

Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran
Global Energy & Climate Innovation Editor *The Economist*
Author of *Need, Speed, and Greed*
Speaker on Global Energy, Climate and Innovation



Vijay Vaitheeswaran is an outstanding thinker, writer and speaker on global energy, climate change and innovation, standing at the very forefront of thinking and debate about the technological innovations that will enable us to tackle the world's 21st century challenges.

Professional Experience

- Vijay Vaitheeswaran is an award-winning writer and editor for *The Economist*. He is currently its Global Energy & Climate Innovation editor, based in New York where he leads the newspaper's global coverage of the energy and utility industries, clean energy transition, climate innovations and low carbon technologies.
- He is constantly on the lookout for changing business models, novel financing and venture capital approaches and breakthrough innovations that promise to transform hard-to-decarbonize industries. He also oversees coverage of America's ambitious new climate and infrastructure proposals, and keeps a watchful eye on ESG trends and corporate pledges of net-zero emissions for signs of promise, as well as greenwashing.
- He was previously the US Business Editor, and for several years until 2017 the China Business Editor, based in Shanghai. Over the years, his editorial responsibilities have ranged from business to finance to innovation, and across industries including energy and the environment, healthcare and biotechnology and automotive. He also serves as chairman of *The Economist's* Innovation Summits, a provocative global series of global conferences on innovation.
- Trained as an engineer from MIT, Vijay is at the very forefront of thinking and debate about technological innovations that will enable us to tackle the world's 21st century challenges across a number of industries such as automotive, energy, healthcare and biotechnology
- Vijay serves as an advisor to the World Economic Forum (Davos) on Global Expert Councils for Innovation, Sustainable Energy, and the Future of Manufacturing.
- He is a Life Member at the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Member of the Economic Club of New York. He was previously also an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative.
- Vijay is currently a visiting fellow at Northwestern University and previously lectured at NYU Stern School of Business where he developed an interdisciplinary course on energy & environment.

Publishing and media

- Vijay's latest book, *Need, Speed, and Greed* was launched in March 2012 and is a guide to the new world of innovation. Drawing on the best academic and field work in this emerging area, it inspires and empowers readers to improve their lives, their work, and perhaps even the world.
- Vijay's previous book, *ZOOM: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future*, co-authored Iain Carson, was named Book of the Year by the *Financial Times*.

Need, Greed, Speed is the perfect primer for the postindustrial age... An insightful assessment of the changing global economy, complete with recommendations for how companies can thrive in a perpetually disruptive environment... an exemplary narrative. Kirkus Reviews



- He is also the author of *Power to the People*, described by Harvard professor and Nobel-winner John Holdren, as being “by far the most helpful, entertaining, up-to-date and accessible treatment of the energy-economy-environment problematique available.”
- Author of several high profile Special Reports for *The Economist* on China, Business and Innovation.
- His writings have received various prizes in America and elsewhere, including honors from Britain’s Business Journalist of the Year Awards and the International Association of Energy Economists
- Vijay’s op-eds have appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and he is a regular guest on NPR and Marketplace, PBS’s *NewsHour*, ABC’s *Nightline*, and other leading programmes.

Speaking engagements

Vijay has built up a tremendous reputation as a speaker, both in terms of his content but also the delivery of his presentations, engaging with audiences across the world. He is equally sought-after for his formidable chairing and moderating skills, always guaranteeing a suitably robust discussion on the relevant issues and leaving audiences stimulated and very much better educated

- **Innovation:** Within *The Economist*, Vijay has chaired an initiative called “The Ideas Economy” conference. With the theme of “Stimulating Economic Growth”, this explores the role of governments, corporations and individuals as drivers of innovation. It seeks prescriptions that will lead to lasting progress and prosperity and engages in a lively debate about current political and economic policies around the world. It examines how the forces of globalisation affect the ways companies innovate and manage innovation, what individuals can do to energise their own creative and intellectual potential, and to also create jobs, improve company earnings and contribute to economic growth around the world.
- **Need, Speed and Greed:** Vijay examines the interconnected innovation mega-trends that are reshaping the world economy. He shows us why innovation is the only competitive advantage in the 21st Century but why it is the only engine driving commerce. As new technologies emerge -- and as the speed at which they are developed and adopted reduces -- the economy reconfigures and moves forward. His talk weaves together the worlds of technology, energy, sustainability and the economy.
- **The Upcoming Energy Economy** will usher in seismic changes that affect practically every industry. What can businesses, distributors, consumers, government regulators, automakers and Big Oil expect? And how can they prepare, adapt and capitalise? Oil remains the dominant energy source, but what, if anything, will be next? A formidable expert on energy, Vijay ties together mega-trend thinking and industry specifics, giving us a quick recap of how we got here and where we stand now, as well as an articulate discussion of where we’re headed. Vijay offers a practical, considered talk which expands our understanding of what it means to be an energy producer and consumer in the energy economy to come.
- Vijay has been a keynote speaker and panel chairman at events organised by PopTech, Digital Life Design (DLD), the Clinton Global Initiative, Google, BP, the World Wildlife Fund and many other groups. He has delivered lectures at distinguished universities including Yale, Oxford and Stanford. He has chaired a number of Economist Conferences roundtables and participated in a number of topical debates hosted by *The Economist* and economist.com.

Vijay Vaitheeswaran – bio data

- Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an adviser to the World Economic Forum, a former advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative and is an adjunct faculty member at NYU’s Stern School of Business.
- *The Economist:* his current portfolio encompasses Global Energy and Climate Innovation, with the ability to draw on a comprehensive range of global business and industry sector issues.
- He joined the editorial team of *The Economist* in 1992 as the London-based Latin America correspondent and then opened *The Economist*’s first Latin America office in Mexico City and served as bureau chief until 1997, with editorial roles in London, New York, Shanghai and Hong Kong.
- Graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he was named a Truman Scholar during his university studies by the US Congress, earning a degree in mechanical engineering. Born in Madras, India and grew up in Cheshire, Connecticut, currently living in New York City.