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**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for First Vice President  
Board of Governors 2020-2021**



**Eric WISHART**

**Affiliation: Agence France-Presse**

It is my honour to stand for re-election as first vice president of the club at one of the most challenging times in its history.

My focus will again be on the professional, journalistic side of our activities, including our speaking events and organizing the journalism conference, which we postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

I shall also work to ensure that the FCC remains a resolute defender of media freedom in the face of increasing pressure both from the Beijing government and increasing physical and other attacks against journalists in Hong Kong.

It has been a privilege to work with such a great board under the stewardship of our president Jodi Schneider over the past year at a time of unprecedented challenges. I also wish to pay a special tribute to our general manager Didier Saugy and our wonderful staff who continued to ensure the smooth functioning of the club in the most difficult circumstances.

Eric Wishart bio

A former AFP editor-in-chief, Eric Wishart is responsible for special editorial projects for the Agency's global news management. His areas of specialisation include media ethics, how to deal with the challenges of disinformation and falling trust in traditional media, and journalists' safety.

He also teaches journalism classes at Hong Kong University and Hong Kong Baptist University.

As a member of AFP's news management he drew up the AFP Charter setting out the Agency's guiding principles; its code of ethics; the Agency's 20 Principles of Sourcing; and has just completed a major update of the AFP Stylebook.

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 and is based in Hong Kong.

He began his career in 1973, studying at 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 first vice president, and a past president, of the Foreign Correspondents' Club Hong Kong.

He is a member of PEN America and the Asian American Journalists Association.

He has British and Irish nationalities and is a Hong Kong permanent resident. He speaks English and French.