

The Western dominance is just an aberration of the past two hundred years

In the headquarters of ABN Amro, the bank is talking with customers about the future. That the future is not in Europe, is an understatement.

Amsterdam

Some people are afraid of the globalization. That's why they choose the extreme right or extreme left. But we should embrace globalization. An electoral difficult message preached by a former politician, for it was former minister from the political party CDA and current ABN Amro board-member Joop Wijn who outlined the framework for this seminar in his bank.

The meeting was baptized "The Future in Asia", which offered a glimpse into the future, with the main theme being the rapid growth of China. Main speaker was Kishore Mahbubani, a professor at the University of Singapore and author of the book "The Century of Asia".

In fact, the natural balance in the global economy is being recovered, taught the sixty-year old from Singapore for a room which consisted of large Dutch companies and people from ABN Amro. The Western dominance is an aberration of the last two hundred years. Between the years 1 and 1800, China and India were the biggest economies in the world. We are going back to this situation. The reason is simple. We see that now as a replica of the industrial revolution.

Hereby Asia constraints itself to the conditions of growth. The western requirements are applied in the East. There is a free market economy, the technology is a big leap forward, there is pragmatism in decision-making, one is judged on skill, there is peace, a legal framework that becomes stronger every day and the education is improving, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the professor says.

Moreover, it has to do with numbers. The simplest explanation for the growth is that Asia has always had the greatest intellectual potential. Now that potential is really used. 132,000 Chinese are studying in the U.S.. In addition, less and less origin is taken into account. The chief economist of the Central Bank of India is an untouchable.

Where Asia is evolving, Mahbubani sees an opposite movement in the U.S. and Europe. The only way Asia has been able to develop, is to step abroad and ask: what can we learn from others? But that the U.S. would ask what they can learn from others, is unthinkable. His message states: The West must step out of his comfort zone and the welfare state is no longer tenable.

Question from the audience: the future lies in Asia, or is it a future of Asia? That second, the professor says with a smile. Because we are not out to rule.

In 2010 the middle class in Asia consisted of 500 million people. In about nine years that will be 1.75 billion.