

Emiko Higashi was born and raised in Japan.

Emiko started her career at McKinsey & Co. in Tokyo. After business school she joined an investment bank in New York, and worked her way up to be one of the three (only three...!) female managing directors (out of 300) in investment banking at Merrill Lynch in the mid 90's. Subsequently, she co-founded a venture capital fund with her former client, an Israeli serial entrepreneur, and ran it for a few years. For the last decade she has served on multiple corporate boards in the U.S. and Japan; currently she serves on the board of Takeda Pharmaceutical, KLA, Rambus and OEP Open Water Fund I. She is also a founding board member of Tara Health Foundation whose mission is to help women's health and equity through impact investment.

She lives in SF with her husband and a dog named Darwin. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, skiing, playing the piano, and is a beginner player of the cello. Her two young adult daughters who live in New York and Chicago are the best informers of social and generational changes, and keep her on her toes.