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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for First Vice President
Board of Governors 2019-2020**



Eric WISHART

Affiliation: Agence France-Presse

Eric Wishart statement

My priority as vice-president would be to focus on the journalistic side of the club – our speakers, side events and the journalism conference.

Next year is going to be a big one on the political front, both locally and internationally – from the elections to LegCo in Hong Kong to the battle for the White House, so there will be a lot to talk about at the club.

Our speaker lunches continue to be popular and also make us a profit, and we should develop our breakfast and dinner events. The club must remain a defender of press freedom and freedom of speech and choose its speakers without fear or favour.

The journalism conference will be in its fifth year, and I would propose that we build next year's event around the upcoming local and international elections. In the era of fake news and disinformation, election coverage is more challenging than ever for reporters, and there are multiple aspects that we could cover in what has become the club's most important annual event.

I was also glad to see that the charity event was such a success and raised a substantial amount of money for a worthy cause, and hopefully we can hold it again next year.

I am a strong supporter of the anti-harassment policy and have been perplexed that some of its opponents cannot tell the difference between legitimate defence of freedom of speech, a growing concern for all of us in Hong Kong, and defending boorish behaviour around the bar.

Eric Wishart bio

A former AFP editor-in-chief, Eric Wishart is responsible for special editorial projects for the Agency's global news management.

He also teaches journalism part-time at Hong Kong University and Hong Kong Baptist University and is a former president of the FCC Hong Kong.

He joined AFP in 1984 and his positions at the Agency have included Middle East English desk head (1992-1996), Asia-Pacific editor (1996-1999), (AFP's first non-French) editor-in-chief (1999-2005) and Asia-Pacific director (2005-2012).

He has been a member of the global news management since 2013. He drew up the Agency's ethics and sourcing guidelines and has just completed an overhaul of its stylebook.

He began his career in 1973, studying at a journalism school in Edinburgh and obtaining the NCTJ Proficiency Certificate.

He worked in newspapers in Scotland for 10 years, covering news, rock music and motoring.

He is a judge for the Hong Kong News Awards and is a member of PEN America and the Asian American Journalists Association.