



President hosts public lecture on Asia`s revival

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here on Thursday acted as host at a Presidential Lecturer`s function featuring a public lecture on Asia`s revival by Prof Kishore Mahbubani from Singapore.

"As we all know, conditions in Asia today are no longer what they used to be three decades ago. Today, China, India, Thailand, and Indonesia have become economic powers," Yudhoyono said in his opening remarks.

He said it had been predicted the four countries would in 2025-2030 become the center of world economic activities.

"I am glad we can now listen to and discuss Profesor Mahbubani`s discourse," Yudhoyono said.

Born in Singapore in 1948, Kishore Mahbubani is at present dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

From 1971 to 2004 he served in the Singaporean Foreign Service, topping his diplomatic career as Singapore`s Ambassador to the United Nations.

As Singapore`s chief representative at the world body, he served as president of the United Nations Security Council in January 2001 and May 2002.

According to his website, his earlier overseas postings included Cambodia (where he served during the war in 1973-74), Malaysia and Washington DC. He was Permanent Secretary at Singapore`s Foreign Ministry from 1993 to 1998.

He is currently in the Board of Governors of the Institute of Policy Studies.

Mahbubani also served on the boards of leading institutes and think tanks in Singapore such as the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, the Institute of Policy Studies, the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship and the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies.

Mahbubani is best known outside Singapore for his writings in journals such as Foreign Affairs and his books titled "Can Asians Think?", "Beyond the Age of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World."

His articles have appeared in several leading journals and newspapers outside Singapore such as The New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

In 2006 he was appointed chair of the United World College of South East Asia board of governors. Mahbubani spoke at the graduation ceremony of the college`s class of 2007.

In 2008, he was interviewed on BBC Television`s HardTalk. He asserted that Asia was ascending at a time when the West, in particular the United States, was declining.

He rationalized this by explaining that the West tended always to interfere in the affairs of other countries whereas Asians did not.

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