

Bio & Policy Statement from A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor Board of Governors 2024-2025

William ZHENG Affiliation: SCMP



I felt very honoured to be nominated to run for the position of the Correspondent Member Governor by Lee Williamson and Jenniffer Jett.

No doubt, the past few years have been very challenging for the club and Hong Kong's media industry. But working with fellow members of the professional committee and hosting events for club members and younger journalists in the past few years has convinced me that our efforts in the club can still make a difference, to inspire the younger generation of reporters, and a wider audience from various walks of lives in the city and the world.

It was a heart-warming experience to join the club's workshops for young journalists as panellists sharing my two-decade experience covering China politics. In recent workshops, I met so many young, ambitious mavericks with an inquisitive spirit who are looking for ways to navigate the increasingly complex reporting environment.

No matter the result of this election, I will continue to work with the club's team to make FCC a wonderful platform for the experienced reporters to coach and pass on our skills and experiences to early-career journalists, helping to work out programs that are helpful to their personal and professional interests.

I would also continue to bring in more speakers for the club to share about their insights on geopolitical events and interesting films from my China contacts. The events that I hosted in the past year shows a great appetite for insightful views on China-related topics. I will try to leverage on my networks to reach out to Chinese speakers, especially those authoritative voices from the mainland, to share their views to the club members.

I am committed to enhancing the club's unique offering to our members, the media industry and the Hong Kong society as a whole, bringing more deep thoughts to the key institution which is long regarded as the symbol of Hong Kong's status as a global city and its press freedom.

About me:

Standing in heavy rain to cover Hong Kong's handover 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. 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.

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