



**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for First Vice President
Board of Governors 2017-2018**



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Dear fellow Correspondent Members,

I have had the privilege to join the FCC board in 2013 and have been reelected three times since. By now, I have been a co-convenor on most Committees. This year, I was a co-convenor of Professional Committee, Press Freedom Committee and Membership Committee. I also volunteered to host events on a regular basis.

In the Professional Committee that organizes events, besides our usual batch of China watchers, we tried to bring speakers highly relevant to Hong Kong news, such as Joshua Wong, Nathan Law, Eddie Chu, Ronnie Tong and Dennis Kwok, Regina Ip or CE candidate Judge Woo Kwok-hing. We also hosted Chris Patten and Edward Snowden's lawyer, Robert Tibbo, as well as speakers related to other regional issues (Malaysia, India, Philippines, North Korea...). We screened several movies including the documentary "Raise the umbrella" that had been declined in other venues and that gathered the who's who of the Pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. We also experienced new formats such as "a conversation with", and "Meet the editor" series, a more casual opportunity to meet interesting people in the evening...

The FCC's role as a beacon of Freedom of expression in Hong Kong is crucial at this time of increasing pressure on the media. The Press Freedom Committee tries to keep an eye on the many violations and abuses that take place in the region. The Human Rights Press Awards that the FCC organizes with Amnesty International and the Hong Kong Journalist Association turned 20 last year. This year, the Press Freedom Committee decided to work with HKU and to digitalize the whole process. We are hoping that this new set-up will guarantee a long life to this important event.

In the Membership Committee we have continued to work at diversifying the range of members of the FCC. We also identified some long-term challenges and we are looking at how to address them best to safeguard the balance sheet of the Club whilst staying in line with the caring spirit of the club towards its members.

Having worked as a Foreign Correspondent since 1991 (in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Taiwan and in Hong Kong since 2008), mainly for Le Monde (Paris published daily newspaper), RFI (Radio France International) and Radio France (French National Radio), the FCC carries a very special resonance to me. I hold dual citizenship, French and New Zealander.

I am always delighted to be at the club, first and foremost thanks to its wonderful staff. The FCC is a place that we must treasure for what it is. It is also a place that must adapt and evolve to stay as relevant as ever to its membership and to Hong Kong.

This year I am standing as first Vice-president.

In such capacity I would like to contribute to the cohesiveness and the energy of the Board, to guarantee the independence of the FCC vis-à-vis the different authorities that are showing an increasing interest in our programs and our statements, to maintain an enticing program of club events and to reach out to younger journalists and other members of the civil society (NGOs, writers, academics...) whose role in Hong Kong society would greatly contribute to the club's vibrancy.

I shall be happy and honored to serve for another year if you wish me to do so.

Thank you for your support and see you around the Club!

Florence de Changy