

Sir Michael Hintze

Professional Background

Michael Hintze is a businessman and philanthropist. He is the founder, Chief Executive and Senior Investment Officer of CQS, a London-based global asset management firm.

Prior to establishing CQS in 1999, Michael held a number of senior roles at CSFB and Goldman Sachs. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs in 1984, Michael worked for Salomon Brothers in New York as a Fixed Income Trader trading Yankee Bonds having completed the firm's Graduate Training Program in 1982 after graduating with an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Michael served as an officer in the Australian Army, following which he worked as an Electrical Design Engineer for Civil and Civic Pty Ltd in Australia.

In 2014, Michael was called to serve on the International Advisory Panel for the Australian government's Financial Systems Inquiry (FSI) and subsequently as a Member of the Market Practitioners' Panel of the UK's Fair and Effective Markets Review. He presently serves as a Member of the Vatican Bank Board (IOR) and sits on the Finance & Audit Committee of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Philanthropy

In the charitable sector, the Hintze Family Charitable Foundation has provided funding to over 200 charities.

The Foundation has made significant contributions in the areas of education, culture and art, health, the armed services and natural history, amongst others.

Education

Major donations include: establishing the chair of International Security at the University of Sydney; providing funding to construct a residential wing at St. John's College at the University of Sydney; naming of a new lecture theatre at the University of New South Wales; supporting the Ken Rosewall Regional Project providing free weekly tennis lessons to primary school children in regional and rural areas across Australia; supporting the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys and The Hintze Lectures at the Department of Physics at Oxford University which highlight contemporary developments in Astrophysics and Cosmology; supporting The Oxford Foundation for Theoretical Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence; the Stephen Hawking Foundation; and giving substantial contributions to Harvard University and Princeton University, where a Professorship for the Arts has been established.

Michael was invited to the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors at the University of Oxford in recognition of his support for the university. He is also on the Board of the Dean of Advisors at the Harvard Business School.

Culture & the Arts

Major donations include: sponsoring two major galleries at the Victoria & Albert Museum; providing vital funding to the Old Vic Theatre in London; enabling the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Pauline Chapel at the Vatican; donations to The National Gallery for the refurbishment of a number of gallery spaces. In recognition, Room 8 of the National Gallery was named 'The Dorothy and Michael Hintze Room.' He also assisted The National Gallery in securing Titian's Diana and Actaeon for the nation; supporting Tate Britain's acquisition of an important British impressionist work; and supporting an ambitious redevelopment programme at the Natural History Museum. Funding has also been provided for the British Film Institute and British Museum.

Michael is a Patron of the Arts of the Vatican Museums, and is a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery. He previously served on the National Gallery's Board of Trustees, having been appointed by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown and later reappointed by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Armed Services

Funding has been provided for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), where he been awarded the role of Senior Vice Patron and Special Friend of the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, in recognition of his support. Support has also been provided to the Black Stork Charity (The DNRC Charity) for the construction of one of the world's most advanced clinical centres for the clinical rehabilitation of injured military personnel.

Health

Donations include providing funding to Trinity Hospice in south London; The Evelina Children's hospital; and contributions to the Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney, which focuses on turning medical research into viable treatments;

Other

Substantial support has been provided for a number of the Prince's Charities.

Notable Positions & Recognition of Charitable Activities

Michael was made a Papal Knight (a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory) in 2005 and Knight Grand Cross in 2008, and in the same year he was honoured as "Australian of the Year" in the UK. In 2009, he and his wife Dorothy received The Prince of Wales Award for Arts Philanthropy. In 2013, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia and in June 2013, Michael was awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his philanthropic services to the arts. He was named to the 2017 Debrett's 500 List, in which he was acknowledged as one of the most influential philanthropists in Britain. His commitment to philanthropy has led him to be considered one of the most "notable philanthropists" in finance.

Michael is a Trustee of the Institute of Economic Affairs. He previously served as the Chairman of the Prince's Foundation for Building Community. He presently serves on the Finance & Audit Committee of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Farming

Michael has significant investments in the agricultural sector, guided by a strong commitment to sustainable production and environmental sustainability.

In 2007, he established MH Premium Farms (MHPF), a group of agriculture companies based primarily in Australia. MHPF owns and operates over 40 properties, covering an area of more than 70,000 hectares. Many contiguous properties have been aggregated to create environmentally sustainable holdings which benefit from more effective production practices. These properties offer a broad portfolio including: fat lambs, wool and cattle; broad acre cropping of cereals and oilseeds; irrigated cotton, and sugar.

MHPF has a commitment to developing the next generation of agronomists in Australia and addressing the shortage of agriculture graduates in the country. To that end, MHPF has partnered with the University of New England to launch a scholarship supporting students with an interest in pursuing careers as agronomists in Australia following graduation. It also provides recipients with an 8-week work experience placement.

In 2016, MHPF acquired Dunster farm, a 7,500 acre agricultural property in Somerset, its first agricultural investment outside Australia.

Background & Education

Michael was born in Harbin, China, raised in Sydney, Australia, and is a fluent Russian speaker. He holds a BSc in Physics and Pure Mathematics and a BEng in Electrical Engineering both from the University of Sydney. He also holds an MSc in Acoustics from the University of New South Wales, an MBA from Harvard Business School and received a DBA (honoris) from the University of New South Wales.