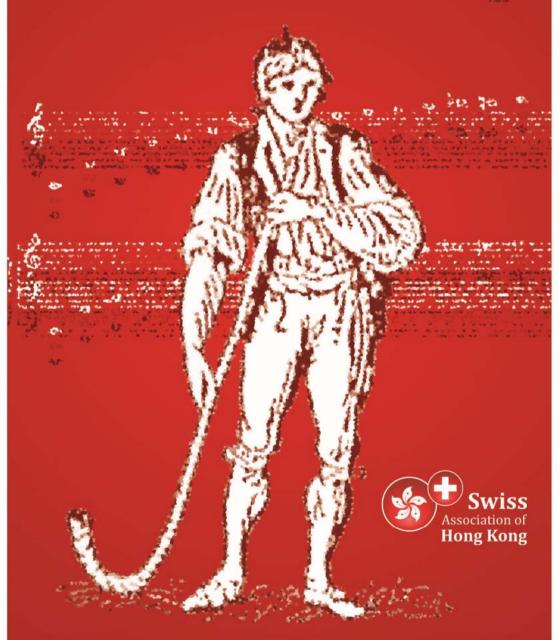
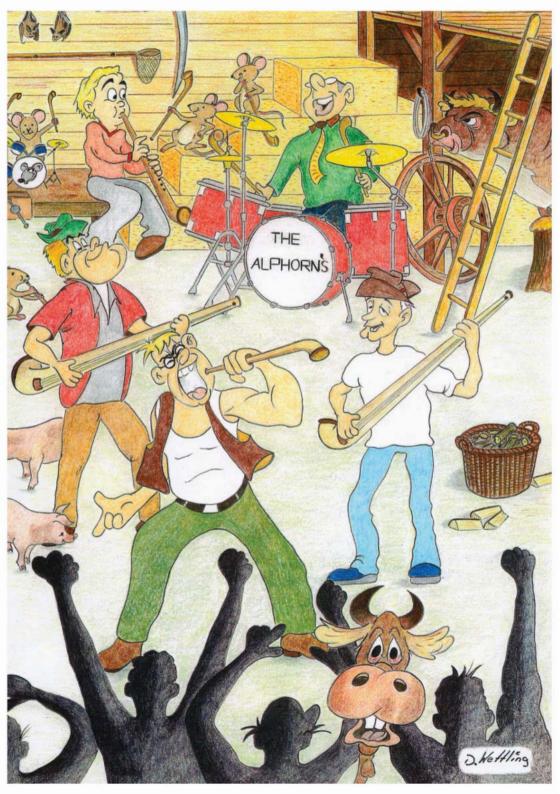
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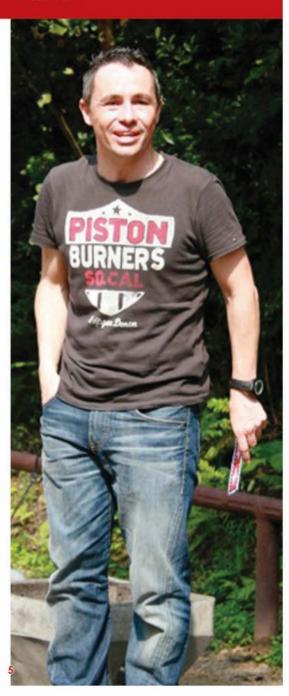
# Outgoing President of SAHK Stefan Basler

Serving on the committees of various associations is a tradition in my family. All of us, my mother and father as well as my brother and I, have been and still are involved in committees such as the church chorus of Kaisten, the fishing club, the carnival band or even the Aargauer Verein Basel-Stadt that my father led for many years. Coming from the Swiss countryside as I do, such clubs and associations play an important role in social life, and celebrations and festivals across all the villages are still the best I know.

When I moved to Hong Kong, it was natural for me to join and actively participate in the Swiss Association, even though it was quite different from what I had known until then. The closest comparison would most probably be the abovementioned Aargauer Verein Basel Stadt, which brings together all the Aargauer living in the nearby city of Basel. However, the city here is a lot bigger, not that close to home, and of course much more diverse. It is mainly the great variety of our members and the attractiveness of Hong Kong that motivates and encourages the committee to organize great events and to provide a social platform for its members. I believe that especially in times like 2009 we all experienced how people are brought closer together - and in such times an association like ours is of great importance.

The work in the committee is challenging but rewarding and I can only recommend it. After all it is family and friendship that are index-resistant and supply us with energy and power. What is true in the Swiss countryside back home is also true for Hong Kong – in the end it is the people that matter.

Stefan Basler



# Incoming President of SAHK Angelina Bussinger Lee



Growing up in Hong Kong, I recall the brilliant Easter egg hunts at the old Repulse Bay Hotel put on by the Swiss Association. Ironically, there was no Easter egg hunt this year. But not to fret as there are plenty of wonderful events to come...

