

**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Journalist Member Governor
Board of Governors 2020-2021**



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 am currently Special Projects Editor, working on the production of the newspaper's coronavirus coverage, while also writing 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 Master's 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 five years and in that time have served 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

I am honoured to have served as a Journalist Member Governor on the Board for the last five years. This has been an extraordinary year for Hong Kong and for the Club. The protests presented journalists with immense challenges. I have the greatest admiration for the frontline reporters, photographers and videographers, who daily placed life, limb and liberty at risk to bring the public the truth about what was happening on our city's streets. I strongly support the Club's clear, consistent, and carefully considered public statements expressing concern about violence against journalists and the importance of press freedom. The steps taken by the Club to make the police aware of the media's concerns and to seek improvements were much needed. The workshops and talks arranged to better prepare journalists for these new challenges provided a constructive, practical response. The Club's strong stand fits perfectly with its principles, providing a powerful voice in support of press freedom and doing everything it can to back journalists and their right to work freely and safely.

Now, we are all facing the coronavirus outbreak. The Club has adopted a measured approach in line with government guidance. This is an unpredictable situation and one which the Club is watching carefully. The priority must be the safety of our members and our guests.

I have been a Co-convenor of the Constitutional Committee for the last five years. This year, we have been busy preparing proposed changes to our Articles to reform the Club's disciplinary system in a way we believe will bring it into line with modern practice and to make it fairer and more efficient. I hope the proposals will receive the support of Members at the AGM. I also sit on the Press Freedom Committee.

In these difficult times, the FCC is a source of comfort and support for Members. During the protests, the Club provided a valuable base for visiting correspondents. As we adapt our lives amid the coronavirus threat, we are reminded of the importance of supporting each other. I look forward to the day – hopefully soon - when the Club is once again packed with Members and their guests enjoying wonderful food and drink, great company, and upholding our fine traditions.