

Outstanding CEO



XL Insurance

"I'm deeply honoured to have received this recognition. Success as a senior executive is a team effort. As a strong advocate for more inclusivity in leadership, the diversity in culture, behaviour, and mindset is key towards innovation and performance. Commercial success and inclusivity can go together. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey."



Sylvie Gleises, Chief Executive Officer, Asia, AXA XL

In a market defined by volatility, evolving regulation and emerging risks, Sylvie Gleises has stood out for the steady, pragmatic way she has led AXA XL in Singapore. Her work over the past four years has earned her Singapore's Outstanding CEO Award 2026, coinciding with her 20th anniversary with AXA.

Drawing on her early career as a strategy consultant, Sylvie has focused on building a resilient, client-centred business that balances technical excellence with practical innovation. She is a key architect of AXA XL's "Together for Asia and Beyond" strategy, positioning Singapore as a regional hub and supporting expansion into India, while deepening collaboration with markets in Southeast Asia, Korea, Japan, Greater China and the Middle East. For brokers and clients, this has translated into more coordinated access to specialist capacity and claims expertise across borders.

Equally important has been her emphasis on culture. Under Sylvie's leadership, the Singapore team has shaped a workplace that couples high performance with inclusion and wellbeing, achieving its highest internal employee engagement score to date and earning external recognition as Top Insurance Employer in 2025. Structured mentoring, health and wellbeing initiatives, and platforms that encourage open dialogue have helped build a diverse team that is comfortable challenging ideas and testing new approaches.

Sylvie also contributes actively to the wider insurance and business community. A regular speaker on inclusive leadership, she has been recognised for five consecutive years by House of Rose Professional as one of Asia's most inspirational women leaders. As President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, she supports stronger business links between France and Singapore. Her interest in the arts has led to AXA XL's partnership with ART SG and her role on the Global Advisory Board of The European Fine Art Foundation (TEFAF) in Maastricht.

Sylvie sees insurance as a quiet but essential driver of resilience and social progress, where commercial success and positive societal impact can reinforce one another. Reflecting on the award, she is quick to share the credit, describing success as "always a team effort, made possible by colleagues who bring different cultures, behaviours and mindsets to the table and turn diversity into performance."