I became Editor of the S'Alphorn and Committee Member of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong four years ago. Since then, I have published three issues and been actively involved with other Committee activities. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding and I look forward to serving as your President.

This issue of the S'Alphorn issue has been put together by our committee members Viviane Lowe, who is a translator and editor, and Andrea Ragazzo, who runs his own product design company in Hong Kong. Enjoy their compilation of events that have happened throughout the year and their articles. Please note in your diaries the calendar of events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at them! It's a great opportunity to meet old and new friends and make contacts with those in the local and Swiss community.

As a pure volunteer organisation, the Swiss Association is constantly looking for new members, volunteers and committee members. There is great camaraderie amongst all volunteers and we would like to include more of you out there. One can contribute in many ways, such as, manning the raclette stand at the Annual GSIS Bazaar, helping out on the August 1st National Day party, writing an article for the S'Alphorn or even a regular column for our website <a href="https://www.swiss-hk.com">www.swiss-hk.com</a>

My goal is to make our Association, fun and interactive, and a gathering for all Swiss and friends in Hong Kong.

I welcome any and all comments and suggestions via email at angelina.bussinger.lee@swiss-hk.com

Danke, Merci, Grazie, Engraziel,

Angelina Bussinger Lee

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# Committee 2009-2010

Looking back...



Prestident Stefan Basler



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2nd Vice-President Angelina Bussinger



Ex Officio Markus Muecke



Honorary Treasurer
Thomas Rechtsteiner



School Committee René Herrmann



Editor - Articles
Viviane Lowe



Editor - Graphics
Andrea Ragazzo



Events Coordinator
Patrick Meyrat



Events Coordinator Kathrin Staub



Events Coordinator

Bettina Burri

## Committee 2010-2011

....and looking forward to a great year with the new committee for 2010-2011



Prestident
Angelina Bussinger



Ist Vice-President
Ueli Geissler



2nd Vice-President Peter Spirig



Ex Officio Stefan Basler



Honorary Treasurer Thomas Rechtsteiner



School Committee René Herrmann



Events Coordinator
Claudia Gehrig



Events Coordinator

Bettina Burri



Editor - Articles
Viviane Lowe



Editor - Graphics Andrea Ragazzo

Angelina Bussinger Lee
Ueli Geissler
Peter Spirig
Stefan Basler
Thomas Rechtsteiner
René Herrmann
Claudia Gehrig
Bettina Buri
Vivane Lowe
Andrea Ragazzo

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+852 9474 4871

+852 6621 7520 +852 9722 6021

+852 9331 9080

+852 2850 8323

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong recently celebrated its 60-year anniversary with a dinner at the Hong Kong Country Club. At the AGM held before the dinner the outgoing president, Stefan Basler, handed over the president's cowbell to to Angelina Bussinger Lee.

The organisation was created to foster friendship and contact among the local Swiss community, and between the Swiss community and friends of Switzerland.

The association arranges a variety of social, recreational and educational activities, including monthly luncheons with guest speakers, Jass evenings, special holiday parties for children like Samichlaus, family hikes, Ladies' mornings, Night at the Races, Raclette in the park and Dragon boat races. The Swiss Association works closely with other Swiss organisations, such as the Consulate General of Switzerland, German-Swiss International School, Swiss XI, Swiss Dargon Boat Team, Swiss Rifle Association, Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

More information can be found at: www.swiss-hk.com

# Other Organisations of the Swiss Community in Hong Kong

#### Swiss Benevolent Society

Werner Heimgartner, President | werner heimgartner@vahoo.com | +852 9095 0105

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong was incorporated in September 1949 in order to assist Swiss nationals who encounter financial difficulties in Hong Kong.

#### Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO) www.aso.ch

AnnaMarie Pever | annamarie.pever@swiss-hk.com

The Organisation of Swiss Abroad ensures that the interests of Swiss citizens living outside of Switzerland are represented in Switzerland through the 140-strong Council of Swiss Abroad. The OSA also provides information about Switzerland and offers various services such as summer camps for children and young people and information about emigration or moving back to Switzerland.

#### Swiss Chamber of Commerce www.swisschamhk.org

Serge G. Fafalen, President | Irene Lo, Secretary General | admin@swisschamhk.org | +852 2524 0590

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK) represents the Swiss business community to both the Swiss and HKSAR governments. Regular meetings and luncheons (jointly with SAHK) allow members to meet and discuss their common interests. The Chamber also informs members of new government initiatives that might have relevance for them and acts as a lobbying vehicle to promote their interests to the Government

#### Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Benjamin Mueller-Rappard | bmrbmr@gmail.com | +852 9254 2308

The SCCHK Young Professionals organise regular social and networking events for the younger members of the association.

