

Christian Frei



Who am I ?

German born, grew up in London and after high school spent a gap year in China at Nanjing University learning Chinese before earning B.Sc. Biochemical Engineering from University College London. JPMorgan training program then bank credit analyst followed by move to buy side equity research. During this time that I started working on the CFA and earned it in 1991. 20 people were taking the exam in London back then!

1989-94 ran the JPMIM's Singapore office with a team of 5 to cover Asia ex.Japan equities. Apart from managing portfolios for local institutions I was also responsible for relationships with existing and prospective regional sovereign wealth clients. While in Singapore the CFA designation attracted enormous interest and I was tasked to invigilate the exams. In 1994 there were ~400 people taking the exam at various levels!

Moved to Mumbai 1994 as CIO of JPMIM's Mutual Fund JV with ICICI and spent the next 4 years managing an India equity mutual fund and laying the foundations of a future Mutual Fund giant. 1996 I moved on to Seoul to start another JP Morgan led asset management JV with Samsung as our partner. As JP Morgan's executive board director, I built equity research and got involved in some sensitive board discussions which around governance ultimately leading to JP Morgan to exit the JV on the eve of the Asian financial crisis.

Returned to JPMIM-NY to co-manage EM equity portfolios before being tasked to restructure firm's Fund of Funds and multi-strategy businesses. Moved to Lazard in the wake of the JPM's acquisition by Chase and spent 19 years building and co-running an FoF business investing in a wide range of hedge funds, later focusing on EM managers both alternative and traditional. After a 2019 strategic rethink at Lazard we moved team, assets and clients to TRG Management LLC where their EM focus suited our clients. With EM and China later falling out of institutional favor we closed the fund in 2024.

I now advise families on their manager choices and managers on how to improve their investment processes and operations via Glengarriff Advisers LLC.

What skills and strengths would I bring to the board?

- Long standing and proven ability to work with a broad and often divergent set of people holding differing views and working towards a common goal.
- Firm management skills at the investment process and business/operational level gained through the lens of manager due diligence as well as hands on management experience.
- Deep asset class understanding in Emerging/Frontier Markets as well as the challenges of allocating to alternatives.

Why am I running for the board?

- To contribute international investing expertise for a world where US markets lag.
- Using my international network to add content/expertise to the Society's educational agenda.
- Raise the profile of the Society as a deep well of expertise among international investors and managers and to help generate interesting content for the society's members.