

## Candidate Profiles for 2022/2023 Board Elections

### Karena BELIN

Whub

Co-Founder, CEO



Karena is Co-founder of WHub (startup platform, ecosystem accelerator, conference organizer w/ InvestHK), and AngelHub (first SFC licensed tech company investment platform). Immersed in the tech scene for a decade, she is member of think tanks and committees covering technology and startups in HK and internationally (AsiaBerlin Ambassador, Startup Committee CEDB, Innoprenneur FHKI, etc). Previously, she was Finance Group Manager at Procter&Gamble in Europe and Asia for 15 years.

She serves on the HKIS Board of Managers and HK Baptist University Advisory Committee. From Germany, (Diplom-Kaufmann University of Mannheim, diplôme de l'ESSEC, Paris), worked in US, France, and Japan, she calls HK home, together with her husband Francis and 3 daughters, having arrived 11 years ago.

She promotes HK's leading role in tech and innovation on a global scale, helping startups scale and connecting stakeholders to the ecosystem (talent, investors, corporates, universities, governments). She is looking forward to strengthen the exposure and connection of the German business community in this regard and has in the past actively supported GCC through workshops, contribution at APK, and inclusion in own events.

### Johannes HACK

DZ BANK AG Hong Kong Branch

General Manager, North Asia



Johannes Hack is General Manager North Asia for DZ BANK AG, Germany's second largest banking group. Out of Hong Kong Branch the Bank serves clients in China, Japan, South Korea and other North Asian countries with a focus on Trade & Export Finance and serving the needs of its corporate German client base.

In the Chamber, Johannes currently serves as President. Engaging with the HKSAR Government to mitigate the effects of the Dynamic Zero Covid policy and engaging with all stakeholders to recoup Hong Kong's reputation as a city open for business will be his goals going into 2023.

Johannes is also Co-Chair of the Sustainable Finance Working Group within the European Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Berlin, Johannes has lived in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. He's been with DZ BANK AG for nearly 15 years and was previously responsible for its Loan Syndications globally as well as Renewable Energy financings in Europe.

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### Markus HASSE-PRATJE

REWE Far East Ltd.

Managing Director



Educated in Germany, Markus professional experience covers purchasing, quality, sourcing and procurement in the retail industry. He held different positions in India and Turkey before moving to Hong Kong with his family in 2008.

Coming from a manufacturing and trading family background and by setting up the operations of Rewe Far East in 2012 with 4 offices as of today, Markus has gained significant entrepreneurial experience and knowledge.

Lobbying the interests and needs of the German and European business community with all relevant stakeholders in Hong Kong, the region and in Europe is high on his priority list. As member of the GCC Sourcing Committee and the amfori Quality Management Initiative, Markus is committed to engage and support further activities that will improve the working environment and opportunities for the German business community in Hong Kong.

### Dr. Ketan Joshi

BASF East Asia Regional Headquarters Ltd.

Senior Vice President, Petrochemicals Asia Pacific, BASF



Dr. Ketan Joshi has been a Hong Kong resident since 2014 along with his wife and two children and serves as Senior Vice President for the Petrochemicals business in Asia Pacific for BASF.

Raised in India, Ketan got his master's degree in Chemical engineering in the US after which he pursued doctoral studies at the ETH Zurich followed by his MBA in Mannheim, Germany.

Starting with BASF in 2006, Ketan held various management positions in R&D, Product Marketing, Corporate Strategy and Strategic Marketing in Germany as well as in Hong Kong. In his current position, he also serves on the board of a BASF-Sinopec JV in South China.

Having served on the board of GCC since April 2022, he continuously supports all activities of the GCC and enjoys being able to positively contribute to Hong Kong while promoting German business community.

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### Stefan KRACHT

Fiducia Management Consultants

Managing Director



As an existing board member, Stefan chairs the “Mittelstand” committee to further the interests of this uniquely German group. Especially during the challenging last few years, his monthly best-practice exchange has proven invaluable to members.

Stefan is able to draw from his 20+ year experience with Mittelstand clients, for whom he and his team of 120 specialists at FIDUCIA provide consulting and outsourcing services in Greater China since 40 years. FIDUCIA is also a proud founding member of the German Chamber HK.

Stefan understands the German community in HK from a personal perspective too, as he was born in HK and schooled at GSIS.

After working for Otto Group in Hamburg, Bain & Co in London and as an entrepreneur in Shanghai, he returned to HK in 2005.

### Bjoern LINDNER

Schwarz Asia Pacific Sourcing Ltd.

Managing Director



Bjoern originally moved to Hong Kong in 1996 and has been living here since 2009 with his wife and two children.

Educated in Germany, and having received an MBA from Warwick Business School (UK), Bjoern’s professional experience covers various industries such as trading, professional services, telecommunication and engineering.

Since joining the Board of Directors and during his terms as President, he continuously supports existing GCC committees and strives for an intense member participation in establishing new formats and interest groups.

The “Greater Bay Area” initiative and subsequent alignment and integration of the German business community remains his core focus.