#### Jassen

Urs Steiner | jass@swiss-hk.com | +852 6112 5262

The Jass club meets once a month at the Bankers Club for 4 friendly rounds and dinner. Dates are announced on www.swiss-hk.com.

#### Swiss XI

Peter Klaus, president | pfifepapi@hotmail.com | +852 6020 1574

The Swiss XI was founded in 1977 to offer members of the Swiss community and beyond an opportunity to participate in local amateur football league games.

#### Rifle Association www.srahk.com

Alexander Luedi | aluedi@netvigator.com, | +852 9150 0574

Established in 1982, the Association organizes shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shoot and Operation Mercury. In its early years, it co-operated with the Queen's Gurkha Signals, and, since 1998, with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, now called the RHKR Sport Shooting Association.

#### **Dragon Boat Team**

dragonboat@swiss-hk.com

The Swiss Association's dragon boat team participates in the legendary Stanley Dragon Boat races in June every year. It is open to members and non-members, and beginners are welcome.

# Council of the Swiss Abroad Auslandschweizerrat (ASR)

The Spring Session of the Council of the Swiss Abroad took place in Berne on March 27, 2010 at the premises of the Weltpostverein.

The main topics discussed were once again the (proposed) budget cuts by the Swiss government. Last year, the budget of the **Swiss Revue** was cut by half a million which resulted in a cut of issues, i.e. 4 issues yearly instead of six. The Swiss Abroad were also encouraged to receive the Swiss Revue online, but the savings from this action did not bring the result hoped for.



Schweizer Revue, Januar 2010

Swissinfo is the newest target for saving as well as the courses offered at the University of Fribourg. These courses have existed since 1962 and enable students with a foreign diploma to prepare and fill possible gaps before entering a Swiss university. 500-600 students enrol for this course each year of which 20% are Swiss Abroad.

# swissinfo.ch

SWISS NEWS, WORLD WIDE

The Council has agreed that the President and the Members of the Committee take the necessary steps to prevent these and any further budget cuts wherever possible.

The 88th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place in St. Gallen, 20 – 22 August 2010.

"Die politische Vertretung der Auslandschweizer" will be discussed. Ways and means to further strengthen the political presence and influence of the Swiss Abroad have been the topic of a subcommittee under the leadership of Mrs. Thérèse Mueller-Kaelin, member of the National Council. Several proposals to strengthen the voice of the ASR are being considered and will be presented. All Swiss living abroad are cordially invited to attend the congress.

