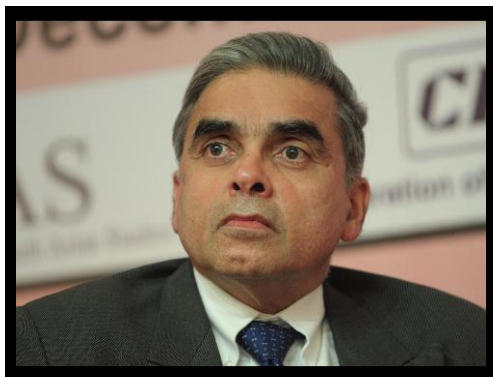




Mahbubani Says U.S.-China Trade Tension Asia's Biggest Threat

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By Aki Ito



April 13 (Bloomberg) -- Trade tension between the U.S. and China is the biggest threat to Asian economies, said **Kishore Mahbubani**, dean of the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

"I think we came close to some kind of a brink a few weeks ago; things seemed to be getting quite dangerous," Mahbubani, Singapore's former ambassador to the United Nations, said yesterday in an interview in Tokyo. Chinese President Hu Jintao's decision to attend this week's nuclear security summit in Washington was "an enormously positive sign" that reduced risks of a trade war, he said.

Some U.S. lawmakers are pressing the Obama administration to label China a currency manipulator, arguing that an undervalued yuan gives the world's biggest exporting nation an unfair advantage. U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has delayed a report to Congress that could contain that assessment.

"What keeps me awake is the stupidity of U.S. congressmen," said Mahbubani, 61, author of 'The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East.' "They continue to believe that the United States is so powerful that all they need to do is stand up at the podium and shout, and everyone's going to listen to them."

Obama Meets Hu

U.S. President Barack Obama met with Hu yesterday, reaffirming his view that it's "important" for China to move toward a "more market-oriented exchange rate," according to **Jeff Bader**, senior director for Asia at the National Security Council. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman **Ma Zhaoxu** said in a separate briefing that the talks were constructive.

The financial crisis accelerated the shift of power from the U.S. and Europe to Asia as continued economic growth in China, India and Indonesia contrasted with contractions in developed nations, Mahbubani said. Further growth in Asia is not only sustainable but "inevitable" as "large pools" of still-untapped workers in the region become better educated, he added.

Chinese economic growth **accelerated** to 10.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, and the country is the U.S.'s largest trading partner after Canada. The nation will contribute one-third to global expansion this year, according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecasts.

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CIMB's Loong Interview on China Currency Policy, Trade

April 13 (Bloomberg) -- Pauline Loong, political analyst at CIMB-GK Securities (HK) Ltd., talks with Bloomberg's Haslinda Amin about China's currency policy and the country's relations with the U.S. and other trading partners. U.S. President Barack Obama met yesterday with Chinese President Hu Jintao and reaffirmed his view that it's "important" for China to move toward a "more market-oriented exchange rate," a White House aide said.



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World Bank's Izvorski Interview on China Currency Policy

April 13 (Bloomberg) -- Ivailo Izvorski, the lead economist for East Asia at the World Bank, talks with Bloomberg's Susan Li about the outlook for China's currency policy. Izvorski also discusses China's real estate market, and Asian economies.



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Rhodium's Rosen Interview on U.S.-China Relations, Yuan

April 13 (Bloomberg) -- Daniel Rosen, principal of the Rhodium Group in New York, talks with Bloomberg's Susan Li about U.S. calls for China to allow its currency to appreciate and the impact a stronger yuan would have on the mainland's economy. U.S. President Barack Obama met yesterday with Chinese President Hu Jintao and reaffirmed his view that it is "important" for China to move toward a "more market-oriented exchange rate," a White House aide said. Rosen, speaking from New York, also talked about the international gathering aimed at containing the spread of nuclear material.

