

**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**IDFR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES  
'WHEN ELEPHANTS FIGHT, WILL ASEAN GET TRAMPLED'  
THURSDAY, 6 JULY 2023**

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) is privileged to host Professor Kishore Mahbubani to deliver a talk for the IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series 2023. The lecture titled '*When Elephants Fight, Will ASEAN Get Trampled?*' is held on **Thursday, 6 July 2023** from **2:30 pm to 3:30 pm** at the IDFR Auditorium, Jalan Wisma Putra, Kuala Lumpur. The lecture is attended by diplomatic practitioners, foreign policy influencers, officials from various government ministries and agencies, foreign embassies, as well as members of the academia and think tanks. Officials from the Malaysian Missions abroad are also joining the event via online.

As one of the Institute's signature discourses, the IDFR Distinguished Lecture Series provides a platform for ministers, diplomatic practitioners and other prominent figures to deliberate international and domestic issues; topics of economic and foreign relations matters; and also share their expertise and insights. This lecture series also serves as an intellectual exchange between countries, as the role of IDFR for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.

Professor Kishore Mahbubani is the first distinguished speaker to take the IDFR stage for this series. Professor Mahbubani is a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. In his 33 years of diplomatic experience with the Singapore Foreign Service, Professor Mahbubani has served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two stints as Singapore Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), and also as the President of the UN Security Council. He also has an equally illustrious career in academia as the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore and a prolific author with nine publications. Among his latest books are *Has China Won?* and *The Asian 21st Century*.

With a respected background as a diplomatic practitioner and academia, Professor Mahbubani shares his insights on the geopolitical tensions between the United States and China, and the role of ASEAN amid the great power competition. In the lecture, he delves into the deeper dimensions of the US-China contest and its implications

towards ASEAN in the long term. A frank and robust exchange of ideas stemming from questions by the audience follows the lecture.

Attendance is by prior registration. Please email [hanun@idfr.gov.my](mailto:hanun@idfr.gov.my) for any enquiry.

**KUALA LUMPUR**  
**6 JULY 2023**