AnnaMarie Pever, Delegate of SAHK

## Welcome & Goodbye

#### New members

Richard and Prudence Ann Ma Sai and Jenny Alexander

Stefan and Sandra Arnold

Sacha Bachmann and Jennifer Cascante

Severio and Maria-Teresa Balice

Philippe Bera

Tobias and Gabriele Brander

Emanuel and Jie Breiter-Huang

Rolf and Sabrina Buehlmann Markus and Bettina Burri

Gian Luca and Cinzia Maria Carrara-Iasci

Ivan and Rosy Cheng

Charles Andre Dubois

Daniela Faustino

Franco Foschi

Rico and Ursula SchmidHaus

Rudolf and Claudia Knopf-Hauser

Christina Hellmann

Li Xu and Benno Jaeggi

Patrick Jenal

Christoph Merz and Tatjana Kursawe

Robert and France-Dionie Lagorio

Erwin and Diana Luethi

Martina Lulic

Patrick Meyrat and Maha Elkostali

Jacqueline Mueller

Jun and Tsukasa Naito

Xuan-Lam Nguven-Tag and Anahi Frauenfelder

Matthias Oberholzer and Hoda Harharah

Adrian and Cindy Ort-Lam

Christian Schiller

Hedi-K Ernst Schmid

Alessandro Schueli

Jonas Andreas Schuermann

Kurt and Hilary Schwartz

Chris and Sabina Simmons

Caroline Spahr and Tim Burns

Doris and Peter Spirig

Thierry Dana

Max and Marilyn Thommen-Cabanela

Sandro and Anna Treier

Peter and Luise Triebel

Oliver and Debbie Trueb-Chan

Andreas and Barbara Vogelsanger

Ines Reichlin and Hannes Weilbel

Wenny Wu

Urs Paul Zimmermann

### Resigned members

Marc Affolter

Udo and Hanny Alfare-Stadelmann

Thomas and Monika Anderegg

Daniel and Sylvie Bubanec

Katrina and Claudio Chan-Viecelli

Daniel and Fabienne Cottini-Ulrich

Roman and Patricia Eggenberger

Stephane and Anna Eroes de Bethlenfalva

Ellen and Roman Gabriel

Markus and Nadja Gisler

Christian and Bobbie Habisreutinger

Eduard and Julia Held

Thomas and Manuela Hugger

Rainer and Sandra Hungerbuehler-Grunauer

Frank and Marie-Louise Iller

Domenic and Gaby Janutin-Oetterli

Nicolas and Sarah Jobin-Sebbar

Christine Keller

Andreas and Isabel Luethi-Steiger

Torquil and Chung-Eun Macleod-Wie

Priska and Juerg Matti

Laurent and Heidi Magnin and Mueller

Markus and Karin Muecke

Johann and Anne-Marie Mueller

Theresa Ng

Hanspeter and Jacqueline Pieth

Christine Ravioli

Dina Said

Thomas and Liana Schaffner

Andreas Arnold Spielmann

Nicolas and Jessica Suzanne Steiger-Thorpe

Mirjam and Patrick Trachsel-Wendt

Norbert and Joanne Vonlanthen

Hau Wai-Yan

Peter Zimmerli



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## **Events Calendar 2010**

#### February

- 03 Majong
- 24 Majong
- 27 Raclette

#### March

- 10 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Raymond Lo
- 11 Supporter Dinner
- 17 Greek Cooking Class
- 19 AGM & 60th Anniversary of SAHK
- 22 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### April

- 12 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Joseph Leung - Ocean Park
- 23 Bowling Night
- 26 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- 27 Ladies Morning: Kadooriefarm Visit

#### May

- 09 Dragon Boat Race at Deep Water Bay
- 10 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Paul Husband - Luxury and Brand Strategy
- 12 A night at the Races
- 21 Warm up Dragon Boat Race at Stanley Main Beach
- 31 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### June

- 07 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Simon Ogus - Deflation and Inflation
- 16 Dragon Boat Race at Stanley Main Beach
- 24 Summer Break Get-together
- 28 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### July

26 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### August

- 01 National Day Party at the Jockey Club
- 04 Golf Week in Switzerland
- 30 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### September

- 06 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: David O'Rear - Prospects of Hong Kong in 2010/2011
- 27 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- 27 GSIS Christmas Bazaar

#### October

- 04 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Robert Broadfoot - Risk Management
- 08 40th Melchterli Cup, Shek O Golf Club
- 18 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- 31 Matilda Sedan Chair Race

#### November

- o1 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Wong How Man - Founder of China Exploration Research Society
- 21 Operation Mercury
- 29 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

#### December

o6 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Charity Speaker

## Bettina Burri - Events Coordinator



My first trip to Hong Kong was 25 years ago, when I backpacked through Asia for several months. At that time, my interests were not exactly city life, and I did not have enough money for an expensive place like Hong Kong. So all I remember from that time in Hong Kong were the high rise buildings, the smell of Chinese food in the streets and the Peak Tram. If only I had known...

I always had the urge to travel. I left home at the age of 18 to spend a year in Greece, from where I moved on to Canada for a while, not to mention all the travelling I did as soon as I had saved some money. It was no coincidence that later on I ended up working in an international sales position which allowed me to travel the world.

My husband brought some stability in my life — but not for long. In 1996, after the birth of our second child, we moved to Vietnam, our first posting abroad. three wonderful and exciting years in Ho Chi Minh followed and then we moved on to the USA where we spent close to five years. Feeling the need to give our children (now numbering four!) some Swiss roots, we had the opportunity in 2004 to move back to Switzerland for 5 years before we moved further on to Hong Kong. That was 8 months ago.

We were all (more or less) excited to move to Hong Kong, the hardest move emotionally with two teenagers and two pre-teens. But after we had settled in, we started to see the cultural diversity of this city and all it has to offer. Hong Kong is a great place to live, and we try to take advantage of all the opportunities this city has to offer.

I believe I got very "professional" about moving from place to place and I know about the needs of my family and myself. I found the key to happiness in our case is finding friends and having an active social life. We had been in Hong Kong only a few months when the position to be a event coordinator for the Swiss Association was offered to me and I happily took that opportunity. The Swiss Association is not only a great place to meet wonderful people but also it brings back a bit of the "feeling" of our Swiss roots, far away from home! I hope I will meet you during one of our upcoming events!

Dear Swiss Citizens, Dear Friends of Switzerland,

It was a pleasure to see the Swiss community flourish during the evening of the 60th anniversary of the Swiss Association here in Hong Kong. The event showed that the community is as vibrant as it was when it was founded after the Second World War.

