### Candidates of Directors from Regular Members (Vote for up to eight)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
<th>Nominated by</th>
<th>Seconded by</th>
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<tr>
<td>Khaldon Azhari, PanOrient News</td>
<td>Robert Whiting</td>
<td>Andrew Horvat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pio d’Emilia, SKY TG 24</td>
<td>Ilgin Yorulmaz</td>
<td>Andy Sharp</td>
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<td>Monzurul Huq, Daily Prothom Alo</td>
<td>Suvendrini Kakuchi</td>
<td>Andrew Horvat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter O’Connor, Musashino University/Freelance</td>
<td>Monzurul Huq</td>
<td>Andrew Horvat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabel Reynolds, Bloomberg</td>
<td>Linda Sieg</td>
<td>Pio d’Emilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Rowley, South China Morning Post / Asia Asset Management Magazine</td>
<td>Roger Schreffler</td>
<td>Abigail Leonard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Sharp, Nikkei Asian Review</td>
<td>Isabel Reynolds</td>
<td>David McNeill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Sim, The Straits Times</td>
<td>Andy Sharp</td>
<td>David McNeill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Sloan, Freelance</td>
<td>Khaldon Azhari</td>
<td>Julian Ryall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ilgin Yorulmaz, Freelance journalist / Japan correspondent for BBC World Service Turkish</td>
<td>Motoko Rich</td>
<td>Andy Sharp</td>
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### Candidates of Directors from Associate and Professional/Journalist Associate Members (Vote for up to four)

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<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mehdi Bassiri, O.B.M. Co., Ltd.</td>
<td>Stephen Church</td>
<td>Michihiro Kawahara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Corbett, Cresner Media</td>
<td>Yuusuke Wada</td>
<td>Andrew Kershaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Farrell, Custom Media K.K.</td>
<td>Christopher Jones</td>
<td>Mary Corbett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milton Isa, Isa &amp; Partners Co., Ltd.</td>
<td>Yuusuke Wada</td>
<td>Keiko Packard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akihiko Tanabe, Framer Framer, Inc.</td>
<td>Nagomi Koike</td>
<td>Michihiro Kawahara</td>
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<tr>
<td>David M. Umeda, Far East Reporters, Inc.</td>
<td>George Pokrovsky</td>
<td>Masa Hirukawa</td>
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### Candidates of Kanji from Regular Members (Vote for one)

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<tr>
<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Clark, Freelance</td>
<td>Pio d’Emilia</td>
<td>Robert Whiting</td>
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### Candidates of Kanji from Associate and Professional/Journalist Associate Members (Vote for one)

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<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicki L. Beyer, Freelance travel writer</td>
<td>Bob Kirschbaum</td>
<td>Mehdi Bassiri</td>
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Robert Whiting, Chair
Haruko Watanabe, Member, Andrew Horvat, Member
Setsuya Kobayashi, Associate Member, Election Committee
**Candidate for the FCCJ Election 2020**

**Khaldon Azhari**

President/ PanOrient News  
Senior Correspondent/ Arab News Japan  
Bureau Chief/ WAM (UAE News Agency)

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**2020 Election Message:**

I was elected President in November 2020 by the board to lead the club for the remainder of the term after the previous president resigned. In that time, the board was told the FCCJ was then in a severe financial situation. So severe in fact, that there was an effort by some members to liquidate the club and apply for insolvency. And this is exactly what I was advised to do in my day one as a President: to begin preparations with club lawyers for insolvency. I rejected that and did everything I could to stabilize our finances, making tough choices to avoid the alternative that would have been the end of the FCCJ as we know it.

This is why, after thinking carefully, I decided to seek another term as a board member to serve with other like-minded members as I feel our mission is still in the middle of the road. With the crucial help of my board, we have succeeded in stabilizing the situation, but we might now face the same renewed threat that I believe will spell out the end of the club. It seems some members, including those who pushed for insolvency, seek to move forward with this plan in hopes of remaking the FCCJ. Yes, we can open a new club and call it the FCCJ, but it will not be the FCCJ we know and its survival is anybody's guess. I fought hard to avoid this fate and will continue that with your help. I strongly believe in the FCCJ mission to defend the free press and continue its role as the place to be in for best reporting aided by sophisticated news and information gathering infrastructure, dedicated staff, and highly qualified members, including the Associates that provide important sources for journalists.

I would greatly appreciate your vote. Please contact me if you have any question. Thank you for your attention.

