

John Kao

Dubbed “Mr. Creativity” and a “serial innovator” by *The Economist*, John is an innovation thought leader, practitioner and activist. He is a trusted advisor to companies, startups and nations on innovation strategy, implementation, and future trends. He is chair of the Institute for Large Scale Innovation, whose i20 group is an association of national ‘chief innovation officers” from some 41 countries. He chaired the World Economic Forum’s Global Innovation Council, and is an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative, and a White House expert panel on US-China innovation policy. He served as a founding member of the Transformation Advisory Group of the US Department of Defense. He has advised PEO Carriers, ONR, and NETWARCOM and the US Army Chief of Staff among others, as well as elements of the intelligence community.

John is also a “venture catalyst” who has started and invested in a series of technology companies and is a Tony-nominated producer of film (*sex, lies and videotape, Mr. Baseball*) and theater (*Golden Child, Flower Drum Song, Jitney*). In 1995, he chaired the Aspen Design Conference around the topic of “reinventing the relationship of design and business.”

John was a Harvard Business School professor from 1982-96, where he taught innovation and entrepreneurship. He authored *Jamming: The Art and Discipline of Business Creativity*, a BusinessWeek best-seller, and *Innovation Nation*, published in October, 2007 about America’s growing innovation challenge. His training includes an MD from Yale Medical School, a residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital and an MBA from Harvard Business School. In the summer of 1969, John was an apprentice to rock legend Frank Zappa. He was recently named a Yamaha concert artist. In his spare time, he plays jazz piano.