The Far East has never been a destination for many Swiss citizens; our neighbouring countries France, Germany and Italy and places like North and South America, with the possibility of permanent settlement, were more obvious choices than the unknown countries of East and South East Asia. One of the reasons was the attitude of Japan and China. Both countries were not really welcoming Europeans at that time. Another reason has always been the language question. Chinese, Cantonese or Japanese are not as easy as Spanish or English. Apart from our missionaries and traders, who were the first to come here as early as the 18th century, nobody really thought of staying here after retirement until well into the 20th century. Hong Kong and Singapore, Bangkok and Manila basically came into a broader focus in the time between the First and the Second World War, when Swiss companies started to become more interested. But a real Swiss presence actually started only in the 1950s and 1960s.

This does not exclude the presence of a few companies and entrepreneurial persons, which for watch making can be traced back to the start of the 19th century. It was indeed the watch industry and the trading houses that pushed the Swiss government to send out the first official trade delegations to the Far East in the mid 19th century. They have become excellent ambassadors for our country; watches are among the best PR instruments for Switzerland in Asia until the present moment.

The small size of the Swiss community compared to other nationalities has forced our citizens to work together more closely and to form alliances both in the professional and the private field. The Swiss Association is one of them. The success of the 60th anniversary celebrations shows that the contact among us is still very good, although the community has reached 1700 persons, a record number of Swiss citizens in Hong Kong. I hope, of course, that our group will grow further and that the cohesion we have in our community today will not fall victim to its growing numbers and the economically easy conditions here in Hong Kong.

I wish the Swiss citizens and the friends of Switzerland an excellent 2010 and, of course, an active next decade for the Swiss Association!

Hans J. Roth

# What happened at the consulate during 2009-2010?

#### Personnel

As you may know, there is always quite a lot of movement in personnel within the consulate and last year was no exception. In Summer, our Vice Consul, Mrs. Susanne Wiltschek was transferred to New Delhi and was replaced by Mr. Sacha Bachmann who arrived from Jakarta. In Autumn, our Deputy Consul General, Mr. Johann Müller, left Asia for another exciting posting, Barcelona. His successor, Mr. Erwin Lüthi, arrived in Hong Kong in November from Pretoria with his family. With regards to the personnel hired locally, the assistant to the Consul General, Mrs. Florence Isenschmid, has left the consulate and a new assistant, Ms Sibylle Nanzer, has taken over these duties.

This year, our Consul General, Mr. Hans Roth, will be leaving Hong Kong after four years of duties in this amazing city. He will be heading back to Switzerland to take up new challenges within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne.

#### **Cultural Affairs**

On the cultural side, the Consulate General of Switzerland promoted various events: 2009 started with a thought-provoking Swiss movie shown first at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and then at the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF). The movie "A Crude Awakening — The Oil Crash" was followed by a debate on environmental issues.

Several concerts and dramas with a Swiss background took place throughout the year, among them the Swiss Chinese jazz group "Sonic Calligraphy", the band "bconnected" and the well-known mime-mask theatre "Mummenschanz".

The "Ella Maillart Photo Exhibition" was shown until the end of April 2010 at the Hong Kong Arts Centre and another photo exhibition "Migration Project" will take place at the end of this year. The "Einstein Exhibition" takes place from April to August 2011 with many partners involved. The project promises to be an outstanding event.

#### **Business Affairs**

On a more political and business side, the Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA), Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, was on official visit to Hong Kong in February 2009 to initiate talks with the HK Government regarding a possible **Free Trade Agreement**. A second meeting should soon take place in Switzerland.

Also, in January 2010, a Swiss delegation came to Hong Kong for a first round of negotiations on a **Double Taxation Agreement**.

#### Swiss Community in Hong Kong

Each year, the young Swiss citizens who turn 18 have to register by themselves as they become adults. This year we decided to have a cocktail party for our 18-year-olds to celebrate this important event. Out of 14 people, four were able to join us for a relaxed evening hosted at Mrs Killias Zillweger's home. It was nice for the guests to meet each other as they come from different schools and very refreshing for us to get to know the younger generation of Swiss living in Hong Kong. We wish them lots of success with their future which seems very promising, however far from Hong Kong as all of them have plans to study abroad. We are looking forward to keep up the tradition of celebrating maturity age in Hong Kong - a tradition well practiced in many of the small communes in Switzerland.



From left to right : Michael Schweizer (Consular Attaché), Vanessa Heldner, Cédric Roux, Alexandre Zwicky, Charles Candiotti.



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Pfarrerin Ute Reckzeh und Pfarrer Sven Salzmann



Die Deutschsprachige Katholische Gemeinde in Hongkong existiert seit über 50 Jahren.

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Angeboten werden Sakramentsvorbereitungen (Erstkommunion- und Firmkurs, Taufen, Eheschließung), Aktivitäten für Kinder (Kinderkirche, Schatzkiste, Messdiener), Jugendliche (Spaghetti-Movie-Night) und Erwachsene (Bibelgespräche, Sonntagsausflüge).