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**Current Media Affiliations:**

- **PanOrient News:** (U.S.A based Media Corporation) President and Bureau chief (since 2006)  
- **Arab News:** Senior Correspondent (Saudi-based UAE Newspaper and wire) (since 2019)  
- **WAM** Bureau Chief (Abu Dhabi-based UAE News Agency) (since 2004)  
- **PETRA** (Amman-Jordan based News Agency): Correspondent since 1996  
- **BBC TV and Radio, Arabic Service:** (London based), contributor (since 1994)  
  -- Former Correspondent/Contributor for various Middle East and Arabic Media (since 1990)

**MEDIA Memberships**

- FPIJ (Foreign Press in Japan- past Board member- TV Pool  
- MOFA Press ID holder: Since 1997 and holding a Journalist Visa to Japan (since 1998)

**FCCJ Service and experience since 1998**

- President: September 2016 to July 2018, and from November 2019 till now  
- 1st Vice President (3 years)  
- Editor of No.1 Shimbun (1 year)  
- Chair of these committees: LAW, Freedom of Press, Membership, HR, HP.  
- Member of these committees: PAC, F&B, SPC,  
- Moderated numerous press conference, luncheons, dinners and events.
Director Candidate for the Election 2020

Pio d’Emilia  
Correspondent, SKY TG 24

LET’S MAKE FCCJ GREAT AGAIN

Exactly ten years have passed since I last served, as Vice President, on the Board. At that time two major issues were at stake: F&B operations outsourcing and “koeki shadan houjin” (public interest association) status. There were many pros and cons for each issue, and the debate lasted, with varied intensity and sometimes scarce transparency, for a few years, until a controversial GMM decision ended the debate. At that time I was among the very few who opposed both FB outsourcing and the Koeliki Shadan Houjin status. I am sure many members have since changed their minds and today would vote differently.

But all this belongs to the past. If elected, along with colleagues who have a similar vision for the future of the FCCJ, I will certainly not waste time trying to dig up the past. FCCJ needs immediate and swift action on many issues. We can and must find a sustainable solution to fix our finances and relaunch our indispensable role in reporting – and making – news. Regardless who will get elected in the new Board, it would be nice and useful to be able to talk to one another civilly again, making our often deserted bar a place to meet among friends and members again.

I am very pleased that after so many years of “social distancing” from the Club, many young and capable colleagues who work every day in the field, have decided to run for the Board. But you need also people who know how the Board works. If elected I will bring my experience (8 years in total) and hopefully help in running the meetings and make sure that we do not waste time over trivial issues and keep monthly meetings as short and productive as possible, as it often happened in the past.

As with other candidates, I share the idea of giving more management responsibility to our Associates, among whom there are many capable and responsible professionals, allowing regular members to focus on media-related aspects of the club, such as PAC and Freedom of the Press. I will also try to reinstate total transparency and free access to Club documents, including Board meetings records and financial reports, as provided by the Shadan Hojin Law and by our own bylaws. But that has somehow being discontinued in recent years.

For those who don’t know me, I am a 66-year-old Italian with 5 splendid (grown up) kids. I am fluent in 5 languages, including Japanese, and have been “disturbing” the perceived Japanese wa for four decades — first as a criminal lawyer and then as a journalist. I have covered most of the recent breaking news in Japan and neighboring countries, including North Korea, which I had the privilege to visit several times. After working for several newspapers and magazines, from 2004 I switched to TV and I am now full time East Asia Correspondent for SKY TG24, an all-news channel based in Milan.

My favorite memory in Japan was teaming up with then FCCJ President Jurek Martin to play tennis (and beat them 6:3) with Emperor Akihito, while he was still Crown Prince, and his Great Chamberlain in the early 1980s. These are the type of events that made the FCCJ great, and we should try to bring them back.

Here a couple of links related to my recent reports in Japan, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan and DPRK. Thank you for your attention and hopefully, support

https://video.sky.it/news/mondo/video/taiwansecondo-mandato-per-la-presidente-tsai-ing-wen-566994  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hWyte8cTe0
Monzurul Huq
Tokyo Bureau Chief
Prothom Alo

Since joining our Club nearly twenty years ago, I have found much to celebrate and witnessed a great many extremely difficult situations. The high points are memorable, but the lows remain unforgettable because we overcame them. Because our common purpose as Club members meant that we were able to achieve the impossible, time and again, and help the FCCJ not only survive but to thrive as a social hub for media people both hunting out the news and finding congeniality, good food and glad friendship.

In the past, our Club has never suffered any shortage of speakers coming to give us their side of a story in the news, or of fellow journalists eager to hear the other side of an event. Lives were changed, panics halted, clarity brought to bear on confusion and uncertainty by a terrific range of gifted, idiosyncratic speakers. We held social and cultural events that were sheer fun. Regional nights, national gatherings, terrific film shows – some of Japan’s greatest ever movies held riveting premieres before our less than luxuriously seated membership because their makers knew their work would be received with all the understanding and discrimination it deserved. Add to this the sheer enjoyment of terrific performers at our Saturday Nite Live events. All of these elements brought to our Club a special combination of delights: both the high tension and vibrancy of a critical world news hub, and the comfort of a home from home, a place to relax, work and enjoy wonderful professional friendships.

It’s hard to say when the Club began to lose this precious quality. Did it begin with the move or was it in the air before we left the Yurakucho Denki Building? The new location is certainly not lacking in pomp and circumstance. The entrance is impressive in the extreme. And yet, as all of us know, this external glitter has cost the Club most of its most essential and valuable resources and created a situation where some are openly questioning the validity of our raison d’être, our very identity as a press club.

