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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2019-2020**



Shibani MAHTANI

Affiliation: The Washington Post

One of the greatest advantages of being in Hong Kong, rather than the multitude of other cities I could have been based in the region, is being part of the FCC community. Having just arrived in Hong Kong last summer, I found the FCC to be almost a second home where I could meet professional contacts and find inspirational in my day-to-day work -- crucial in a one-person bureau. I would be thrilled for the opportunity to contribute to the club's continued growth and make it a more welcoming place for all; particularly young, female members.

If elected to the board, I would seek to build on the already excellent line-up of events and guest speakers at the FCC. I would prioritize finding speakers from Southeast Asia who could offer different perspectives on the region. Speakers could include those who have skills in data-based journalism and open-sourced investigations, which could be beneficial to members looking to build on their skill set. I would be keen to help organize and plan the FCC's annual conference, and believe I have a breadth of contacts across various industries and with different expertise that could bring their experiences to the table.

I would also seek to attract younger members to the FCC, and continue the ongoing efforts to make the club a safe, harassment-free zone for everyone. I believe there is no issue more important than having everyone -- especially women -- feel comfortable in a club they pay to be a member of, and should be free from derogatory comments and lewd behavior.

I'm passionate about cuisines from around the world, and will also work to continue bringing guest chefs and special food nights to the Club. I'd like to work with more of Hong Kong's independent breweries to bring more unique craft beers to the bar.

Above all else, I am deeply passionate about the issues of press freedom. The FCC has a crucial voice at a time where journalistic values and the very essence of our jobs are being threatened all over the world, and where former bastions of free press are no longer the shining example they once were. The onus is then on clubs like FCC to be a voice for reporters and correspondents all over the world, with a particular focus on local journalists and stringers in the region who face disproportionate risk and harassment and often don't have the same platform to publicize their mistreatment. The FCC can and should be a voice in highlighting these cases and play a stronger advocacy role for press freedom across Asia.

And a brief few words about me: I am the Southeast Asia correspondent for the Washington Post, covering a huge turf from the Philippines to Indonesia and Myanmar. Prior to joining the Post last year, I spent seven years as a correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, most recently based in Chicago covering the Midwest. I was the Myanmar correspondent before that, as the first (and I think last!) Yangon-based correspondent for the Journal. I was born and grew up in Singapore, where a lack of press freedom and diverse views in state media pushed me to pursue a career in journalism.