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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for President
Board of Governors 2021-2022**



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It's a great honor, and something of a surprise, to be back as Club President after holding the job in 1997-'98. I took over in January after Jodi Schneider resigned to go back to the U.S. Now I am running for a full term and I would like your support.

Over the last year I've been on the Board, including three months as President, the Club has faced serious challenges. The Covid restrictions limiting us to two persons per table and the 6 P.M. closing time meant a severe loss of revenue. The restriction on events meant a suspension of our normal lunchtime speaking events. Many members were unable to visit the Club, some quarantined and others stranded outside of Hong Kong. We had many members leave, either resigning or going absent. And there were new questions raised about press freedom and restrictions on journalists' activities.

I'm happy to report that we have weathered the storm fairly well considering the difficulties. We managed to keep all of our dedicated and loyal staff employed. We launched a series of online Zoom events that have proven extremely popular. We've kept up a steady recruitment of new members to replace those who have left. And we have remained a strong, steady voice on press freedom issues, here in Hong Kong and around the region.

I'm running for a full term now to provide continuity and whatever experience I can offer, as we hopefully begin to move into the post-pandemic period and return to normalcy.

I would like us to try to relaunch our community engagement initiatives that were largely put on hold by the virus restrictions. We want to start strong with our live events when the regulations allow, and make sure the FCC remains a place where all viewpoints are heard and speakers from across the political spectrum are invited and welcomed. I want to see us liaise with other regional press clubs when appropriate, and to make sure we continue to speak out in a responsible manner when journalists' freedoms are threatened.

I'm glad to see a good mix of returning candidates and some new faces running for the Board of Governors, so we will have just the right combination of fresh perspectives and experience.

I want to give a special thanks to Correspondent Governor Hannamiina Tanninen for agreeing to step up and run with me as Vice-President. Many of you know Hannamiina as an active member of the F & B committee, a Board member these past few months, or from her regular "office" perch in the back of the main bar most days. I hope you give her the same support you've shown me.

I also want to make sure I pave the pathway for the next generation of Board Members and future Presidents, to have some continuity at the top and ensure the Club stays in steady hands for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support. And please remember to vote — we need a strong turnout!

About me;

I was a summer intern at The Washington Post in 1978 and '79, and joined full-time in 1980, I stayed with the Post for the next 33 years in a variety of jobs, but mostly as a foreign correspondent and Bureau Chief in Southeast Asia, Nairobi, Hong Kong, Paris, Beijing and Shanghai. I did a stint as Foreign Editor and then New York City Bureau Chief. In 1997 I wrote a book about covering Africa that is dying for an update. I was Club President in 1997 during the Handover Year. I now run the journalism department at HKU, continue to freelance, and am overdue on the next book.