

**OPENING ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT
MR TONG HSIEN-HUI
AT THE “FIRESIDE CHAT WITH PROFESSOR KISHORE MAHBUBANI – THE SURPRISING
TWISTS AND TURNS IN THE US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP”
26 JANUARY 2026, MONDAY, 7PM
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL**

**Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Fellow NUSS Members
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to tonight’s Fireside Chat on *The Surprising Twists and Turns in the US–China Relationship*.

We are honoured to have with us Professor Kishore Mahbubani, a Distinguished Member of the National University of Singapore Society and one of Singapore’s most respected and internationally recognised thinkers on geopolitics and global affairs.

Professor Mahbubani’s career spans more than three decades in diplomatic service, including being Singapore’s Representative to the UN during the years when Singapore had a seat on the UN Security Council. He presided over this council during the sessions in January 2001 and May 2002. He also served as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, shaping generations of policy thinkers and leaders internationally.

In addition to his diplomatic and academic leadership, he remains a highly sought-after public intellectual. His perspectives are widely cited across global media, policy forums, and universities, and he continues to play an influential role in shaping conversations on global governance, multilateralism, and Asia’s place in the world.

In his widely read book *Has China Won?*, Professor Mahbubani offered a clear-eyed analysis of the structural dynamics behind the US–China rivalry.

Since then, the world has witnessed further twists and turns in this defining relationship and we look forward to hearing his thoughts on this and many other things tonight.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Kishore Mahbubani. Thank you.