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



Edith TERRY

Affiliation: Freelance

I first joined the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong in 2001, when I was editor of the opinion pages of the *South China Morning Post*. As a long-time member, I feel it is high time to give back to the club, at a time when it faces increasing stress from the changing political environment of Hong Kong, caught in the middle of historic fault lines as champion of the values and ideals of international journalism, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly. This is not just the problem of Hong Kong, but of a global environment fracturing into protectionist and increasingly angry tribes. How to address these divides in ways that increase clarity and provide the information that the public – and we, as journalists – need to make informed decisions is increasingly critical to our trade.

Like most of us, I am struggling with these issues, and would like to focus as second vice president particularly on programs and new media, such as podcasts, to share the FCC's wealth of content with a larger community, local and international. I think I am well positioned to provide a voice bridging our own internal communities – local journalists, correspondents, and associates – as a local writer, contributor on public policy issues, and a former foreign correspondent for major international publications.

Briefly, long before I arrived in Hong Kong in the millennium year, 2000, I was an economic correspondent focusing on China, and one of the first to report on Special Economic Zones for the *China Business Review*, a Washington, DC-based magazine, in the late 1970s. Subsequently I was New York correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, international editor, then Canada correspondent for *Business Week*, and Tokyo bureau chief and East Asian Economics Correspondent for the *Toronto Globe and Mail Newspaper*. In 1992, I went on sabbatical to write a book on the East Asian economic model as Journalist in Residence at the East-West Center, followed by think tanks in Tokyo, Singapore, and Washington, DC. The book, *How Asia Got Rich: Japan, China and the Asian Miracle* (M.E. Sharpe) was only published in 2002, after I had arrived in Hong Kong, and became an odyssey, through Japan's rise and the apparent exhaustion of its miracle, in the face of a rising China that had learned from its example and continued where Japan left off.

In Hong Kong, as opinion page editor of the SCMP, I brought several thousand new contributors to the pages, a product of my complicated itinerary through East Asia and the United States; organized a major conference on the Pearl River Delta; organized a series of editorial roundtables that brought people as varied as Bishop Zen, Anson Chan, and Long Yingtai to meet with reporters and editors at the *Post*, and was part of an editorial advisory council that helped to build a conversation around

critical issues, from the democracy marches to SARS. After SARS, changes in editorial direction away from the big picture and controversy – staples of my values in journalism – led me to seek a more eclectic path. I became deeply involved with Hong Kong's first territory-wide consultation on sustainable development, working as an advisor to the chairman of the Council on Sustainable Development; this proved a deeper introduction to the complexities of Hong Kong than I expected or perhaps deserved, since we went into nearly every public estate in partnership with some of the many outstanding non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong. In addition to sustainable development, I have helped set up a bioethics institute at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, becoming well-versed in health and biotechnology in Hong Kong and China, and taught courses on East Asia and Southeast Asia in the MBA program at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

In my freelance writing, in the last few years I have published lengthy reports with Civic Exchange and other organizations on the Pearl River Delta (aka Greater Bay Area), climate change, and urbanization, but also continued writing for the *Post* on history, the arts, collecting and other subjects that reflect my personal passion for Asian arts. I have several books that I am trying to get out the door – don't ask. And I serve as honorary secretary of the Victoria Recreation Club, Hong Kong's oldest private recreational club, which now faces a rough patch adapting to changed times and expectations on the part of the Hong Kong public.

In terms of languages, I read and speak Putonghua, Japanese, and as best I can, Guangdonghua. You can see me every Friday morning at the FCC with my wonderful Cantonese teacher, Linda Liang. She despairs; I persevere.

I promise to do my best to recruit interesting speakers and explore new and controversial themes in the FCC's programs, continuing and developing its well-deserved reputation for excellence, as well as seeking new ways to share the FCC's glittering content with wider audiences. Please vote for me!