

TOPICS:

Future of Business; Innovation; Inspiration;
Global Policy and Economics

BIG IDEAS:

- Innovation Nation—where are the global innovation “hot spots,” and what America needs to do to remain competitive
- The search for strategic innovation—from “getting it” to “getting it done”
- Bringing Innovation to Innovation: New Concepts and Practices
- What’s “new” about new media?—Achieving competitive advantage in a bottom-up world



John Kao

*Innovation Strategist
and Practitioner,
Transformation Catalyst*

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BIOGRAPHY

John is well known as a thought leader in the innovation field. He is author of *Jamming: The Art and Discipline of Business Creativity*, a *BusinessWeek* best-seller that has been published in 12 languages. He was recently named one of the 1,000 most creative Americans and one of the 200 top management authorities worldwide. John has previously founded companies in life sciences, innovation and e-services, and feature film production. He has advised governments and companies worldwide. He also serves as honorary Vice President of Arts & Business, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Art. In 1995, he chaired the Aspen Design Conference, which took up the question of reinventing the relationship between design and business. John has produced both film and theatre; he was the production executive on *sex, lies, and videotape*, executive producer of *Mr. Baseball*, and the producer of *Golden Child*.

John's recent work has focused on global innovation and competitiveness. Through his extensive work with governments and national innovation programs in countries like Singapore and Dubai, John has witnessed first-hand the growing power and diversity of science and research capabilities in these hot spots of innovation. His new book, *Innovation Nation: How*

America Is Losing Its Innovation Edge, Why It Matters, and What We Can Do to Get It Back, named one of 2007's best business books by *BusinessWeek*, chronicles this brave new world that threatens America's economic and technological dominance.

His keynote speeches on innovation are distinguished for their vivid call to arms as well as their practical and original frameworks for action. John has been known to illustrate the fundamentals of innovation (of “jamming,” in his words) by playing jazz piano in a way that provides musical examples of the innovation process at work. He has “performed” such illustrations before audiences at Madison Square Garden, The Royal Danish Opera House, and the Grand Old Opry.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, John Kao was trained in philosophy (B.A., Yale College), psychiatry (M.D., Yale Medical School; residency, Harvard Medical School) and business (M.B.A., Harvard Business School).