At the same time, our declining membership tells us all that if we fail to take essential steps to reverse our downward trend in numbers, our survival might be threatened by even fiercer questioning. We cannot shrink any further the scope of the media activities that have made our Club a home from home for both domestic and international media professionals. We cannot deprive cherished membership of our Club, the gathering place that they have taken so much to heart over so many exciting years and convivial evenings.

If elected, I shall aim to work with all groups and interests towards a desirable and acceptable solution to our current difficulties. Next November will mark our Club’s 75th year. My sole aim will be to return the Club to both the vital media role and to the wonderful congeniality that I know can still be regained and enjoyed. My plea to all members, all of whom have considerable abilities and personal gifts, Let us put our hands together in harmony and revive our Club’s fortunes. Twenty-five years from now, when the Club celebrates its centenary, let us stand proud in the eyes of posterity. I ask that every one of you stands and works with me to regain the best that our Club is capable of: not only to inform but to illuminate and educate our many readerships. I believe that we can both regain our original strength and our core purpose as one of the world’s great press clubs – and have a lot of fun while we’re at it.
Having served your Club as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee since joining in January 2013, and as a Regular Member since May 2017, I think I know what brings Members to the Club, what keeps them coming, and what frustrates them or even makes them resign.

Returning your Club to financial health, improving your dining experience, publishing and – full disclosure – editing a Club magazine you all want to read: few would dismiss such ambitions. But that in itself does not mean we have a consensus, because we all read these things differently. To most members, being around ¥80,000,000 down on our financial reserves is a crisis. To others it’s either a walk in the park or a pit-stop on the road to bankruptcy which, some might argue, settles our debts so we can start again with a more pragmatic remit: a press club in name only.

To some, a readable magazine means just that. To others, No.1 Shimbun constitutes the flagship for the integrity of the Club and the freedom of the press in Japan. To others still, good food served by familiar staff from a distinctive Club menu matters just as much. It’s not a sign of weakness to fight for all of these criteria: they’re all driven by your commitment to your Club. But what should not be open to question is the FCCJ’s identity as a press club, because without that we are just another dining club.

People - staff as much as members - make your Club. But as your Club comes up to its 75th anniversary in November, we are approaching a wobbly combination of venerability – the average age of our Membership is a decade short of the age of our Club – and vulnerability.

Buildings and institutions that stand for a century become part of the social landscape. They’re a lot less vulnerable than younger set-ups. No question, our Club is a venerable institution and one of the world’s greatest press clubs. But, coming up to 75, it isn’t quite sturdy enough to resist the wrecking ball. If our PAC events are the talk of the town but our hamburgers are set aside at first bite, if our Book Breaks only attract mediocrities (I’ve done one myself) and barely break even, if we attract a government Minister and we can’t even manage a continuous live stream of his PAC event, and if we can’t even throw great parties, then we may not make it to our centenary, because the world will stop watching and you, the members, will continue to leave your Club.

As a would-be Director of the Board, and newly appointed Editor of No.1 Shimbun, my mission is not only to talk about the Club fulfilling its raison d’être as a press club, with PAC events that keep firing on all cylinders against all the odds, but helping to make that happen by editing the best journalism your Club can write, starting with the August edition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War. And, finally, working to organize an F&B operation that serves a distinctive Club menu at a fair price in a dining area that feels like a home from home.

But be under no illusions: your Club is vulnerable. It’s time to regroup, get together, invest in the essentials that make us a functioning press club, and attract and welcome new members. If you’ll accept my candidacy for the Board, I will do whatever it takes to make your Club thrive again.
I’m a long-time member of the FCCJ, and would now like to get more closely involved so that I can give something back to an institution that’s provided us all with so many fascinating opportunities over the years.

Since I’ve never been a board member before, I will be starting with an open mind about the way it is run. But what I want to aim for is a transparent, inclusive atmosphere that makes the Club attractive to professional members from the media as well as associates from other walks of life.

I also agree with the idea that associate members could take more control over the hospitality aspects of the Club, enabling journalist members of the board to focus on organizing compelling events that raise our profile and keep us ahead of the news.

I’m currently a reporter with Bloomberg, where I focus mainly on politics and diplomacy. My career as a journalist started more than 25 years ago, when I started work for a Japanese television company in London. I moved to Tokyo in 1998, where I wrote features for the Daily Yomiuri before switching to Reuters, where I worked for more than a decade. On a more light-hearted note, I promise to buy a beer for the first person to spot the reference to me in John Bolton’s memoir.
The FCCJ has survived the Covid-19 pandemic (so far) without closing its doors - a tribute to the balanced approach taken by the Board of Directors toward the need to maintain the club's services at least at a minimum level while taking prudent steps to avoid infections. It is also a tribute to those (FCCJ staff members and outsourced-service providers who continued to work in quite difficult circumstances.

Unfortunately, the fact that the FCCJ has been able to "keep the lights burning" through (what we hope were) the darkest days of the pandemic does not guarantee the club's future survival. There are many challenges, financial and otherwise, to our continued survival and the next Board will need to very focused and to identify priorities to deal with these challenges.

