

13

**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2021-2022**



Eric WISHART

Affiliation: Agence France-Presse

After two years of serving as first vice-president I am standing as a correspondent governor of the board with the aim, if elected, of focusing on the professional and press freedom committees.

The role of the press freedom committee as a defender of the core values of the club is more important than ever as local and international media come under increasing pressure in Hong Kong.

Over the past year the committee has spoken up on issues that threaten journalistic freedom in Hong Kong -- from concerns over visas to new police rules on accreditation and the implications of the national security law.

It is essential that the club continues to defend press freedom while seeking engagement with the government and police.

The professional committee has faced its own set of challenges as the coronavirus restrictions have prevented us from holding in-person events.

The good news has been the success of our Zoom events and we have had a wide range of noteworthy speakers including Noam Chomsky, Maria Ressa, John Bolton, Jianyang Fan, Bob Woodward, Bay Fang, and, for the foodies in our midst, Fuschia Dunlop.

We have made great strides in achieving a proper gender balance in our speakers, and in the first quarter women speakers finally outnumbered the men. Long may it continue.

The prof com can expect to have a busy year as we hopefully move back to holding in-person speaker lunches and movie nights while continuing to hold Zoom events that allow us to invite prominent international personalities.

I would like to thank Didier, Joanne and the rest of the staff for their dedication that has allowed the club to function as close to normal as possible over the difficult past two years.

Thanks also to my fellow board members for their commitment to the club and the (non-governor) club members who volunteer their time to join our committees.

Let's all work together in the coming year to ensure that the club remains a safe harbour in difficult times, and where members and guests can enjoy a relaxed and comfortable experience that is -- most importantly -- free of harassment in any of its forms.

Eric Wishart bio

Eric Wishart is a former editor-in-chief of AFP and currently a member of the agency's global news management responsible for special editorial projects.

He lectures in journalism at Hong Kong University and Hong Kong Baptist University, teaching feature writing and conflict reporting. He is also vice-president (and former president) of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong, and is co-chair of its press freedom and professional committees.

He began his journalism career in the Scottish newspapers in 1973 and joined AFP in 1984, working in Paris, the Middle East and Asia. In 1999, he became the first non-French editor-in-chief in the history of AFP, the world's oldest news agency that traces its origins back to 1835.

After six years as editor-in-chief in Paris he returned to Hong Kong as Asia-Pacific director, and since 2012 has been a member of the agency's global news management.

He drew up the AFP Charter setting out the Agency's guiding principles; its code of ethics, which has been published in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Chinese; the Agency's 20 Principles of Sourcing; and the latest version of the AFP Stylebook.

He is a member of PEN America, the Society of Professional Journalists and the Asian American Journalists Association, and is a judge for the Hong Kong News Awards, the MIND HK Media Awards and the Fetisov Journalism Awards.