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Introduction

Now, I have good news for you. Kishore Mahbubani is ready to deliver his keynote speech. I will not introduce Kishore in detail. When he was very young, he was actually a star in the Foreign Civil Service of Singapore. Believe me, to be a star when Lee Kwan Yew was still in office was not that easy, because to be a star with a star in office is not that easy. He was a Permanent Under-Secretary at in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore at a very young age.

Then, after he retired very young from the civil service, he became an intellectual star. I am not saying that it is not compatible to be in the civil service and to be an intellectual, but in his case, he was both. He has become a bestselling author on some major themes related to the subject matter of this conference, regarding world politics. I understand that he is just finishing the drafting of a book on global governance, which is the very subject of this conference.

Now, I could not complete this if I did not add that I like Kishore very much. We have known each other for quite a number of years and frankly speaking, I have seldom met a man who is as arrogant as he is. However, it is the kind of arrogance that I like, because in a way, it is fully justified, as you will see yourself. In particular, in his lectures, he states that the West is declining and that Asia is becoming the next, forthcoming master of the world. Western values are just Western values; Asian values are the real values.

Maybe it is because I fell under his influence that I said yesterday morning things which were perhaps not totally appropriate about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I apologise; this is my own fault and is entirely the consequence of Kishore's arrogance. Kishore, I am very happy to introduce you.