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



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When I arrived in Hong Kong almost eleven years ago to study, my original plan was to stay for three years. Like many of you, I quickly fell in love with the city, and when my programme finished and the time came I didn't want to leave. After graduation, I began work as a foreign correspondent for a small Finnish newsroom. My first assignment was to cover the 2014 protests. I was in way over my head and had to learn the job on the go.

I finally joined the FCC in 2016 and the club quickly became a central part of my life in Hong Kong. I met with sources over lunch. I listened to interesting panels in our lunch seminars. I stressed over deadlines at the bar. And I probably see our wonderful staff more often than my own family. My fellow club members have become my friends and provided me with a professional community I would otherwise lack given my solitary post so many kilometers from home.

Having benefited so much from the club over the past five years, I now want to give back in whatever way I can. While the FCC's history and traditions are a central part of its identity, I believe that it is in the club's best interest to better reflect the multinational nature of today's journalism. A diversity of views is critical to ensuring we continue attracting the top-quality membership and speakers; as VP I would be committed to keeping our doors open to the world.

This year has been challenging for the entire hospitality industry, and the FCC is no exception. Our Treasurer has kept a close eye on our finances, and management has done a terrific job at keeping things running. I want to do my part to further streamline our process and ready ourselves financially to minimize any unfortunately necessary decisions such as major budgetary cuts.

Ultimately, preserving the FCC means preserving the sense of home that we all share. Following a challenging year, I would like to organize more events to reinstall the sense of community that has been lost in a year of zoom calls and plexiglass. Bringing back the annual gala dinner would be a good first step; organizing holiday lunches would be another. My hope is that everyone can feel, like me, that this space is truly their home away from home.

The picture above is from 2018, when I celebrated my Master's degree graduation at the FCC bar.

I am kindly asking you to elect me as the 1st Vice President of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong, the best press club in the world.