

Independent Director - Akila Krishnakumar



Akila has over 30 years of experience in software product development for financial services and education markets world-wide. Until 2013, Akila was President – Global Technology and Country Head for SunGard (now Fiserv) in India – a Fortune 500 company and global leader in financial services software. In 2013, she stepped out of her executive position to pursue broader interests and now divides her time equally between the corporate and social sector.

She is the founding partner of India's first venture philanthropy organization - Social Venture Partners – which has built a network of engaged philanthropists across 6 cities in India to address complex livelihood issues. Along with her family, she recently set up the MELA Foundation – an organization that supports innovative ideas in the areas of Ageing, Environment, Learning and Mental health.

On the corporate side, she is an independent director at three listed companies – Heidelberg Cement (Chairperson), IndusInd Bank and Matrimony.com. In addition, she currently serves on the board of Medwell Ventures and SVP Philanthropy Foundation.

Through a career spanning 30 years, she has gained deep product development and domain expertise by building enterprise-class software solutions for financial services and higher education markets world-wide. She started her career at Wipro, followed by professional services and product development leadership roles in ICL (UK), before starting up Exeter Systems - a global consulting firm's operation in India. Recognized as one of the earliest attempts at offshore product development and global market leader in Higher Education ERP, she led the team through three M&A transactions until the business was acquired by SunGard in 2005.

While at SunGard, she built and led SunGard's global R&D and operations footprint, including establishing and growing centers in India, China and Tunisia from 800 to 4000 employees. She spearheaded operational excellence programs, distributed product development initiatives and productivity improvement across the global R&D organization. Her success in integrating a global and diverse workforce and developing employees for leadership and management roles has been widely acknowledged. In recognition, she received the SunGard chairman's club award for a record 5 times in 6 years.

Akila has chaired many business and industry associations in her career. She has also won several awards and accolades including being among the top 5 women leaders in the Indian technology industry for many years and was also listed amongst the "50 Most Powerful Business Women in India".

She has held several key industry positions and was formerly the Chairperson for the American Chamber of Commerce Chapter and Chair of Nasscom's Regional Council. She is a regular speaker at several International and National Conferences and leading organizations. Akila is an alumnus of the Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS), Pilani and was recently conferred the distinguished alumni award by the institute.