Nach vorheriger Vereinbarung besteht jederzeit die Möglichkeit zum persönlichen Gespräch, das der Schweigepflicht unterliegt (seelsorgliches Gespräch, Beichtgespräch, Lebensfragen).

#### Kontakt

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www.deutsche-katholiken-hongkong.de



# 60th Anniversary



## 60 Years of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong: some milestones

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong was formed in June 1948 with Walter Naef, Director of Ciba Ltd. as its first president. Whereas presently the Association plays a mainly social role, in the beginning, its primary objective was to offer financial help to Swiss citizens in need (a role taken over by the Swiss Benevolent Society since 1972). At the time the Swiss community numbered 40-60 people.

The need for such a mutual-help association arose out of experiences of hardship during the war. Indeed, though the second world war was over, Asia was still a powder keg of unrest, with civil war in China and anti-colonial struggles threatening European dominance everywhere from Vietnam to Indonesia. The days of the Asian "tigers" and "dragons" were still far off...

In the words of Hans Hefti, writing in s'Alphorn in July 1968: "It was felt that money should be available outside Hong Kong to assist Swiss residents of Hong Kong during times of similar hardships. The official currency during the occupation was Japanese Military Yen, and Hong Kong accounts were automatically blocked. Some of the Swiss needed financial assistance, especially those not connected with Swiss firms and headquarters outside Hong Kong. Aid through Swiss government channels was slow and in many cases insufficient. I well remember stories told about exchange rates when the time of repayment after the war drew near... One Swiss whose name I have forgotten and who worked in or near Canton for an oil company told me that he eventually received an advance [from the government] and before he could possibly have been in touch with anybody in Switzerland, his closest relative, an old aunt of his, was approached by the authorities at home for immediate repayment.

"In the light of these experiences, the association was formed [and the aim was] to accumulate at least HK\$ 50'000 capital." The exchange rate at the time was 1HK\$=1.07 CHF, so this was a considerable sum.

On the social side, in an era when long-distance phone calls— not to mention transcontinental travel — were a luxury, the community also must have felt a strong need to get together to share









21

memories and information from home. And so a number of social and recreational traditions were born.

The August 1 party took off in earnest in 1953. In 1955, the Swiss National Day ball drew 180 people of many nationalities. An impressive turnout considering that the Swiss colony in Hong Kong numbered only around 130.

The association has always been sporty. Back in the days when the New Territories were still authentically rural, the annual SAHK car rally was a favorite family event. Unfortunately, the growth of the city and attendant traffic congestion put an end to this tradition.

Another enduring SAHK sporting tradition now in its 40th year, the Melchterli Cup, was born in 1970 at the Shek O Golf & Country Club, with the participation of 17 golfers, including four women (three of whom placed in the top six).

1972 saw the foundation of the Swiss Benevolent Society. As a result of this separation of roles, the SAHK was able to admit non-Swiss members for the first time, including non-Swiss spouses of members.

Also in 1972, the SAHK helped organise a first annual shooting event consisting in a joint crossbow contest between the Gurkha team of the Royal Hong Kong Signals and the team of the Swiss Signals Corps in Hasle Ruegsau in Switzerland, coordinated via telex-satellite link (!). This was the ancestor not only of live internet events, but also of "Operation Mercury", the annual assault rifle shooting competition now organised by the Swiss Rifle Association (founded in 1982).

The Swiss Dragon Boat Team, now a fixture of the Association, saw the light around 1985. It first fielded a men's team essentially drawn from the ranks of the Swiss XI, and a few years later a women's team. Now it is two mixed teams with a minimum of 8 women out of 18 rowers.

In 1985 the SAHK elected its first female president, Ruth Hung Von Siebenthal. And "only" 25 years later, in 2010, it elected its fourth female, president Angelina Bussinger-Lee.





In 2010, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Swiss Association. The AGM and dinner-dance at the Hong Kong Country Club brought together 172 members of the Association for a delicious 4-course meal with subtle Swiss accents, followed by music and dancing to the tunes of a live band.

The world moves at a faster pace than it did in 1948. Many of us remain in Hong Kong only for a few years before moving on (or more likely being moved). But no matter how short the stay, for the last 60 years the Association has offered us the support of new friends and a connection to the traditions and rituals of home. Raclette has never tasted as good as in a Hong Kong park, surrounded by friends speaking Swiss-German, French, Cantonese, Italian and a half dozen other languages!

#### Question 1

What disaster in 1953 resulted in the creation of Hong Kong's public housing policy?







#### Question 3

Which band performed in Hong Kong in 1964?







#### Question 5

In what decade did the Cross Harbour Tunnel open?

1960s

1970s

1980s

#### Question 7

Which major agreement was signed in 1984 that impacted the future of Hong Kong?







