

Manu Bhaskaran

Founding Director & CEO – Centennial Asia Advisors

Asia Economics and Strategic Affairs



An expert on economic and political risk assessment and forecasting.

Professional Experience

- Based in Singapore, Mr. Bhaskaran is a leading economist whose expertise is Asia economics and corporate strategy for emerging markets.
- He has more than 30 years of experience in studying economic, political & security issues that shape the business environment in Asia. He co-ordinates the Asian business of Washington DC-based strategic advisory firm, Centennial Group, directing its Asian economic research practice which provides in-depth analysis of macro trends in Asia. He works extensively with investment institutions, government agencies & corporations.
- He has conducted studies on a wide range of subjects including: consumer finance in Asia; Asian integration; regional and country-specific political and economic outlooks; the Impact of China on Asia; portfolio capital flows in emerging markets, amongst many others. He also comments in detail on the implications of China's rise, in particular as it moves up the value chain and explores what this means for the rest of Asia and for international trade and global businesses.
- Manu is ideally positioned to provide unique, on-the-ground assessments of the Asian macroeconomic environment for business executives trying to weigh-up the risks and rewards of investing across different countries in Asia. His strength is in being able to look at countries from an overall perspective, rather than looking at them as individual economies.
- He was recently appointed as a member of the Regional Advisory Group for Asia and the Pacific of the International Monetary Fund. He holds positions in think tanks including being Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS); Vice President of the Economics Society of Singapore, and Council Member of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA).
- Mr. Bhaskaran serves on the boards of CIMB Investment Bank, IFS Capital Ltd and Jebson & Jessen Southeast Asia Ltd. He is also on the Board of Advisors of Singapore Management University's School of Economics.

Published books / papers - an authority on Asia markets

- Many Bhaskaran is a well-regarded commentator on Asian financial and economic affairs and a regular columnist for The Edge (Singapore/Malaysia).
- He is Editor of The Singapore Economic Roundtable - a twice yearly review of the Singapore economy published by the Institute of Policy Studies.
- He is the author of *Reinventing the Asian Model: The Case of Singapore* (2003).
- His other publications include *The giant neighbor: Why is China important?* In A. Najam & M. Yusuf (Eds.), *South Asia 2060: Envisioning regional futures* in 2013 and *The role of the state in Singapore: Pragmatism in pursuit of growth* in 2016.



Speaking Topics

Mr. Bhaskaran regularly presents his views on the economic, political and business environment in Asia at business conferences and in-house briefings.

- Asia-Pacific Macro Issues
- South East Asian Prospects and Market Outlook
- Economic Prospects for Australia & Developing Asian Economies
- Regional economic issues and trends: Asian economic integration, trends in credit/debt across Asia, which region or group of countries is likely to outperform, and competitiveness among Asian markets
- Regional political trends and assessments
- State Capitalism in Asia
- Long Term Trends & Business Implications in Asia
- Emerging vs Developed Markets
- Country economic assessments: Cyclical turning points, secular growth trends, and policy outlook

Manu Bhaskaran - Personal information and work experience

- Centennial Group Inc. - Board Member and Partner – since 2002
- Previously Managing Director & Chief Economist, with SG Securities (1989-2001)
- He started his career working for the Singapore government focusing on regional security and strategy issues.
- Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at The Institute of Policy Studies Singapore (IPS), since 2004
- Council/Executive Committee Member, Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) since 2002
- The Singapore Competition Appeals Board, Member, (since 2005)
- Previously served as Chairman of a high-level government committee reviewing the regulation of moneylenders
- Holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and MA (Cantab) Magdalene College, Cambridge University (1987) and a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University