As a former President, First Vice President and Director of the club I see as a high priority the need to generate more revenues so that we can keep our heads above water financially and build reserves for the future. We have moved to new premises which are certainly "smart" (if not perhaps as "homely" as the Yurakucho Denki Building) but we have not adjusted our lifestyle to this new reality.

The new Fuji Building is at the centre of the Marunouchi business district and adjacent to Hibiya and Ohtemachi - all areas of bustling financial and commercial activity. As such, we are wonderfully well positioned to tap into demand for revenue-generating financial and economic events and activities that appeal to our Associate as well as our Regular members.

I believe we need a wholly new approach to professional activities - one that combines our mission as a journalists' association and a place "where the news is made" with an emphasis on covering developments of an economic, financial and professional nature in and beyond Japan.

A comprehensive menu of breakfast meetings, lunches, professional dinners and a wide array of briefings would appeal to the business community in which we are situated and entrance fees could be pitched at levels the market can stand while preserving concessional access for journalists. Revenues from F&B services associated with these activities could also supplement the FCCJ's earnings.

In my view, this is a more attractive approach to boosting our finances than over-reliance upon new member initiation fees and upon donations, both of which have fallen well short of targets and which are unlikely to increase dramatically in the present environment. We need to be more imaginative in "earning our keep," especially in our smart and costly new accommodation.

As a journalist with very long experience covering mainly economic and financial events in Asia and internationally, I have built up a wide range of high level contacts in these areas and am willing and able to contribute to organising events which I believe will have broad appeal to interests across the FCCJ membership spectrum.

I am a former Business Editor and International Finance Editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review, former European Business Correspondent of The Times in London, former Tokyo Correspondent of the Singapore Business Times and now a regular columnist for the South China Morning Post as well as Japan Correspondent of Asia Asset Management magazine. I am also a former Field Editor (Japan) of Oxford Analytica and the author of various books on economy and finance.

I realise of course that our focus at the FCCJ needs to be much wider than economy and finance and I would like to pay tribute to the innovative role that the Professional Activities Committee has played in applying digital technologies to keeping our coverage of social, political and diplomatic events going during the pandemic.

However, while the acceleration of the digital revolution in communications triggered by Covid 19 has been dramatic we must not allow this to dilute our emphasis on "personal" participation in events (once the Covid abates) so far as speakers and audiences are concerned.

A club is - or should be - all about "getting together" professionally and socially. And, as I said, we badly need to generate fee income plus food and beverage revenues from personal attendance at club events. I respectfully ask for your vote so that I may contribute to debate and action on the FCCJ Board on the basis of long experience. Thank you.
The FCCJ is a venerable institution treasured by its members. The club has served to promote press freedom, hold authority to account and break news stories since its formation amid the ashes of World War II. But it now faces a battle for its very existence. We need to put aside past miscalculations and animosities and bring all the club's functions together so we can get our finances back on track and attract a new generation of members -- both journalists and associates. Above all, we need to become a broader church that is more attractive to women and members from all backgrounds.

To achieve this, we need fresh thinking. We need a new, more diverse, board that embraces the business experience of our associate members and get them more involved in the running of the club. A capable general manager should be hired to implement their decisions. Rather than cutting costs to stay afloat, we should be innovative and ambitious. Journalists rarely make good managers, so we should allow our rich vein of reporting talent to focus on journalistic matters such as the Professional Activities Committee [PAC] and the Freedom of the Press committee.

For those of you who don't know me, I've been a club member since 2007, and have served for many years on PAC, including a stint as co-chair. I was also briefly editor of Number 1 Shimbun. Originally from Northern England, I first came to Japan in 1999, working in several industries before moving into journalism. I started my journalism career at The Daily Yomiuri, then spent seven years covering Japanese and Korean politics and economics at Bloomberg. I'm now a commissioning editor and writer, working with reporters across Asia, at the Nikkei Asian Review – a publication I believe is helping to change Japan’s media landscape.

By serving on the board, I hope to work with all of you to create a new post-coronavirus future in a happier, more harmonic FCCJ. Our mutual aim, I hope, is to help the Club continue to be a shining light for journalism in Japan for years to come.
With its rich history since its founding after World War II in 1945, the FCCJ has for decades been a respectable institution where news is made by prominent movers and shakers. The Club has been instrumental in safeguarding press freedom even as this comes under siege both domestically and abroad, and has been a place that proudly upholds the very fundamental values of journalism.

But the FCCJ is now facing myriad challenges, notwithstanding the impact of the coronavirus as well as a fast-changing media landscape that seems to have caught the Club on the wrong foot. The current struggle for survival seems, more crucially, to be due to a series of decisions that, on 20/20 hindsight, may not have been for the best even if made with good intentions.

In recognition of these issues, I've decided to throw my hat into the election ring. I've been a member of the FCCJ since June 2016, when I moved to Tokyo to take on the role as Japan Correspondent for Singapore-based newspaper *The Straits Times*. I have been serving on the Professional Activities Committee (PAC) since last year.

