money from the grandmother of communism. And in the matter of finances, apparently, both countries are a matching pair of gloves, which creates an unprecedented synergistic power.

Despite China's position as a "bank", its reluctance to control world domination is another interesting phenomenon.

Fifth, western countries are likely to continuously lead scientifically through various technological innovations, which makes a cliché "marry an engineer, not an artist because an engineer can always find jobs while an artist is likely to be starving" a reality.

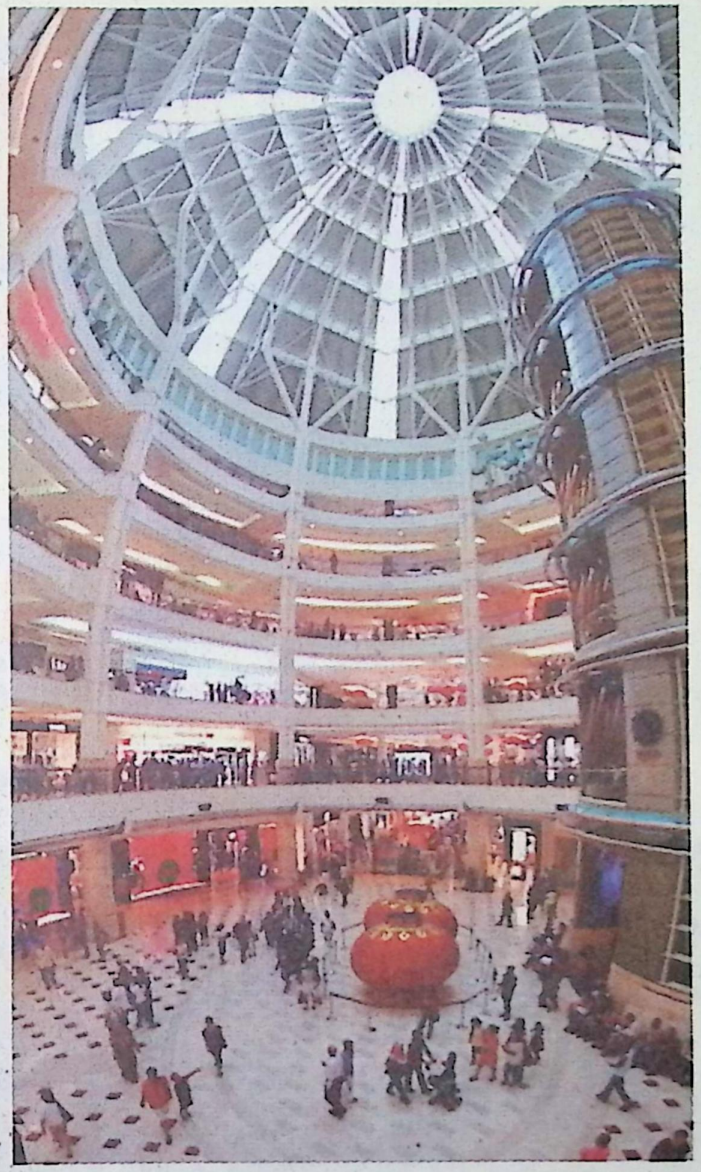
For instance, Germany, the "geeky techie" nation, is relatively stable in the midst of global crisis.

Sixth, economically, Asian countries are likely to maintain their supportive role as ideal regions for offshore outsourcing.

However, due to rising costs of doing business in Asia, western countries are likely to limit offshore outsourcing. Many businesses have rebuilt manufacturing plants in their own countries.

Seventh, Indonesia with its ongoing issues as a young democracy is unlikely to rise to the occasion. It is yet to earn respect from the world, due to its inability to manage a mid-sized country whose population explosion has gone through the roof with 3.5 million to 4 million babies born every year and a land area is merely 2.67 times the size of Texas.

Poor internal management and mediocre international image make it an uphill battle.



Despite its national GDP, GDP per capita and positive economic growth of 6.3 per cent per year, Indonesia is a Third World country in terms of infrastructure, legal and taxation provisions, political performance and educational system.

Eighth, the overall world disequilibrium has shown how fragile power is as the world today is much more susceptible to shocks and the global risk landscape has been dominated by sharp discontinuities, as posited by World Economic Forum economist Thierry Malleret.

The world has simply changed so rapidly due to these four dominant forces: interdependence, complexity, velocity and transparency.

At last, the unlikeliness of Asia to dominate this century doesn't mean it will be led by a unipolar superpower USA anymore. The century is likely to be led collectively by all strong state and non-state agents, including individuals.

The world has finally come to its most equal form: Anyone with hard and soft power has the potential to dominate the world politically, socially, culturally, economically and philanthropically.

The "wisdom of the crowd" has reached its tipping point. And the world isn't going back to the old ways of doing business anymore.

The United Nations and NGOs may attempt to steer the world into becoming a more peaceful place, yet they are likely unable to fill the global governance vacuum.

The unlikely Asian of this century is both a pro and a con, as long as you know what to do and which decisions to make.

The writer is an author and columnist. She is also the CEO of a digital venture in Santa Clara.