Nominee Statement: Ving Fai Chan

# Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast, Research Advisor of the Tanzanian Optometry Association, Trustee of Vision Aid Overseas | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | Centre for Public Health School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, Queen's University of Belfast | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | Vision Aid Overseas | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Nicola Chevis |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Tony Hulton |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | Vision For A Nation | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | It is a distinct pleasure to nominate Ving Fai Chan for the IAPB Group C Trustee. The depth and breadth of Ving's eye health work in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) is extraordinary. Having lived and worked for ten years in Africa, both as a project implementer and researcher, he has developed outstanding leadership qualities, demonstrated through his contributions to global eye health.  From 2009 - 2018, Ving developed his career as a project implementer and researcher in eye health in LMICs while working as the Research Manager at the Brien Holden Vision Institute (Africa) Trust. He oversaw all research processes and departmental governance aspects for the organisation, including policy-making, operational and budget management. He has contributed to the establishment of the Eritrean strategic plan for the National Blindness Prevention Programme (2010 to 2015), research strategy for Child Eye Health (2013) and the 5-year strategic plans (2016-2020) for the Brien Holden Vision Institute (Africa) Trust. He also made an enormous contribution to the IAPB Africa 10 Year Strategy for the Expansion of Optometry in Africa in 2016.  In 2020, Ving was appointed and accepted the role of Trustee at Vision Aid Overseas (VAO) in addition to his positions of Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast and Research Advisor of the Tanzanian Optometry Association. His commitment and dedication to the organisations are visible through his time and effort dedicated to ensuring VAO is carrying out the work in alignment with the organisation's mission, core values, and strategy. He is vocal about his opinion but is respectful, values colleagues' input and strives to build cohesive teams to achieve project goals and generate innovative ideas.  Ving's ability to speak and write fluently in English, Malay, and Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese, has also enabled him to work in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, South East Asia, Eastern Mediterranean Region and Asia Pacific. His ability to work with colleagues with culturally diverse backgrounds is evident through his success in leading his research teams in Tanzania, Uganda, Zanzibar, Nigeria, South Africa, China and India. Tireless, experienced and thoughtful, Ving is an unusually gifted global eye health practitioner with a record of achievement that makes him an exceptional nominee for the IAPB Trustee role. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | Having lived and worked in Africa for 10 years, I understand the persistent grass-root level barriers towards successful eyecare initiatives in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). The career choices I have made, as well as my personal ethos, resonate with IAPB's vision statement - creating “a world in which no one is needlessly visually impaired, where everyone has access to the best possible standard of eye health; and where those with irreparable vision loss achieve their full potential”. I am at a stage in my career where I can significantly contribute to IAPB’s mission as an IAPB Trustee.  From 2009 - 2018, I led the Research Department at the Brien Holden Vision Institute (Africa) Trust and built my capacity in governance and management skills. In this leadership role, I set up the first optometry education programme and 4 vision centres in Eritrea and contributed to establishing the country’s strategic plan for its National Blindness Prevention Programme (2010 - 2015). I led five culturally diverse research teams (South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zanzibar and Colombia) to achieve their project goals and generate innovative ideas. I contributed to establishing the research strategy for Child Eye Health for the Trust (2013) and developing its 5-year strategic plan (2016-2020). I also made a significant contribution to the IAPB Africa 10 Year Strategy for the Expansion of Optometry in Africa in 2016, and recently to the human resource for eye health data on the Vision Atlas (2021) via the Global Mapping of Optometry projects.  Since 2019, I have balanced a full-time academic appointment at Queen’s University Belfast with commitments to NGOs and professional bodies in eye health, currently as Trustee of Vision Aid Overseas and Research Advisor of the Tanzanian Optometry Associations. In my roles, both as a programme implementer and researcher, I ensure that the organisations’ work aligns with their missions and strategies – improving human life in line with the SDG's through pragmatic approaches to address eye health challenges in resource-constrained countries.  I am not afraid to put forward my views, am passionate about and dedicated to delivering what I commit to doing. With my knowledge and experience working in LMICs, I can meaningfully contribute to the delivery of effective eye health services in low resource settings  . | | | |