I firmly believe the FCCJ Board needs fresh blood who can bring fresh ideas to break out of what seems to be a longstanding rut. The Club needs to be more than just hallowed hallways, but a place that can be a beacon for both traditional and emerging forms of journalism in Japan for years to come. To achieve this, it needs to get its finances back on track. It needs to grow its online presence. It needs even more programs that can grow its paying membership base, among many other things.

By serving on the board, I hope to work with everyone to build a warmer and more harmonious FCCJ for all.
Dear FCCJ Membership:

I am a candidate for Director, a position I served most recently in 2018-19, when we moved to our current premises. The FCCJ has been part of my life for over 25 years, in which I have learned the myriad responsibilities of its leadership, and the dedicated people working for the Club. I became President in our 60th year looking to promote activities with value for all members. I remain deeply proud of the Club’s achievements then - its speakers, events, and democratic approach to pricing, which lifted member utilization. In this challenging hour we must address the needs of membership professionally and personally, determine essential services and activities, as well as offer pricing that provides a return on FCCJ investment that is undeniable. I am a Lifetime Member of the FCCJ, but write a freelance column and features, and still feel the crucial importance of our Club. I am employed by the Communications Department of Nissan, and as I did when last on the Board will recuse myself from any matter with a potential for conflict of interest. My focus for the next Board are the following:

PAC - Despite better PAC speakers since the end of 2019, the overall caliber and news draw of those speaking at the Club since our move has been measurably weaker. PAC is essential to a healthy Club and we must migrate from a role as a media platform for those without press attention elsewhere and regain our role as Where the News is Made. We may have faced an unspoken government ban on speakers, but we miss easy and popular potential guests - the sports heroes, the CEOs, the visiting dignitaries or famous on Japan layovers. Digital advances may actually make it easier to host newsmakers and should be a cornerstone of our next year of operations; I commend efforts taken so far by PAC.

F&B - The Club’s price points and menu seem at complete odds with the demographic of financially-strapped journalists and Associates. To present our venue as a home of fine dining and dedicate space at the expense of other utility are a complete misread of membership needs. We must drop this pretense amid a raft of dining options nearby, and entertain other service options as this vibe and menu have been part of membership flight that we must correct.

MEMBERSHIP – Our numbers have not increased since the move but have continued to slide. The current fee structure for journalists, at least, does not merit the cost, unless the Club is used daily as a workplace. The Club must take unprecedented action, such as allowing media with recognized accreditation to use the FCCJ without dues under a prepaid chit system. Utilization could offset loss of dues and foster a more professional community.

IMAGE - The Club’s current non-profit business model is unsustainable, and needs to open to potential donations and endowments that can ensure good programs, people and prosperity continue. We must promote our historical significance and role as a way to cement our utility to stakeholders and the government. We missed opportunities to highlight the Club during the RWC 2019, the Imperial festivities, and moments when we left the Denki Building. We need to trumpet the Club’s events and exposure, and promote ourselves as a brand to associate with.

LEADERSHIP - Multiple Presidents, Directors and a departing General Manager as well as communication delays have undermined confidence in the FCCJ. I have seen factionalism grow over the last decade, and believe the Club status change in which a volunteer leader could be voted out as well as having former directors take legal action against our organization set the table for current dysfunction. We must redefine the Board’s purpose and voice, particularly in a time of crisis, and I hope to work with Board colleagues and you the Membership to return the Club to its full potential.
“Life and business are team sports,” one of my mentors once said. “Park your ego.”

Since I joined FCCJ two years ago, I have been involved in planning press briefings and had the chance to observe the way the Club is run overall. I have seen a fair share of the good (selfless volunteering and devotion); the bad (difficulty attracting the kind of people we need as members, hence our delicate finances); and the ugly (turf wars). I care about courage and getting things done more than egos and fame. So, I decided to put my hand under the stone, as we say in Turkish, and run for a Board position.

I strongly support a redefinition of our regular membership and propose a new and progressive membership program. This new program targets more associates and corporate members, and delegates to them more of the Club’s routine management tasks while keeping our journalistic integrity and ethics intact. I also welcome more women representation at all levels and would encourage you to make sure at least two candidates out of those you decide to vote for the Board today to be women. Following gentleman’s rules does not mean that we should be an exclusive gentleman’s club. In this day and age, we must not only hire more women, but we must also be sensitive to requests for teleworking and flexible work here at FCCJ. Thanks to my work at Temple University Japan as an adjunct professor of Journalism, I am also passionate about attracting especially young Japanese journalists and giving them a space to learn, work, and be trained in digital skills at FCCJ, which will in turn take the Club to the next level and make it relevant for the 21st century.

I promise you an ideal Board where everything is transparent and your feedback before critical issues not only welcome but actively sought; efficient without hours of procrastination and endless meetings; working in “reïwa” (harmony) but without bowing down to outside pressures; and where nobody is anybody’s proxy but instead serve you, the fee-paying member. I believe I have both the time and the energy.

