

Director
Candidate for the 2023 Election



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"CLUB IN CRISIS:"
THE FCCJ FACES TWO EXISTENTIAL THREATS:

- > A CONTINUING DECLINE IN MEMBERSHIP
- > A PROBLEMATIC FINANCIAL SITUATION.

THERE ARE ALSO SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT AT THE CLUB.

WE NEED A GENERAL MANAGER WHO HAS BEEN TRAINED FOR THE JOB, TO PROPERLY COORDINATE ACTIVITIES AND DEPARTMENTS AT THE CLUB AND TO LIAISE EFFECTIVELY BETWEEN BOARD AND STAFF.

THE BOARD NEEDS TO BE MORE "TRANSPARENT" IN KEEPING THE MEMBERSHIP (ESPECIALLY THE VOTING REGULAR MEMBERSHIP) BETTER INFORMED OF ITS ACTIVITIES

FEWER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS AND OTHER JOURNALISTS MEET NOWADAYS IN A PROFESSIONAL OR SOCIAL CAPACITY AT THE FCCJ AND THIS HAS ERODED THE CLUB'S APPEAL AMONG ALL CATEGORIES OF MEMBER.

TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON "BRAND" RATHER THAN ON "CHARACTER." WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A KIND OF "CITY" CLUB OR SOCIAL CLUB. WE ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS

THIS IDENTITY URGENTLY NEEDS TO BE REINFORCED - FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PROFESSIONAL SOLIDARITY, ATTRACTING TOP QUALITY SPEAKERS AND ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS.

EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO GET MORE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS (OF ALL NATIONALITIES) TO JOIN OR TO MAKE GREATER USE OF THE CLUB AND TO BROADEN THE CATEGORIES OF REGULAR AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

INCREASED APPEAL TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WILL FLOW FROM PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS.

THE CLUB ATMOSPHERE HAS BECOME STERILE. THE MAN BAR IS VERY "UN BAR-LIKE." THE DECOR AND LAYOUT CAN BE IMPROVED WITH IMAGINATION AND WITHOUT GREAT EXPENSE.

WE NEED TO BRING F&B OPERATIONS BACK IN HOUSE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MORE FLEXIBLE CATERING ARRANGEMENTS AND OPENING HOURS.

THIS WOULD GIVE THE CLUB GREATER CONTROL OVER ITS OWN FINANCES. NOW IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO WHILE WE HAVE A TEAM IN PLACE

WE ARE IN A RACE AGAINST TIME TO MAKE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FCCJ - PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL - MORE APPEALING AGAIN, BEFORE DECLINING FINANCES OVERCOME THE CLUB'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE.

ALL OF THESE ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BUT PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO "RE-ENERGISING" THE CLUB IN ORDER TO ENSURE SURVIVAL OF THIS 78 YEARS OLD INSTITUTION, WHICH SOME MEMBERS HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO PRESERVING.

IF ELECTED, I WILL DO MY BEST TO PROMOTE SUCH CHANGE.

I AM A LIFE (REGULAR) MEMBER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE FCCJ AND HAVE BEEN AN ACTIVE CORRESPONDENT FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS AT THE TIMES NEWSPAPER OF LONDON, THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, THE SINGAPORE BUSINESS TIMES AND THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AS WELL AS OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
ANTHONY ROWLEY.