

Chandran NAIR

Chandran Nair was previously Chairman of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) in the Asia Pacific until March 2004 where he established the company as Asia's leader in environmental consulting. In 2004, he established the Global Institute For Tomorrow (GIFT), an independent think and do tank dedicated to engaging business with the shift in economic power from West to East. He seeks practical, long-term solutions through GIFT's flagship and innovative Global Young Leaders Programme. The approach has found praise, not least from former US President Bill Clinton, who in endorsing the YLP at his Clinton Global Initiative in 2005, called the programme an "*excellent initiative*", adding "*training young leaders and changing people's attitudes, it seems to me, is profoundly important*". He was an adjunct professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from 2007-2011, when he taught MBA students and provided strategic management advice and coaching to business leaders. He is also the Chairman and co-founder of Avantage Ventures, a boutique social investment advisory company, along with GIFT both companies are based in Hong Kong.

Chandran Nair is a true internationalist, having lived and worked in Asia, Europe and Africa, he has for the past decade, advocated a more sustainable approach to development in Asia. He has helped governments and corporations instill these principles into their key decision-making process. He lectures energetically, earning a reputation for insightful observation on geo-political realities and a refreshing perspective. He has addressed many of these issues at forums around the world, notably at Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), APEC CEO Summit 2011 and World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos 2012. His opinions have appeared in leading international media platforms including the Financial Times, BBC, Bloomberg, The Guardian and The Economic Times of India. But it is the release of his new book ***Consumptionomics: Asia's role in reshaping capitalism and saving the planet***, that has catapulted him onto the world stage. His candid appraisal of the western-motivated consumption-led growth model has generated much needed momentum for economists and politicians alike, to embark on a discourse that tackles head-on what is certain to be the most controversial political challenge of the next few decades. The book has been translated into Chinese and German and will soon be available in Japanese and Bahasa.

For more than 30 years Chandran has lived abroad - first in Britain where he studied chemical-engineering, then in South Africa where he volunteered in development work building water and sanitation systems.

Nair graduated with a Master of Engineering (MEng) specialising in Environmental Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok in 1986. In 1979 he was awarded a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Bio-Chemical Engineering from the University of Reading, UK.