

Michael Woodford MBE – Biography



Born in 1960, Michael grew up in the British port city of Liverpool, and after moving to the south of England spent the next 30 years of his professional life working at Olympus. In April 2011, he was appointed President of the Olympus Corporation – the first Western 'salary-man' to rise through the ranks to the top of a Japanese giant. That October he was also made CEO, but only two weeks later was dismissed after querying inexplicable payments approaching \$2 billion.

In recognition of his courage, Michael was named Business Person of the Year 2011 by the Sunday Times, the Independent and the Sun, and in 2012 he won the Financial Times ArcelorMittal Award for Boldness in Business. In 2013 he was the winner of the inaugural Contrarian Prize.

After the personal traumas of the Olympus affair, Woodford has become increasingly concerned with ensuring that other whistleblowers who identify fraud and criminal activity are protected and given the support they need. He is patron of the whistleblowing charity Public Concern at Work, which released the findings of its Whistleblowing Commission in late November. He has also written a gripping bestseller titled 'ENTHÜLLUNG' published by Wiley, in which he chronicles his dramatic experiences. ENTHÜLLUNG is to be brought to the silver screen and is expected to be released as a major motion picture in 2015.

Michael is married with two teenage children and lives in London. He now spends his life writing and lecturing on business culture, and the frailties of human nature in the workplace.