

10

**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor  
Board of Governors 2017-2018**

**James POMFRET**  
**Affiliation: Reuters**



Dear fellow FCC members,

I can't overemphasize how fortunate we are in Hong Kong to enjoy an institution such as the FCC with our own historic premises, liberal tradition, rich journalistic legacy and effervescent culture that continues to draw members, speakers and guests from many walks of life. But as with all good things, there needs to be continued strong leadership, particularly amongst the journalists at the club's core, to ensure the FCC keeps thriving.

The FCC is a unique space that needs nurturing and protecting. Our name stands for media freedoms in these politically strained times for Hong Kong, while fostering a broader sense of community and solidarity amongst our diverse membership including journalists, diplomats, professionals and businesspeople.

As a multimedia journalist for over 20 years, currently as a chief correspondent for Reuters, I now feel that I'd like to contribute more of my time, experience and ideas to the running of a club that I first joined in 2005.

I've had a taste of life on the FCC board since the start of the year, joining an enthusiastic and committed team mid-term, and am now keen to step-up my commitment for a full year.

If elected, I would focus on a few areas. I'm strongly committed to the FCC's role as a defender of free speech and open, critical debate at a time when these fundamental rights are coming under threat. I'd use my extensive contacts to help the professional committee attract influential and intellectually stimulating speakers that have been a core part of the club and helped burnish its international reputation through the years. I'd seek to be involved with the House/Food and Beverage committee and hopefully contribute fresh ideas to food, drink, revenue generation and perhaps the staging of smaller, more intimate events with a cultural edge. As a Cantonese speaker who has worked in both the local and foreign media, my multicultural perspective could potentially help deepen the club's engagement with society and other local press organisations, as well as encourage more young journalists to join and reinvigorate our membership demographic.

**Bio:** James Pomfret is Chief Correspondent for Reuters in southern China. He also serves as Reuters' Deputy Bureau Chief in Hong Kong. For the past 20 years his multimedia career has spanned print, radio and TV for various outlets including Reuters, CNBC Asia, TVB and RTHK where he worked as a radio reporter and presenter. His work has been recognised by the Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) and the Human Rights Press awards in Asia amongst others. He has taught journalism at the Chinese University and Baptist University.