

17

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



**Antony DAPIRAN**

**Affiliation: Freelance**

I would be honoured to have the opportunity to serve you as a member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club board of governors and to help contribute to the Club's continued success.

I am very proud of the Club and its achievements. Notwithstanding the challenges of Covid, the team under general manager Didier Saugy has deftly navigated the various government restrictions and kept the Club running smoothly. Faced with those restrictions, the Club has maintained a lively program of high quality speaker events online. And the Club has continued to champion freedom of the press and the rights of journalists, as those rights and freedoms are increasingly under threat.

Looking ahead, managing relations with the government will be important as we approach lease renewal negotiations in an increasingly fraught environment. Certainty on this issue will provide a basis upon which to consider a refreshment of our historic premises. I believe there is an opportunity to improve our facilities and optimise space utilisation, for example to create better working spaces, especially in this era where remote working has become the norm rather than the exception.

I wear a number of different hats: as a former lawyer with 20 years' experience advising at the board level, including for major Hong Kong-listed companies, private companies and charities; as a source for many correspondent/journalist members of the Club; and as a writer and commentator participating in the public conversation in Hong Kong. For the past year I have also been a member of the Club's Professional Committee, as part of the team responsible for the Club's events program. I hope that my combination of experience and knowledge can contribute to the work of the board and governance of the Club.

Bio: Originally from Melbourne, Australia, I moved to Hong Kong in 1999. Across a 20-year legal career here, I worked first with London-headquartered global law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, then in 2010 joined New York-headquartered firm Davis Polk as a founding partner of that firm's Hong Kong law practice. From 2017 through 2019 I held a senior position at another leading New York firm. In my legal practice I focused on corporate law, in particular capital markets, M&A, and regulatory compliance. From 2019 onwards I have worked as a freelance consultant and writer. I have published two books on Hong Kong, and have written widely on Chinese and Hong Kong politics, business and culture for publications including *The Atlantic*, *New Statesman*, *Foreign Policy* and many others. I am fluent in Chinese (Putonghua).