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**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor  
Board of Governors 2017-2018**



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**Affiliation: AFP**

As Asia news editor for Agence France-Presse, I've been a member of the club for six years and prior to that was a frequent visitor as foreign postings took me to different bureaux around the region.

The FCC has always been a special place, and steeped in history, but it's clear that it also has to evolve to make sure it remains relevant. Much of the 'heavy lifting' of reorientating the club towards the future has already begun. Difficult but important decisions have been made to secure its long-term finances, and much-needed renovation work has been undertaken. I would support further initiatives to utilise the club's dining space more creatively, to provide a better experience for members and a healthier return for the club.

While members value the FCC as a refuge from the city and a place to meet contacts and socialise, it is vital that its role as a press club remains at its core. One of its key roles is as an advocate for media freedom and free speech. As the global environment grows ever more hostile to those values it is essential that the club maintains its bold stance on rights issues.

The club's programs are an important part of maintaining that profile. When I was AFP's news editor in Bangkok I served on the board of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand for two years, primarily working on the programs committee - organising and moderating weekly news-making events – and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute in that arena.

Working in a large newsroom including with journalists starting out in their careers, I am aware of the financial barriers that discourage younger people from joining the club. The moves introduced over the last few years to create a more welcoming environment and a more diverse membership are very welcome and I think they should be built on and expanded to make the club more relevant to young people and ensure a lively atmosphere and a vibrant future for the FCC.

I look forward to your support so I can contribute to the club as a correspondent governor.

About me: I joined AFP in the '90s in Sydney, where I had been working for the Australian Financial Review. After that I was posted to the agency's regional headquarters in Hong Kong, then to Bangkok as news editor of the Indochina patch, and on to Malaysia where I was bureau chief. Now back at AFP's Asia HQ, I manage a multimedia newsroom that coordinates the production of 26 bureaux worldwide.