

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

Karen KOH

Affiliation: Freelance broadcast journalist

Hi fellow members, my name is Karen Koh, and I'm a freelance broadcast journalist. I've been an FCC member since 1995. This is my first time running for the board; I'm clearly a late bloomer.

I've always felt the club to be a welcoming hub for old and new friendships, friendly and occasionally not-so-friendly debates and an exchange of ideas. I have the interest, capacity and commitment to serve the club and the community, and maintain the FCC's reputation for being a place to meet for spirited and topical discussions, exhibitions, speakers, films, as well as have some great food and drink and just a fun place to relax.

While Hong Kong as we've known it has been through the wringer, for me it's still a fantastic place to live, work, and try new things with new people - it's that "can do" attitude that keeps many of us here, and I'm optimistic that the energy and hustle it's always had will continue to make it unique. The FCC has endured through so many uncertainties, and I'd love to be part of the team that keeps it strong and sustainable.

In my own work I strive to ask challenging questions and tell true stories of Hong Kong. I'm a general news junkie, and am particularly interested in gender and sexuality issues which affect us all, and giving a voice to minorities and the lesser known members of HK society.

I believe in nurturing and helping young journalists as they navigate their careers, and have guest lectured to journalism students at Baptist University, HKU's JMSC and Tsinghua university. I'd love to have more local journalists join the club.

These days I work in radio, and in a range of media and communication related areas with corporate, NGO and government clients, which gives me a broad view of the many issues individuals and organisations care about in Hong Kong.

Bio: I'm originally from Australia, and have worked in TV and radio current affairs and news since 1989. I started my career as a current affairs producer and reporter at SBC in Singapore. I moved to London in 1991 and was part of the startup presenter team at BBC World from 1991-93, before coming back to Asia with Asia Business News/CNBC Asia in Singapore and Hong Kong from 1993 - 2001 as anchor and HK bureau chief.

Since 2001 I've freelanced as a presenter, reporter and editor for CNNI, STAR TV, Thomson Reuters, and WSJ Digital. I also ran TV training courses for text journalists from Reuters and WSJ.

I joined RTHK Radio 3 in 2014 as a freelance presenter/producer, and have an award-winning show on gender, sex and sexuality called "The Agender Café". I also regularly co-host Radio 3's "Backchat" and "Brunch".

I produce and host live radio programmes and podcasts for corporate clients, and have been a speaker coach for TEDxTinHauWomen since 2018.

I'm a professional MC/moderator, and host/moderate events ranging from the HKTDC's Asian Financial Forum, MarketingPulse and Logistics, Maritime & Aviation Conference, to SOPA's Editorial Awards, The Women's Foundation Gala and private conferences for corporate clients.

I also design and run presentation skills and media training courses for clients across the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors. My clients are both HK-based and international organisations.

I currently serve on the board of directors of EngenderHealth, a Washington D.C. based NGO that works in global women's and girls sexual and reproductive health and rights.

I recently completed the FT's Effective Non-Executive Director programme and received their certification.

I'm also a certified yoga instructor and standup paddle (SUP) instructor. In the summers I put those two together to teach SUP yoga.

For fun, I love roller skating, playing drums, and all kinds of water sports. I'm married with 3 adult sons who were all born and raised in HK, and now work in the US.