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Singapore

Academic in top 100 global thinkers list again

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PROFESSOR Kishore Mahbubani, a distinguished diplomat and dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, has again been recognised as one of the top 100 global thinkers of the year.

This is the second consecutive year that Singapore's former ambassador to the United Nations has appeared in the annual list of people who have shaped the world by the United States-based Foreign Policy magazine.

He is recognised 'for being the muse of the Asian Century'. The magazine lauded him for being among the first to argue that Asian powers are ascending while the influence of Western democracies is declining.

'With the US mired in economic crisis and political dysfunction while China and India continue to grow at a healthy clip, this Singaporean diplomat turned academic is now taking a well-deserved victory lap on op-ed pages from Tokyo to New York,' Foreign Policy wrote.

Prof Mahbubani, who is the only Singaporean on the list, said in a statement that it was a great honour to be included again. He was also previously in a 2005 list of top 100 public intellectuals published by Foreign Policy and Prospect magazines.

NUS President Tan Chorh Chuan lauded his contributions to the university.

'His depth of knowledge and understanding on international relations, expressed through his speeches, articles and books, provide important insights into the world we live in,' said Prof Tan.

In a departure from previous years, Foreign Policy gave top spot this year to 14 prominent leaders and activists who have been involved in bringing democracy to the Middle East and North Africa.

They include Mr Wael Ghonim, the Google marketing executive who helped launch Egypt's revolution, and Yemen's new Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Ms Tawakkul Karman.

Era of Western domination is ending, Review

Prof Kishore Mahbubani is Singapore's former ambassador to the UN.

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