Biography

Professor Patrick Mendis is an Associate-in-Research of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. He was a former Rajawali senior fellow of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Born in Sri Lanka, and educated in the British and American systems, he serves as a commissioner of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO at the Department of State, an appointment by the Obama administration. Previously he was an American diplomat and a military professor in the NATO and Pacific Commands (in Japan and South Korea) during the Clinton and Bush administrations. Having visited over 125 countries, Professor Mendis has also travelled to all the provinces of China, climbed the major Sacred Mountains of Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian heritage in China, and lectured at over 30 Chinese universities and academies—including the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the universities of Fudan, Nanjing, Peking, Renmin, Shandong, Sun-Yat Sen, Tsinghua, Tongji, Wuhan, Zhejiang, among others. Professor Mendis is also a visiting researcher at the National Confucius Research Institute of China in Qufu, a senior fellow of the South China Sea Institute at the Qufu Normal University, a distinguished visiting professor of Asian-Pacific affairs at Shandong University in Jinan, a distinguished visiting professor of international relations at Northwest University in Xian, and a senior fellow of the Pangoal Institution in Beijing.

Professor Mendis is author of *Peaceful War: How the Chinese Dream and the American Destiny Create a New Pacific World Order.*