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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Associate Member Governor
Board of Governors 2016-2017**



Elaine PICKERING

Affiliation: Vision 2047 Foundation

This is a time in the life of the Club when there are a number of important financial decisions to be made and refurbishment projects to be executed. As I have been involved in the assessment phases, I hope to continue to better understand members' needs and ideas as we get into the planning and execution stages of what will be a period of change. Drawing on my 28 years of HK-based business experience, including working with not-for-profit organisations, I am committed to getting matters executed in a way that will, overall, serve the best interests of members and staff, as well as keep the Club financially solid.

I consider the FCC to be one of the most distinguished and important clubs in Hong Kong. I am a strong proponent that we remain, above all, a meeting place for those who care about thoughtful analysis of local and global issues and who support journalistic endeavours in a rapidly changing environment. At the same time, I recognise the value of the meeting of many minds, whatever a member's occupation.

The Club is a terrific dining and watering hole, but it is also a place that takes a stand to uphold freedom of speech, and the safety of journalists in the line of duty, recognises those who highlight human rights abuses and supports thoughtful, open dialogue on topical issues. I commit that my contribution, if elected, will be to continue to uphold and strengthen these vital endeavours.

I am a strong advocate for the establishment of an FCC charitable foundation. After much consideration, this initiative is now gathering speed and I am assisting in its launch. A growing number of members have expressed a willingness to support charitable activities were the Club to have a vehicle through which they could contribute; we hope the forthcoming Foundation will provide for this.

Background

I have been an active member of the FCC for 15 years and have served on the Finance Committee for the past three years. Following a resignation, I was asked to join the Board of Governors in January 2016. I have since joined the Membership Committee and contributed to several other Committees as part of my Governor commitments. Serving these past months, I have been impressed by the dedication of time and effort Board members give to the activities and functioning of the Club. I believe during the upcoming period it is important to have continuity of service on the Board to see

through the various initiatives and, now, having had some experience, I hope I will be able to do so, with your endorsement.

During my time on the Finance Committee we have assessed how to better utilise resources in order to make savings and have reviewed and revised some member benefits that are no longer financially viable. We have also had to task ourselves with observing a higher level of corporate governance in line with evolving standards. We now need to assess the suggestions made by members at our recent Town Hall meeting, as well as work through the unavoidable financial challenges and to ensure our vital facility up-grade proceeds as cost-effectively and as smoothly as possible.

Professionally, I run forums that focus on international, regional and local affairs. This brings me into contact with numerous respected, globally recognised interlocutors. Where I can, I introduce relevant speakers to the Club and bring such visitors to mingle here. This, I believe, adds to the richness of the interactions we enjoy. The Professional Committee is hoping to introduce a discussion series that creates more in-depth debate around topical issues and I am committed to supporting this activity.