Bjoern is Managing Director of Schwarz Asia Pacific Sourcing Limited, an independent sourcing and solution provider for the retail industry, and is part of the German headquartered Schwarz Group.

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### Günther RITTNER

TK Elevator Asia Pacific

Senior Advisor



Günther Rittner has been living and working in Hong Kong for 53 years, managing the regional activities and regional headquarters for several renowned German companies, such as BOSCH, Mannesmann AG and ThyssenKrupp AG, and now holds the position of Senior Advisor for TK Elevator Asia Pacific.

Günther has been a Founding Member of GCC and a member of the GCC board for many years. He has represented the Chamber on many occasions, such as high-level meetings with German and Hong Kong government officials and has served two terms as GCC Chairman, from 2006 to 2008, and from 2010 to 2012.

### Stefan SCHRATZ

ING Bank, Hong Kong Branch

Director



Stefan Schratz is based in Hong Kong since 2017 working with German, Swiss and Austrian corporate clients across 11 countries in Asia Pacific. With his team he supports the German business community by providing lending, trade finance, risk management and strategic advice across the region with a strong footprint in mainland China and enhanced focus on Southeast Asia.

Next to his engagement as OAV Young Leader, he acts as Sustainability Ambassador for ING, which allowed him to transfer knowledge and contribute to GCC's Sustainability Series.

Stefan is an existing board member of the German Chamber since 2019 supporting the German business community in Hong Kong and beyond.

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### Claus SCHUERMANN

Deloitte

Partner



Claus Schuermann is International Tax Partner of Deloitte China in Hong Kong. He is the Co-Leader of the Asia-Pacific International Core of Excellence (APICE) and heads the German Desk. He has over 25 years of experience advising international clients being based in Germany, Singapore, China and since 2009 in Hong Kong. He advises mainly on cross-border structuring, business model changes, Intellectual Property migration, M&A and market entry strategy.

Before joining Deloitte, he owned his own consulting firm in Hong Kong and therefore has personal experience of the needs of smaller entrepreneurs. He has been regularly supporting the German chamber and community with regard to current tax matters, especially supported with regard to the negotiations around a tax treaty between Germany and Hong Kong and currently advising on the impact of BEPS 2.0.

### Alexander SPITZY

Jebsen & Co Ltd.

Group COO



Born in Salzburg, Alex was educated in Austria and the United Kingdom. He holds a Business Administration diploma from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Alex started his professional career in 2008, managing large-scale energy projects (coal, gas, offshore wind) for the Germany municipal utility company Trianel GmbH.

In 2013, he joined the Jebsen & Jessen Group as Country Manager for Cambodia and in June 2016 he re-located to Myanmar as Managing Director of JJ-Pun, a joint venture between Jebsen & Jessen Group and Serge Pun Associates, a business that spans manufacturing, engineering, and distribution.

In 2019, Alex transferred to Jebsen Group in Hong Kong as Director of Special Projects and in May 2020 was appointed Chief Operating Officer.

Alex is married with three children.

I am happy on the one hand to share personal as well as professional experience of doing business in Hong Kong but on the other hand I am keen to jointly discover the exciting opportunities in Greater China as a whole, in particular what the GBA area has to offer to the German Community.



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### Alexander STEINKUHL

Vice President Asia

SellerX Asia Limited



I am 30 years old, born and raised close to Hamburg. In 2013 I arrived with the Dual Professional Training Program hosted by the GIC and GSIS.

After completing the program, I moved to Ho Chi Minh City, and subsequently to Ningbo. In both locations I built sourcing operations from ground up.

In 2019, I joined KW-Commerce as their first employee in Hong Kong where we built an Asia presence with close to 200 employees across Hong Kong and Dongguan. KW-Commerce merged in 2021 with SellerX, which became one of the fastest growing unicorns in Germany.

I met my amazing Korean wife here in Hong Kong and we have a son who is almost 3 years old.

Hong Kong has been through a rough couple of years. The perception of Hong Kong has deteriorated, and negatively influenced global talent's decision to choose Hong Kong. The GCC was for me the kick starter in Asia. Based on my own experience, I would love an opportunity to give back by building upon this great platform to attract talent further for the benefit of member companies.

### Bing YAN

Managing Director

Lufthansa Group Business Services Hongkong



Bing Yan is Managing Director of Lufthansa Group Business Services based in Hongkong, she is responsible for HR, Finance, Procurement and Compliance of Lufthansa Group in Asia Pacific. Educated in Shanghai and UK, Bing started her career with Lufthansa in Shanghai, responsible for corporate functions of the Group in China. Afterwards she spent some years in head office in Germany, working in various finance and accounting department. Early 2019 Bing came back to Asia, Hongkong and set up the group shared service company in Hongkong, implementing the transformation of shared service and established our regional office.

With her international background, Bing is passionate about travel and learning new culture. Mission of Lufthansa is to connect people, economy and culture in a sustainable way, with the nomination Bing wishes to bring more value to the German Chamber of Commerce to connect.