#### Question 9

Swissair began their Zurich to Hong Kong services in 1957. At that time, how many stopovers did you have to make?

2

4

6

#### Question 11

In which decade was the airport moved from Kai Tak to Chek Lap Kok?

1980s

1990s

2000s

#### Ouestion 2

In what decade did the Swiss restaurant Chesa at the Peninsula Hotel open?

1950s

1960s

1970s

#### Question 4

In 1966 the first of two series of riots broke out in Hong Kong. What \$0.05 fare rise caused this?







#### Question 6

In which year did Sir John Bremridge peg the Hong Kong Dollar to the US Dollar?

1982

1983

1984

#### **Question 8**

A SARS pandemic broke out between Nov 2002 and Jul 2003. From what animal did the SARS virus allegedly come from?







#### Question 10

How many Swiss citizens are currently registered at the Swiss Consulate in Hong Kong?

1430

1680

2010

#### Question 12

The first MTR line opened in 1979. Which line was it?

Kwun Tong Line

Tsuen Wan Line

The right apswers can be found on page 54

## Dragonboat Team

#### REEEAAADY... PADDLES UP... GOOOO!!!

It is Saturday early morning; a violent noise disturbs my sweet dreams. I don't understand the world anymore, what? why? Ahh, just let me go back to sleep, the last "ichi for the michi" cannot be more than a few hours ago... After tossing and turning for a little while it suddenly hits me — dragon boat training!

I jump out of the warm and cosy bed and set out on the obligatory Saturday journey to Stanley. On the way I keep on asking myself, why am I doing this to myself? But as soon as I feel the paddle in my hands the agony is gone and I enjoy the wind, waves and the company of the team. As last night's gin and tonics fade away, the spirits find their way back...

The winter training was quite tough. Stormy seas, rain and wind accompanied the little group of dragon boat enthusiasts throughout the season. Aeolus, Zeus and Poseidon didn't seem to be on our side. But little did we know...

#### Dragon boat spring fever

When the official training started in early March 2009, it became obvious that the Swiss community was afflicted by a dragon boat virus. An unprecedented 40 paddlers attended the training sessions. For the first time, the red armada had three boats competing under its flag.

The first warm up race in May truly found its place in the annals of the Swiss dragon boat team. Let me just tell you about the most memorable moment of this race: The Swiss paddlers are in full swing, the race is on and it is looking good. But then suddenly, the dragon head points sharply to the left. The neighbouring boat is coming closer and closer and just when a few Dragons start to say their last prayers, the boat suddenly swings to the other side and approaches the neighbours on the right. The boats under attack reach out to find some more space and the chaos is complete. Sitting in the boat, we can't see what caused our meandering. But once at the shore, we are told that the steering paddle couldn't withstand the rough conditions and broke loose. The sudden impact threw the very experienced helmsman over board and he just managed to hang on by his ankle.









After a fantastic recovery, he swung himself back onto the boat, grabbed the closest paddle and managed to bring the team safe to shore.

Needless to say, we didn't make it into the finals. But one thing is sure, we were the talking point of the event! Should you require any further information, just search under "Swiss giant slalom in Hong Kong"...

The Deepwater Bay Race was a first for our team. Needless to say that we all had quite some respect for the 500-meter race in the long boats. This feeling didn't change after we realised that we would be racing against some big, strong and, especially, very serious guys. Padded trousers, carbon paddles and shoulders like mountains. But what a contrast to the Stanley race! A clean beach, pristine clear water and a great, relaxed atmosphere.

Even though we performed much better than expected, we soon realized that we would not even get close to the local boats. The heat was on when we saw that we were set to race against our number one competitor, the German team of the Lorelei. The battle was very close and the atmosphere became a bit tense. However, at the end of the day, we beat them three times in a row, every time just by a few inches.

For the Stanley Championship the German Team officially declared war on us, and from this moment onwards the rivalry was dubbed "Goodbye Lorelei"...









#### The big day at Stanley

On the big day of the Stanley Championships conditions were very much like what we had experienced during the winter training. Strong winds, rough seas, rain and really chilly temperatures. For the first time, the junks were not lined up along the racecourse but scattered around in the rough sea. To reach the junks, the team had to walk over a small pontoon that was devastated by huge waves and covered by over a meter of water by the end of the day. Nevertheless, the supporters came to cheer for the teams and to enjoy a Bratwurst. Accustomed to these weather conditions, the Swiss team showed its best performance. Despite a certain chaos before the start because the officials could not make up their mind about the number of paddlers per boat (we had to paddle to the junk and pick up two sleeping paddlers) it was racing at its best. The Swiss Dragons ended up in 7th place (out of 132), just in front of their German rivals of the Lorelei...









