Dr Rob John is a UK-based independent consultant specializing in the relationship between venture philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.

Rob was trained as a synthetic organic chemist, receiving his PhD from Oxford University, followed by research posts at universities in the US, Switzerland and Ethiopia. He contributed to research at Purdue University that resulted in the award of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Following a career spanning 15 years in international development, Rob directed an Oxford-based venture philanthropy fund, which traces its roots back to the startup of many non-profits, including Oxfam and Action Aid.

From 2005 to 2009, Rob was the first visiting fellow at the newly established Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Oxford’s Said Business School, researching the development of venture philanthropy in Europe and contributing to the MBA teaching programme.

Rob was the first executive director of the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA), and in 2010 co-founded the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) to build a community of venture philanthropy practitioners serving Asia’s social entrepreneurs.

Rob's current interests include mapping venture philanthropy models in Asia, and professionalization of Asian philanthropy industry.