

SIMON MACKINNON

Major Career Roles

Division President, Corning (Greater China)
Chief Representative, P&O Shanghai
Non-Executive Director, Huma Therapeutics
Independent Director, Huaxin Cement
Chair, Sinophi Healthcare
Chair, British Education
Chair, British Chamber of Commerce China Shanghai
Trustee, Shakespeare's Globe
Vice Chair and Governor, Wellington China
Co-Founder, Innit Audio

Simon MacKinnon OBE is an internationally experienced chair, director and adviser whose career has been shaped by 35 years living and working in Asia, first in Tokyo and then Shanghai. He has built and led businesses in services, manufacturing and technology for UK, US and Chinese companies, operating across multinationals, SMEs, public/private companies and charities. Having lived through the transformation of Japan, China and ASEAN since the 1980s, he has deep experience of working with rapid change, disruptive innovation and complex cross-cultural dynamics.

Educated in the UK, USA and China, Simon speaks Mandarin. He moved to Tokyo as General Manager of P&O Japan before being seconded to Mitsui & Co trading house and later appointed Chief Representative for P&O in Shanghai. In these roles he worked across shipping, construction, exhibition and travel businesses, leading market entry, transactions, JV formation, team building, growth programmes and government relations. In 2000 he became President, Greater China for Corning, the Fortune 500 technology company, leading high-tech innovation and manufacturing businesses in optical fibre, LCD glass and pollution control devices.

Since 2009, Simon has pursued a portfolio career in healthcare, environmental technologies and education. He has held main board or China board positions with organisations including Huma Therapeutics, Healthily AI, Sinophi Healthcare, Modern Water China, Xeros Technology Group, Laticrete China, Huaxin Cement, Wellington China and BE Education. He has also worked as a Venture Partner with Simon Murray Capital, as China Adviser to Cinven and as APAC Adviser to Old Mutual Global Investors, and is an early-stage investor in digital health and audio technology. Listening and mentoring of senior executives and founders are central strands of his work.

Other Career Highlights

Chair, Aggreko China
Chair, Modern Water China
Chair, Xeros Technology Group China
Regional Chair, Your.MD China (now Healthily AI)
Non-Executive Director, Laticrete China
Non-Executive Director, Liverpool Biennial
Venture Partner, Shanghai SMC Capital
China Adviser, Cinven
APAC Adviser, Old Mutual Global Investors

Alongside his commercial roles, Simon has a long record of community and cultural engagement. His charity work has included foster care with Care for Children and sports for the disabled with the Shanghai Disabled Association. He founded eight international and bilingual schools, chaired the British Chamber of Commerce Shanghai, and has served in arts governance roles with the Liverpool Biennial and with Shakespeare's Globe. He is currently Managing Director, Asia, for Innit Audio AB.

Simon brings deep cross-sector expertise in:

• Asia-based growth & cross-cultural leadership – 35 years building businesses and partnerships across Japan, China and ASEAN.
• Market entry, strategy & government relations – extensive experience in JVs, deals, regulatory engagement and public–private collaboration.
• Healthcare, environment & education – portfolio roles in digital health, environmental technologies and international education platforms.
• Board governance, PE & early-stage investment – chair, non-executive director, venture partner and adviser to investors and growth companies.

Simon has received high level recognition for his work in both the UK and China. In 2013 he was appointed OBE for services to UK–China business and charity. In 2007 he was awarded Honorary Citizenship of Shanghai and in 2019 he received the China Friendship Award, China's highest honour for foreign nationals, for his environmental and education work.