

# Keynote Speakers

Urban Land Institute

# 2007 World Cities Forum

17–19 April 2007 • The Four Seasons Hotel • Shanghai, China



## ■ Kenneth Courtis

### Former Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs Asia

As one of the world's leading investment bankers and analysts of Asian economies, Courtis influences major business decisions and moves markets with his public comments. For his unusual accuracy as a predictor of economic trends, business and government leaders seek his advice on matters of international economics, finance, and investment. He is widely sought after by the heads of major corporations and investors for his knowledge of how global market forces, financial and political developments, and corporate strategy interact.

Courtis advises major clients throughout the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and North America and has led a number of large, international corporate transactions centred on Asia and pioneered a number of investment banking areas across the region.

Courtis is currently finishing a new book on economic, financial, business, and political developments in Asia and their broader implications internationally. He also is a regular columnist for *Time International*, writing mostly on Asian issues; and for *Fortune* magazine, covering global economic issues.

The former Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Goldman Sachs Asia, Courtis recently left Goldman Sachs to start two new financial firms. He is also a former Chief Economist and Strategist, Managing Director of Deutsche Bank Group Asia and lectures at Keio and Tokyo universities, Japan's two most prestigious educational institutions; l'Institut d'études politiques, Paris; and in universities in North America. He is a member of the boards, advisory councils, and trustee of a number of international firms, universities, and research institutes in Asia, Europe, and North America.

He has lived and worked in Asia for more than two decades.

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## ■ Chandran Nair

### Founder and Chief Executive, Global Institute For Tomorrow

Chandran Nair is a true internationalist, a conviction deepened by having lived in Asia, Europe and Africa. But the world's growing complexity concerns him—enough to leave a successful career in business. Enough to want to contribute to promoting better understanding on some of the most pressing of those concerns through his own think tank, the Global Institute For Tomorrow (based in Hong Kong). As founder and chief executive of GIFT, he defines its work around the questions he asks of himself and others. Challenging, sometimes uncomfortable, always thought-provoking. Always constructive.

Nair firmly advocates a sustainable approach to growth in Asia and sees it as part of the equation of how nations deal with one another. He throws his energies into promoting ideas and encouraging constructive dialogue so Asia can decide for itself how its unprecedented economic development should take shape and contribute to a fairer world. The think tank is, in this, a first. And it pursues an unbiased agenda to communicate an international view from Asia to enrich the global debate.

He has aired his opinions and viewpoints on BBC World and on Bloomberg. They have appeared in print in the *Financial Times*; the *South China Morning Post*, Asia's leading English-language newspaper; *The Economist*; and in other well-regarded publications on specific issues, such as *Leading Perspectives*, the magazine of Business Social Responsibility. He has addressed politicians on the political objectives of sustainable development, advised business leaders on how to operate in Asia, convinced bankers and investors on the opportunities in environmentally sound and friendly technologies, and kept audiences and panel members on their toes at conferences and debates with his sharp insights.

Nair has spoken at forums around the world. Of note, he presented to 100 CEOs hosted by the Prince of Wales aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia in Hong Kong in 1997, the topic: the role of business in Asia and the emerging issues of corporate social responsibility. A keynote address to hundreds at the annual Credit Suisse Asia Investment Conference was on globalisation and sustainability, their impact on Asia, and the role of the financial sector in addressing these challenges. A briefing shed new light on the challenges of globalisation, corporate ethics, the management of reputation and the opportunities in Asia to 50 business leaders from leading Fortune 500 companies in the US. On behalf of *The Economist* Nair led a panel discussion in Hong Kong and Singapore to a video-linked audience of regional CEOs on the challenges of globalisation in Asia and corporate ethics. He keeps in touch with his seminal interests in the well-being of the planet, advising the World Wildlife Fund in Asia, and the Jane Goodall Institute. For 10 years he has been an advisor to the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum.

Nair teaches and is a visiting scholar at Kellogg's affiliate business school at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on leadership in Asia. Nair was chairman of the top environmental consultancy in the Asia Pacific, ERM, until March 2004. He is widely recognised as the consultant and business brains behind developing it into the leader in its field in the fastest-growing and arguable most challenging region, from one small office of 10 people in Hong Kong in 1991 to its present strength of 500 in 12 countries.



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