



Lifetime Achievement Award

Ross Matthews

“It has been a fascinating journey and I have thoroughly enjoyed the vibrancy, diverse cultures and growth opportunities in the industry across the region. I hope that as an industry, we can continue to challenge the status quo and work towards responding to new emerging risks.”



Ross Matthews

Ross Matthews, whose career continues in Asia through Hong Kong-headquartered global reinsurer Peak Re, is a worthy winner of the InsuranceAsia News Awards for Excellence 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Matthews began his international insurance career in New York in 1979 and was assigned to work in Japan in 1980. His 40-year international career included a wide range of executive roles across underwriting, reinsurance, general management, strategic expansion and investments.

He served 18 years with AIG in a variety of senior roles based in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and New York. Between 1997 and 2005 he was AIG’s senior executive for the non-life businesses in Greater China. At AIG Matthews led several successful strategic insurance investment projects including AIG’s investment in the People’s Insurance Company of China (PICC) pre-IPO in 2003 and AIG’s acquisition of Central Insurance of Taiwan in 2006.

Matthews joined CV Starr & Co in 2007 in Hong Kong to lead the establishment of Starr’s insurance operations in Asia Pacific – reporting to Starr’s Chairman and CEO Maurice “Hank” Greenberg. In March 2019 Ross Matthews retired as President & CEO of Starr International Insurance (Asia) and as senior insurance executive for Starr Companies in Asia Pacific. He served as Regional President and CEO during the majority of this period while directing the establishment of 10 new insurance entities in eight countries. This role included overseeing licensed insurance operations in China, Japan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

Between 2011 and 2012 Matthews became the first foreign CEO of a domestic Chinese state-owned insurance enterprise when Starr invested in Shanghai-based Dazhong Property & Casualty Insurance.

Well-connected and regarded, Matthews has also been a member of the American Chambers of Commerce in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China, the US Philippines Society, the US China Business Council and the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers.