global power dynamics.

Global Recognition and Intellectual Influence

Kishore Mahbubani's insights have earned him accolades worldwide. He has been recognised multiple times as one of the top global thinkers by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines and was listed by the *Financial Times* as one of the 50 most influential figures shaping the future of capitalism. In 2004, he received the US Foreign Policy Association Medal, which commended him as a "gifted diplomat, student of history, and innovative thinker". This recognition reinforces his expertise, making him an ideal choice for corporate audiences seeking thought leadership in global policy.

Serving on Global Committees and Councils

Beyond his primary roles, Kishore Mahbubani has served on several high-level committees and councils worldwide, further establishing his influence. He chaired the nominating committee of the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize from 2009 to 2019 and served on the Commission of Eminent Persons to strategise the future of the International Atomic Energy Agency. As a frequent attendee and committee member at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mahbubani has contributed to discussions on the global economy and international relations. In 2019, he was elected an honorary international member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, joining the ranks of notable thinkers and leaders.

Book Kishore Mahbubani to Speak at Your Next Event!

With his background in diplomacy, policy-making, and global leadership, Kishore Mahbubani offers a unique perspective that few speakers can match. His thought-provoking insights into international relations, his hands-on experience with the challenges of public service, and his extensive academic work on Asia's evolving role make him an ideal choice for organisations looking to inspire their teams on topics like resilience, strategic thinking, and global collaboration. For event planners seeking a keynote speaker who brings depth, experience, and a forward-looking perspective on global affairs, Kishore Mahbubani is an exceptional choice. For booking information and more details, please contact us [here](#).