I am originally from Turkey and have been a journalist for nearly two decades, half of which was spent studying and working in Japan at different levels. I freelance as the Asia correspondent for BBC World Service Turkish and also contribute to US digital outlets like The HuffPost on diversity, immigration, human rights, religion, and climate justice. I was a 2016 White House Correspondents Association Scholar at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and later became a Senior Fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii. I hold a B.A. in Business Administration from Turkey and a second Master’s degree in International Relations from Japan.
I am running for the FCCJ’s Board of Directors as an associate member. If elected, I promise to improve the quality and affordability of the club’s catering, including by potentially changing the entire food and beverage menu and pricing. I will also continue to make the club more financially sustainable.

I have been a committed and active club member since 2000. For the past six months I have served as the club’s treasurer and helped save it from financial insolvency by reducing costs and improving the transparency of expenses. As a result of my efforts, our club is now in a relatively comfortable financial situation.

If elected, one of my main priorities will be to raise the standard and affordability of the club’s food and beverages. This means either negotiating a more favorable contract with our current caterer, who has so far unfortunately not been able to satisfy the majority of our members, or replacing the caterer entirely.

Good food and wine at a reasonable price, in a financially secure and international club where all members, including associate members and journalists, can spend quality time together. This is my promise to you.

選挙公約 Mehdi Bassiri – Associate Director
* 美味なる食事とワインの提供
* クラブ経営の安全性と透明性
* より魅力的なインターナショナルクラブの実現

現在アソシエイト会員として FCCJ の理事を務めています。今期選挙において選ばれますなら、第 一にクラブの飲食の良質かつ無理のない価格への改善（すなわち現行の価格、メニューの改善）を約束します。同時に経営安定への前進を続けます。

2000 年以来クラブの多岐に渡る活動に深く関わって参り、ここ 6 ヶ月間財務理事としての超過債務を減らし、経理の使途の透明性を改善しました。この努力が前向きな安定状況を示しています。

ですから、当選の際には前途のクラブの飲食のレベルアップを最優先課題として現行ケイタリングループとの交渉、あるいはベターなグループへの移行を進めます。

最後に、このユニークな FCCJ の根幹をなす国際人、グローバルなジャーナリストたちとの興味ある会話を、良質安価を楽しめる場所となるための努力、邁進することを約束します。
Director
Candidate for the Election 2020

Name: Mary Corbett
Title: Producer
Affiliation: Cresner Media

Mary Corbett's Campaign Statement

In spite of the numerous challenges still facing us, the FCCJ was making clear progress this term to overturn many of the dire financial projections of the past 2 years. Then came the pandemic, and with it, a draconian lockdown, which put much of the club's normal functions on hold and presented Management with a new set of benchmarks for life in what is anybody's guess of the New Normal.

The immediate tasks are many, but already the Board, Management and Members have been collaborating with urgent focus on a new paradigm. It is clear we need to enhance membership services and value, to tap into both new and dormant revenue streams, to revisit all our relationships with vendors and partners to optimize their potential, significantly improve all channels of communication, reinforce governance, and reengineer a sound and robust infrastructure to pave the path to a future in which the FCCJ can remain the leading beacon of independence in the complex world of Asian media for many years to come.

As a recent returnee to Board duties, I have been deeply encouraged by the dedication of members and staff committed to the common goal of assuring the future of our beloved institution.

I hope to be given the chance to continue serving on the Board in this time of recovery and new potential as we prepare to celebrate the Club's 75th Anniversary this fall.

FCCJ にとって移転後の課題はいまだに残る中、創立 75 周年という記念すべき年に新型ウィルスがもたらした新たな難問を乗り越えるために会員とマネージメントが協力し実行しつつある新たなパラダイムには期待すべきポテンシャルを強く感じています。会員サービスに着目し、新規および眠っている収益源のフル活用、ベンダーおよびパートナーとのすべての関係を再検討し潜在能力を最適化、コミュニケーションのすべてのチャネルを大幅に改善し、ガバナンスを強化、健全で堅牢なインフラを再設計するなど、すぐ進められることは多くあります。FCCJ が今後も報道の自由と独立性を象徴する組織として繁栄できる未来を皆様と守っていきたいと思います。

この秋迎えるクラブ創立 75 周年に前に、回復と新たな可能性を目標に引き続き理事として勤める機会が与えられることを願っています。どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。
Name: Simon Farrell
Title: Publisher
Affiliation: Custom Media

The FCCJ helped me greatly when I first joined in 2005 and has since been an inspirational source of work, people, events, knowledge, fun and privilege. I’d be pleased to offer my experience, network and resources to give something back to this highly respected organisation.

I’m co-founder, publisher and editor-in-chief at Custom Media (2008~), which produces online and print magazines for the American (ACCJ), British (BCCJ) and Canadian (CCCJ) chambers of commerce in Japan, as well as business and lifestyle events, social media, marketing, videos, podcasts and websites for local and foreign companies entering or expanding in Japan and abroad.


My several years in Africa inspired me to co-write two travel guides: *South Africa Chic* (Didier Millet, 2nd edition, 2008) and *Getaway’s Top 10: 1,500 Southern Africa destinations* (Reader’s Digest, 2001).

