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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Journalist Member Governor
Board of Governors 2023-2024**

Aaron BUSCH

Affiliation: @tripperhead



Dear Members,

I am writing to express my candidacy for the position of Journalist Governor at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong.

I returned to journalism during the pandemic in Hong Kong via social media, and I have seen firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing the city's media industry. I am passionate about journalism and its role in the “new normal” of Hong Kong.

In 2022 I became the FCCHK’s first social media journalist member.

I believe that the FCCHK has a vital role to play in supporting the work of journalists here, and I am committed to using my skills and experience to help the club achieve its mission.

If elected, I will focus on the following priorities:

- Protecting press freedom: I will work to ensure that the FCCHK remains a safe space for journalists to gather, report, and debate.
- Supporting the development of young journalists: I will work to support the development of young journalists in Hong Kong, through training, mentorship, and networking opportunities.
- Promoting the role of journalism in society: I will work to raise awareness of the importance of journalism and its role in a free and democratic society. I will also work to build bridges between the media and the public.
- I am also committed to promoting social media journalism as the newest form of news dissemination. Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook have revolutionized the way we consume news, and I believe that they have the potential to be a powerful tool for journalists. I will work to support the development of social media journalism in Hong Kong, and I will advocate for the use of social media platforms to share accurate and reliable information.

Having been a panellist last year during the pandemic, I’ve seen first-hand how important activities at the FCC are. I also featured in the first FCC Podcast, hosted by one of this year’s Hollingworth Fellowship awardees, an important program for new journalists in Hong Kong.

I am confident that I have the skills and experience to be an effective Journalist Governor at the FCCHK. I am a strong advocate for press freedom, and I am committed to supporting the work of journalists in Hong Kong. I would be honoured to have your vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bio: Aaron Busch studied journalism at Curtin University, Western Australia before embarking on a career in radio journalism, print, and finally radio announcing. Before the pandemic Aaron was a stay-at-home dad, moving from Australia to Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and eventually Hong Kong in 2014 following his wife's work commitments.

Aaron currently runs one twitter account for Hong Kong news @tripperhead with 45k followers, and nightly Substack newsletter with over 1,000 followers.

Outside of being a social media journalist, Aaron is the in-house commentator for Kowloon Cricket Club, and freelance cricket commentator for Cricket HK. He is currently featured in a book on media reporting during the pandemic called "Pandemedia", a book of 42 essays written by journalists around Australia and the world. Aaron is also the twitter social media manager for Kowloon Cricket Club.

He was awarded the 2023 Australia Day Community Award from the Australian Consulate in Hong Kong.