

Muhtar Kent



Muhtar Kent was born 1952 in New York. After completing high school at Tarsus American College in Mersin, Turkey in 1971, Muhtar Kent went to the United Kingdom to study at the University of Hull. Subsequently, he earned his MBA degree at Cass Business School, London. In 1985, he was promoted to the general manager position of Coca-Cola Turkey and Central Asia, and transferred the headquarters of the company from Izmir to Istanbul. Three years later, he was appointed president of the Company's East Central Europe Division, responsible for 23 countries in a region from the Alps to the Himalayas. Promoted further, Muhtar Kent became in 1995 managing director of Coca-Cola Amatil-Europe. In 1999, Kent left the Coca-Cola Company after 20 years of service. Returning to Turkey, Muhtar Kent became CEO of Efes Beverage Group at Anadolu Group, the largest local shareholder of the Coca-Cola franchise in Turkey and one of Europe's largest international beverage businesses. He extended the company's territory from the Adriatic to China. In May 2005, Kent rejoined Coca-Cola after almost 6 years and was appointed president and chief operating officer of the company's North Asia, Eurasia and Middle East. Muhtar Kent's rise continued and he was promoted in January 2006, the newly created position of president of International Operations. Kent's successful career took him finally to the summit of The Coca-Cola Company, which named him chief executive officer in 2008. He became Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in 2009. Muhtar Kent is active in the global business community and currently is co-chair of the Consumer Goods Forum, a fellow of the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the Business Roundtable, a past Chairman of the U.S.-China Business Council and current Chairman Emeritus of the US-ASEAN Business Council. He also was recently appointed as a member of the Eminent Persons Group for ASEAN by President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton. He serves on the boards of Special Olympics International, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Catalyst and Emory University. He currently serves on the board of directors of GBCHealth as well as the National Committee on United States-China Relations. He is also an invitee of the Bilderberg Group and attended the Greece 2009 Bilderberg conference at the Astir Palace resort in Greece.