

**Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
Distance Learning and the Internet Conference 2003
@ the National University of Singapore**

Conference website: <http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg/dli2003>

Presenter: Dr. Mukesh Aghi Ph.D

Biography

Mukesh Aghi is the first chief executive officer (CEO) of U21global, the world's premiere global online university. U21global is the result of an innovative partnership between Universitas 21, a consortium of world class universities, and Thomson, the world's leading provider of must-have information and a global provider of tailored learning solutions for individuals, academic institutions, businesses, and governments.

In his role as CEO, Mr. Aghi is applying his considerable leadership experience to successfully launch U21global, first in Asia and then globally. This includes refining and executing the business and marketing plan, building the organization's infrastructure and world-class staff, and positioning U21global as both a leader in the online learning marketplace and a profitable venture for the partnership.

With considerable experience growing new ventures, Mr. Aghi is in charge of establishing the priorities of the new University and developing its product offerings, which will initially include post-graduate degrees and certifications in high-demand areas such as technology and business administration. In the process, he is establishing and overseeing relationships with many business partners while maintaining and growing an excellent working relationship with all member universities and their constituencies and with Thomson.

Mr. Aghi joins U21global after successfully establishing Ariba, Inc., in the Asia Pacific region and then leading international sales. His leadership experience includes managing strategic outsourcing for IBM out of Singapore and serving as president of IBM India, where he nearly tripled annual revenue. Mr. Aghi spent five years with J.D. Edwards & Company in Japan, most recently as the vice president in charge of Asia Pacific. Again, Mr. Aghi was able to inspire and direct innovation, alliances, and build marketing and sales efforts in order to grow direct and indirect revenue. Prior to J.D. Edwards, Mr. Aghi re-established Dynamic Applications as a successful software company. He also served as a senior fellow in the U.S. House of Representatives.

His strong entrepreneurial orientation and ability to operate successfully in a fast-paced, changing environment will serve U21global well as it establishes itself in Asia. Mr. Aghi's passion for innovation and excellence ensures that U21global lives up to its potential as a highly respected source of quality education.

Mr. Aghi has a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Claremont Graduate School, an MBA in International Marketing from Andrews University. He received his bachelor's degree from Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He was recognized as an Esquire magazine "Young Leader of Tomorrow" in 1984 and has since received the Star of India and Asian Leader awards.