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



Simon PRITCHARD
Affiliation: Gavekal Research

I am one for modernizing and improving our great club so that we move with times and stay relevant in a changing media environment.

I have served two terms on the board and am hopefully in that sweet spot of having figured out how the place works, without getting too comfortable at the table. My focus over the last two years has been to upgrade the FCC's governance so that we are fit for purpose as a leading press club. As Club Secretary I have been heavily involved in overhauling our articles of association, reforming the silver membership scheme and seeking a better governance structure for the club's charity activities. As a Membership Committee convener I have pushed our diversity agenda, in particular encouraging more female members—a key necessity given the club's acute gender imbalance.

In the coming year I will devote particular energy to overhauling those dining facilities which need a refresh. This especially applies to the Main Dining Room which has become tired and under-utilized. I recently organized the online restaurant and dining survey which will help in choosing a new look and feel. The next order of business should be a revamp of Berts, which like the MDR is under used. Such an upgrade is necessary to keep the FCC relevant in a city that offers ever more varied dining and entertainment options. It is also in our financial interest to make our venues successful so that we can increase revenue, and limit future fee increases.

Most of my Hong Kong experience has been spent working as a journalist at outlets such as the SCMP and Bloomberg News. Now, as the research director at an independent macro-economic research firm that sends daily commentary and analysis to 15,000 readers, I operate in a related sector. I believe this experience equips me to represent the interests of FCC associate members, while at the same time appreciating the challenges and needs of journalists.