

# CHINA CROSSROADS

Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, 15:00 – 17:00

## Career Paths to the Top at Global MNCs in China: International vs. Local Advancement Strategies

**Sven Agten**

President and CEO of Rheinzink Asia-Pacific

Author of [Adventures in the Chinese Economy](#)

**Ramesh Ramaswamy**

Global Chief Strategy Officer

Bosch Software & Digital Solutions



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Leaders in top management at MNCs in China generally have advanced to the top via excellent performance either (1) in the local China market or (2) in international markets and/or global headquarters, after which they are posted to China. Our speakers illustrate this contrast. While Sven Agten rose locally, Ramesh Ramaswamy rose internationally and was posted to China. Nevertheless, both their companies are German manufacturers, and they are both involved in different ways in mediating between HQ and China, translating and interpreting the needs of HQ or China for the other side.

[Sven Agten](#) is the Asia-Pacific President of Rheinzink, a world leader in zinc manufacturing and a German SME typical of Germany's Mittelstand. Sven has been living and working in China since 2004. At the age of 24, he moved to China's most northern province of Heilongjiang, where he started to work as English teacher. In 2008 he set up and managed a Sino-Belgian Joint-Venture cement plant in Tangshan, Hebei province. Five years later after selling the entity, he returned back to Belgium to pursue an MBA and after graduation became APAC President of Rheinzink. Since Sven has held various management positions in different regions, lived in smaller and large cities, speaks fluent Chinese, and is married to a Chinese, he has developed a unique perspective on China. He is author of [So schafft man China](#) on economic and social trends in modern China and [Adventures in the Chinese Economy: 16 Years from the Inside](#), published just this May.

[Ramesh Ramaswamy](#) is Global Chief Strategy Officer at Bosch. For 25 years, he has worked in industrial segments including manufacturing, consumer goods, financial services, and auto components, and consulting, both at large companies such as GE (Capital, Appliances, Aircraft Engines) as well as start-ups and in various divisions of Bosch. He also has rich intercultural experience, having worked, other than in India, in the U.S., Germany, and Mexico, and has spent over 14 years in leadership roles at teams ranging from as small as 10 people to more than 200 people. Most notable in his leadership experience has been his highly-acclaimed leadership trainings at GE (and memorable handshake with the legendary late Mr. Jack Welch!), six-sigma projects, and multiple leadership awards. He has also served as mentor and coach at more than sixty director-level trainings at Bosch.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).