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



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I felt very honoured to be nominated to run for the position of the Journalist Member Governor by George Chen and Ting Shi, both are my former teammates in the South China Morning Post.

My decision to join the FCC was made only earlier this year, after I bumped into a dozen SCMP alumnus in the club. I have not met some of them for years! It is very telling that the FCC is THE preferred meeting place for people in the news and media in Hong Kong, who always want a good chat with sources with a cup of good wine. I am also impressed with the place's atmosphere and the warm greetings by the staff.

The club has shown its uniqueness since I joined. I continue to meet lots of interesting people from different walks of life in the club's talks. There are many days when I gobble down coffee in the lounge to continue on tedious interview transcripts and writing of news analysis.

Despite being new, I ponder on what to do, if given an opportunity to serve and contribute to the place that has been part of our lives, long regarded as a key symbol of Hong Kong's status as a global city and its press freedom?

The answer probably lies in ways I can help to reconnect media friends here in Hong Kong with sources and experts in mainland China, after three years of strict Covid control and China and the United States rivalry resulting in many media people leaving the mainland. We should start to reconnect all the stakeholders in Hong Kong and rebuild the communication channels.

First of all, I believe it is of absolute importance that the club continues to defend press freedom in Hong Kong, while continuing to seek more dialogues with various authorities to clarify and push for bigger boundaries. The FCC's Press Freedom Committee has done a lot to guard the ground despite the heightened pressure and this shall continue as it affects not only the club, but every person in Hong Kong's media industry.

If elected, I also hope to start by joining the Professional Committee to bring some thought provoking talks leveraging my contacts in mainland and Hong Kong accumulated in the past two decades. While I am happy to share my personal views and experiences on China's politics with fellow members, I also hope to bring in some expert China observers to share their views on the latest on China, its competition with the United States and the future of the Greater Bay Areas and Hong Kong. Maybe, media friends, and myself, will get some quality stories out of them.

I also hope to explore possibilities to organise trips for interested members to cross the Shenzhen river together in the future and have a drink at China's silicon valley to listen to the locals talk about their challenges, struggles and dreams.

As a mentor for young journalists in SCMP, I do hope to see if the seniors in the press club can also organise some events for the students studying media and the younger reporters who just began on their career, sharing our experiences and ways to built contacts, to investigate leads, and to work out stories despite increasingly difficult environments.

About me:

I am now the senior correspondent of the SCMP's China desk, covering elite politics and policies in mainland China and Hong Kong.

Coincidentally, as a Singaporean, covering Hong Kong's handover in the rain was one of my first assignments when I began my career in 1997 with the Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), after graduating from the National University of Singapore.

I became the first batch of journalists tasked to pick up web 1.0 skills when the company kick started its online venture, building websites for The Straits Times and Lianhe Zaobao, its two flagship products. I was the online editor of Zaobao.com for over a decade, which soon gained popularity in mainland China with insightful reporting and analysis on greater China.

I moved to Hong Kong in 2013 and served as the Chief Editor of SCMPChinese.com for three years. Thanks to the wonderful team, we managed to cover many watershed events in Hong Kong and the mainland, growing millions of readers and social media fans. I returned to SCMP's China desk in 2018 after a two year break, enjoying everyday in the newsroom.