I graduated with honours from the London School of Journalism in 1993 and I also hold qualifications from the Board Director Training Institute of Japan (2020); the Financial Times Non-Executive Director Programme (2019); and the Oxford Executive Leadership Programme at Saïd Business School (2020).

I served as lead organiser for the annual British Business Awards in Tokyo while on the BCCJ executive committee (2014-2017), and am currently a vice-chairman of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Japan (embassy liaison / events / communications); Executive Committee member and team mentor at the Japan Market Expansion Competition; voting member of the Culture, Community & Entertainment Committee at Tokyo American Club, and will join the executive board of Animal Refugee Kansai in July.

I hope whoever you choose to serve the FCCJ Board and membership is truly successful in this very challenging role at helping the Club continue to offer members, VIPs and guests unique, diverse and fresh events, insights, opportunities, memories, value and much more while adapting to the fast-developing media environment, digital landscape, membership profile, post-virus Japan, and global economy.
Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, I have lived in Tokyo since 1972. I have been working in the financial field for over forty years and I presently do consulting work as well as serve in an advisory capacity with several organizations including a non-profit organization. I have been a member of the FCCJ since the late 80's and have seen its good days and tough times and I feel my experiences will bring value to the FCCJ in this important critical period. I have on-the-job practical experience throughout my career in various positions at financial firms and joint venture companies on their board.

With State Street, I served as Managing Director responsible for Strategic Planning, Product Development, External Affairs and Corporate Communications; Was a Senior Vice President of State Street Bank & Trust Co., Boston and was later appointed President and CEO of State Street, Japan. Previous to that, I represented Permal Asset Management Japan where I was responsible for setting up their Representative Office. My experience in the financial business is both in sales and operations/administration being with Merrill Lynch for over twenty years. While at Merrill Lynch, my positions were Operations Manager, Financial Consultant, Sales Manager, Branch Office Manager and Regional Managing Director for Marketing and Sales. I have also had the experience to be an Investor Relations Officer for a NYSE listed company.

My educational background is quite varied: MA in Diplomacy from Norwich University; BA in Business Administration from Seattle University; and graduated from the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College. I am licensed by the National Association of Securities Dealers Association of the United States and the Japan Securities Dealers Association. I have lectured at Keio University School of Economics, Hitotsubashi Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy, Japan Self Defense Force Medical School, and also had been invited for four successive years to give a presentations to the U.S. National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces field study group visiting Japan sponsored by the Financial Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. I served two years on active duty with the US military during the Viet Nam War and served the rest of my thirty years as a reservist retiring as a Colonel. During my military career, I served as a company commander and on general staffs. At retirement, I commanded a Civil Affairs Detachment in Tokyo. I have previously served as Director of the FCCJ Board for five consecutive years, and with that experience I would like to again serve the FCCJ. Other FCCJ experiences are Chairman of the Associate Members Liaison Committee (AMLC), Food & Beverage, House & Property, and Exhibition committees. I am quite worried that the politics surrounding the club has become a problem and the sense of reality in the covenants and operations of the FCCJ needs to be restored.

My real reason why I want to serve as Director on the Board of the FCCJ is because the FCCJ is a wonderful organization that just needs to change with times because it is a new paradigm. By utilizing my various experiences in this very important transitional period, with the grand relocation of the club coming up in a few months, I am sure I can contribute to the club. My background experiences as the former Chairman of the Finance Committee at the Tokyo American Club would definitely bring the needed experience to the FCCJ when we are facing a grave financial situation that needs to be improved to properly retain the newly obtained Koeki Hojin Status. The relocation of the FCCJ in a few months would need a concerted effort by all and I am sure that with my experiences in moving facilities and premises while working with Merrill Lynch, Permal Asset Management and State Street would greatly benefit the FCCJ. I have hired over two hundred personnel in my career and would definitely want to help the human resources management of the club in the future. The Professional and Associate member's have different needs, but the ultimate objective is the long-term existence of the FCCJ. I definitely want to contribute to the FCCJ's board to make sound decisions that will impact our future existence. There is no stopping to bettering our club and I will need all of your votes to be elected as your board member.
Director
Candidate for the Election 2020

Name: Akihiko Tanabe
Title: Director
Affiliation: Framer Framer, Inc.

Our Club is situated in two overlapping spheres. In the first, it functions as a workplace and meeting place for foreign correspondents and other journalists in Japan. In its other sphere of operations, our Club is a gathering place for Associate Members from the worlds of business, the law, public relations, publishing, real estate and many other areas of commercial activity. These two spheres overlap, just as they do in the world at large, to the mutual benefit of all members, Regular and Associate.

Ideally, the benefits of Associate membership are -
1. To attend and participate in Press conferences on the major issues of the day, and enjoy a press lunch.
2. To partake of delicious Sunday brunch with family colleagues and friends.
3. To use the prestigious new space of the Club for private parties and meetings.
4. To belong to and take pride in a thriving, vibrant institution at the core of Japanese society for over 70 years.

