

**Director**  
**Candidate for the 2022 2nd Run-Off Election**



Name: Anthony Rowley

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Election Statement, Candidate for Director at Large, FCCJ.

The character of the FCCJ has changed quite dramatically in recent years and many of these changes have not been for the better - quite the opposite in fact. Membership has declined sharply and - critically - the image and "feel" of the club as a "community" of foreign correspondents and other media personnel has eroded.

Some people may feel that this is a matter of the FCCJ "moving with the times" but I believe it is more a reflection of misguided policy actions taken by certain Boards of Directors in recent years.

Some (although not all) of you will know what I am referring to - the decision to outsource FCCJ food and beverage operations; the decision to move from the Yurakucho Denki Building to our current premises, the decision to convert to Koueki Shadan Hojiin status and the rigid adherence to what is believed to by some to be the "letter of the law" where koueki is concerned. We have made a straitjacket for ourselves.

Club governance has become distanced from the membership and a feeling has grown up that we are governed by an executive elite rather than by the General Membership. We need to do something about this - to restore a sense of "ownership" by the members (with the responsibilities as well as privileges which this carries).

We need to restore regular meetings of regular members, and that can be done even within the Koueki format. We need to use these meetings to reinvigorate debate among members upon what kind of club they want the FCCJ to become (or revert to being). There is no monopoly of wisdom within any Board on these matters. If I am elected, I will strive to help make the FCCJ more "clublike" and help it to recover its identity.

Thank you for "listening"

For the record, I have been a journalist for some sixty years for The Times of London, the Far Eastern Economic Review in Hong Kong, the Singapore Business Times and now the South China Morning Post. I have been a member of the FCCJ since 1990 and have served as President as well as in other BoD positions.