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



**Clifford BUDDLE**  
**Affiliation: SCMP**

**Bio**

I am a senior editor at the South China Morning Post and have been a journalist for more than 30 years. I worked as a court reporter in London before coming to Hong Kong to join the SCMP in 1994. My roles at the SCMP have included news editor, deputy editor, and acting editor-in-chief. I currently oversee culture coverage and write about legal and political affairs.

Through my coverage of court cases, I developed an interest in the law. I passed the Common Professional Examination in 2000 and a Masters degree in human rights law in 2005. I teach media law at the University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Centre and law more generally for HKU SPACE.

I have been a Journalist Member Governor on the board for the last four years and serve as a Co-Convenor of the Press Freedom Committee and Constitutional Committee. I am also Chair of the Editorial Committee helping organise the annual Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) awards.

**Policy statement**

The last year has been a defining one for the Club. We have been in the spotlight and have faced challenges. But events have underlined the importance of the FCC's core principles and the role it plays in supporting freedom of expression and the media industry in Hong Kong. It has reminded us all what a fine club we belong to and I am honoured to have served as a Journalist Governor for the last four years.

I stand by the Club's decision not to back down when under pressure to cancel a lunch talk by pro-independence activist Andy Chan. The Club has a proud history of inviting a variety of speakers with different views, from government officials to human rights activists, to speak on topical issues. The object is to further informed debate and understanding of current affairs. It was in that spirit that the lunch was held. Members who attended took the opportunity to question and challenge Mr Chan on his views. The freedom to air different opinions and to discuss them openly is a core principle of the Club and it has a key role to play in seeking to ensure that this right is not eroded.

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression are part of the Club's DNA. This is a challenging time for journalists around the world, especially in South East Asia. It is very important that the Club

continues to speak out against restrictions on media freedom in the region and to show support for journalists operating in increasingly difficult conditions. The expulsion from Hong Kong of Victor Mallet, a respected journalist and, at the time, an FCC Board Member, is a matter of great concern.

The Press Freedom Committee, of which I am a Co-Convenor, prepares statements on behalf of the Club supporting media freedom. It also helps organise the annual Human Rights Press Awards. The FCC has, for more than 20 years, supported reporting on human rights issues through these prestigious awards. Long may this continue!

While defending our principles, the Club must continue to be a great place to eat, drink, and to relax with friends. It must remain a home from home for our members. All members and their guests should feel welcome and at ease at the Club, whether on their own or in company. I therefore strongly support the Board's introduction of an anti-harassment policy. It is intended to increase awareness of the need to treat other users of the Club with decency and respect. Not all members agree with the policy and the Board has been considering feedback. But the policy is needed. It is in line with broader developments in Hong Kong and we expect other clubs to follow it. There is no room for harassment at the FCC.

It would be great to see more young journalists joining the Club. The Journalism Conference this year, which I attended as a panelist, was an outstanding event. Journalists and journalism lie at the heart of the Club.

If elected, I will bring experience to the Board, having served on the Constitutional Committee as well as the Press Freedom Committee. I will strive to ensure the FCC continues to flourish, for the benefit of its members and the broader media community in Hong Kong.