Admittedly, some of these benefits have been weakened over the last few years. The sense of exclusiveness, of belonging, and of congeniality is not what it was and not what it could be. As a result, Associate Membership feels less of a privilege than it once did, and there are fewer Associate members than was once the case. I believe this fall in Associate numbers is largely due to a decline in the recreational quality of the Club. In short, the Club is less enjoyable than it once was. Associate Members want to have fun, meet friends, and enjoy their membership. My priority is to raise the recreational quality of the Club. I want the Club to be a place where Associate Members can relax and enjoy themselves.

If elected, I intend to put my twenty-plus years of Rotary club management and company director experience, and my extensive network of personal connections at the service of the Club, and especially the Associate Membership. I will commit to using all of my time as a Director towards not only rebuilding but enhancing the foundations of our Club as a place for Associates to enjoy and be proud to belong to. This is my mission.

理事立候補に当たり

FCCJ には大きく分けて、2 つの世界が存在している。一つは外国特派員の職場。一つは準会員の集う場です。準会員の特典は概ね以下の通りです。

① 報道記者会見（報道昼食会）に参加することが出来る。
② 歴史のあるサンデーブランチに参加できる。
③ プライベートパーティーや催すことが出来る。
④ 誇りと幸福感を持つことが出来る。

しかしこの特典がここ数年の間で失われている。言い換えるとこの特典が失われた結果、準会員が減少している。それは惣の場の質が低下していることが大きな要因です。私は準会員の資格で理事となり、準会員の惣の場所を取り戻したいと思いました。

20 年を超えるロータリークラブの運営知識と理事の経験、そしてその人脈を生かして 2020-2021 期に理事として実行をする決意です。

以下余白
記 田邊 明彦
I had the privilege to be the editor of the Number 1 Shimbun for the first two years when it became a magazine, working closely with present and past executives on the board, as well as seasoned journalists, many of whom remain close either personally and/or professionally. I am also honored to have been—and continue to be—on the mastheads of magazines that grace our lobby, both in the Denki Building and here at our Marunouchi residence. My involvement is more behind the scenes, yet I have come to personally benefit from how the Membership Office and Library staff continue to take pride in their work and in helping the membership and our guests. Even before becoming an Associate Journalist member, I had the pleasure to serve as a board member and then president of the Forum for Corporate Communications when we held our annual Advertising Contest Awards Dinner at the FCCJ, involving over 200 dinner guests. The level of service and personal attention to detail by everyone at the FCCJ defines what hospitality is all about in Tokyo. Finally, as a working editor since 1992, the availability of newsmakers for the luncheon press conferences at “affordable” prices and with “front-row seating” have made my job all the more relevant and my business leadership readership all the more informed and in tune. I want to be able to give back to the FCCJ as one of its directors.
I have been asked to submit an election statement for the position of kanji.

Since kanji are supposed to be neutral I have always felt their providing an election statement other than CV, is rather contradictory.

However, I will state here that I will look favorably on any move to remove those ghastly fish and chip shop tables from the main dining room and replace them with circular tables similar to those brought from the old Press Club for exclusive use of correspondents. That would also remove inequality in seating arrangements.

I would also look favourably on any move actively to encourage professional associate membership for qualified Japanese media persons. This is the only way the future of this Club can be assured.

I would also try to work for an end to the factionalism which also threatens the Club.

As a active Club member since 1969 who has held a variety of positions (including vice-president), whose writing interests include foreign affairs and economics, and who speaks five relevant languages, I would be honoured to serve as Kanji for this Club.

Gregory Clark
I am a dual national (Australia/USA) who has lived more than 30 years in Japan, including 2 years in Kumamoto in the early 1980s and 2 years as a Mombusho scholar at Aoyama Gakuin University in the late 1980s. I am admitted as a lawyer in the American state of Washington and worked for 17 years as an in-house lawyer for Morgan Stanley and Accenture in Tokyo specializing in Employment Law and Corporate Governance. During that time, I also served as an American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) Governor for four years and Vice President for another four years. I helped update its constitution and prepared board by-laws. My current full-time employment is as a Professor of Law at Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of Law Business Law Department, teaching in their Global Business Law program. In the late 1990s I ran Temple University’s Law School Program in Japan. During that time I co-authored a loose-leaf book entitled “Japanese International Taxation.”

Since 2008 I have also been engaged in free-lance travel writing and occasional commentary on Japanese culture and society. My publications include a guidebook on Kamakura, monthly travel articles for Japantoday.com, a weekly blog called jigsaw-japan.com, a series for Savvy Tokyo called “Ladies and the Law”, and others. I am currently reading an advance copy of Bill Emmott’s latest book, “Japan’s Far More Female Future,” preparing to write a review cum personal profile piece to coincide with the book’s release.

I am also currently a “Cool Ota-ku Ambassador”, a kind of community goodwill ambassador.

I have been a member of the FCCJ for six years and have enjoyed many of the club’s facilities and programs. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to many club members whom I would not otherwise know. I value the club for all that it has to offer. I feel it is time for me to give back by using my legal and community experience as club kanji.