

14

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



**Eric WISHART**

**Affiliation: Agence France-Presse**

After 14 years as a member of the FCC I believe it is time for me to increase my commitment to the club by standing for the board.

I currently serve as a co-opted member of the professional committee but I feel that there is much more I can contribute to the life of the club.

As a working journalist I believe that the FCC must remain a vibrant meeting place for the sharing of ideas, with journalism at its core.

For that reason it is important that the club remains affordable to media members, some of whom have suffered financially with the downturn in the traditional news business. The club must have a transparent and ongoing policy of seeking efficiencies wherever they can be made in order to ensure its financial future while maintaining standards and limiting the cost to members.

Although my main focus is journalism, I would bring to the board years of experience of management in a multi-cultural environment that has included responsibility for human resources, budgets and sales and marketing.

Through my work with AFP I am involved on a daily basis with the challenges that are facing journalists and the media, and these should be the subject of regular, organised discussion and debate at the club.

I am one of the organisers (with Neil Western and Natasha Khan) of the inaugural journalism conference to be held at the club on April 23.

The journalism conference should serve as the starting point for regular panels and workshops on the kinds of issues that are facing our C & J members – safety, including covering street protests in Hong Kong, cyber-security, journalism ethics and using social media, to name just a few. I would be more than willing to take on the responsibility of organising them in liaison with the other board members and the club management.

On a professional committee level, we should try to attract high profile media figures more regularly to speak at our club lunches.

One look around the bar at lunchtime or in the evening is enough to see that the club is facing a demographic time bomb, and our discount membership schemes seem to have had limited results in bringing in a new, younger generation of C & J members on a sustained basis. There are financial and cultural reasons why we seem to come up short in attracting young journalists as members, and dealing with this demographic challenge should be one of the main priorities of the new board.

In addition to my day job, I have been teaching journalism at Baptist University.

Not only has this given me an appreciation of the stresses and challenges facing the next generation of journalists, but it has also brought home the importance to the FCC of developing relations with the journalism schools in Hong Kong.

I am a strong defender of media freedom and believe that the FCC must continue to uphold these values in the face of increasing pressure on media in Hong Kong in particular and the world in general.

If you have any questions regarding these points please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

[ericwishart8@gmail.com](mailto:ericwishart8@gmail.com)

+ 852 9380 0680

Background –

I started my career back in the '70s as a reporter in Scottish newspapers and joined AFP in Paris 1984.

Since then I've been head of the Middle East English service (Nicosia, 1992-1996), Asia-Pacific editor (Hong Kong, 1996-1999), global editor in chief (Paris, 1999-2005) and Asia-Pacific director (2005-2012).

I currently work on special projects for the news management and have just drawn up new ethical and sourcing guidelines for the agency.

I have a particular interest in journalist training, and I lecture part-time at Hong Kong Baptist University.

I have British and Irish nationalities and am a Hong Kong permanent resident.