#### Goodbye to two dedicated dragons: Christian and Corine Lang

It has once again been an amazing dragon boat season. All this would not have been possible without two very dedicated people, Chris and Corinne Lang. It was their uncompromising efforts, passion and energy during the past six years that made the dragon boat popular amongst the Swiss Community. They have steadily led the Swiss Dragon Boat Team to success and ensured that the race day is a lot of fun for the team and its supporters. I would love to know how many pairs of gloves they have washed, how many oranges they have sliced up and how many ginger-breads they have baked for the team over the past six years ... A big "hip hip hurrah" for Chris and Corinne, and MANY THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! We will miss you (and to be honest, we are actually a bit scared that we might have to compete against the Dragons from Wuerenlos next year...)

A big thank you also goes to the slave master Werner: to the team sponsors Bally, Chopard, Migros & Zuellig Pharma; and to the sponsors of the Swiss Junk Boats: Guido Cherubini, Fritz Horlacher and Roland Seeholzer. And of course Inge and Stefan from Dine.atHome. What would the dragon boat race be without all of you? Thanks for making this adventure possible!

The prospect for this year's races looks good. During the entire winter season a group of 16 paddle enthusiasts braved the elements and practiced every second Saturday since September. The official training is now in full swing, the boat is full and the paddlers can't wait for the readyyyy... paddles up... goooo!

Bettina Bieler

#### Come and share the fun with us:

1st of May 9th of May 16th of June Warm up race in Stanley Deep Water Bay Race Stanley International Dragon Boat Championships





#### Season 2008/09

The team started full of confidence into the new season. With good results in the first few games, this confidence grew further and the team remained near the top of the first division of the Yau Yee League.

After the Christmas break, however, Lady Luck deserted the team quite a few times. Games that could or should have been won were lost with the luck shifting to our opponents. But the strong team spirit prevailing within the Swiss XI pulled us out of this dip and valuable points again started coming our way. In the end we finished a credible fourth out of twelve teams — a result many would have gladly accepted at the beginning of the season.

Yau Yee League Final Table Season 2008-09

prevented any soccer and on the rescheduled day the team was unfortunately on the away trip!

#### Away trip

We travelled to Phuket where we had plenty of sunshine during the entire stay. The main group arriving together at the airport was welcomed by a few members who had arrived earlier. Everybody was transferred together to the hotel in the customary local truck.

Our home away from home was a small hotel situated in Patong where all rooms overlooked the swimming pool and which we had almost to ourselves. No wonder that soon all the participants were congregating around the pool.

The following day saw us trying to find the way through the western part of Patong on a Hash run expertly prepared by Albert Hausammann with his assistant, Stefan Koechli. We were running through places even seasoned Phuket travelers had never seen before. The run took us back to our hotels and all runners were looking forward to the cool water of the pool. On Saturday we played against a local taxi team from Cherngtalay District. Though we had told them that we would be of a high average age they fielded a team including several players below

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
USRS	22	14	6	2	48	19	29	48
Club Wanderers	22	13	6	3	52	24	28	45
Club Colts	22	10	10	2	48	24	24	40
Swiss XI	22	12	2	8	50	35	15	38

A special honor was the golden boot awarded to our player, Rene Buehlmann, for his 22 goals scored during the season, making him the top scorer of the first division.

#### Six-a-side tournament

At the end of the season, as always, the Yau Yee League held a six-a-side tournament. The Swiss XI team easily qualified for the second stage. On 26.5.2009 the Swiss XI scored consecutive wins against Hoo Cheung (2:1), Wah Yan (2:0), University (1:0), Squadron (3:1), and Antonhill (1-0). Five games, five wins, nine goals scored and only two conceded! This meant we were in the semi-final. That is the good news. The bad news is that we never got to play the semi-final. On the day scheduled for the crucial match heavy rain

twenty. The Swiss XI fought hard and played some good football but in the end youth prevailed over "maturity" and we lost 2:1. After the game we treated our opponents to snacks and drinks before returning back "home".

During the sponsored official dinner we enjoyed fine Thai food, cold beer and laughter. Presentations were made in various categories before we all headed down-town for a few drinks.

#### Eight-a-side tournament in Shenzhen

During the first weekend of September, in preparation for the new season, the Swiss XI sent a strong team across the border to China for a tournament. After the group games we were in first position, thanks to an extra point gained for scoring four goals in one game:

SwissXI - Mes Amis 2:0 SwissXI - Raptors 4:0 SwissXI - Mobsters 0:1

As the winner we proceeded to the semi-final where we had a tough game. After normal time the score stood at 2:2 — the outcome would have to be desided by penalty kicks. Fortunately, our players had the better nerves and we won 4:3 which meant we were in the final!

It was a hard fought for game but at the end the Swiss XI proved the stronger of the two and carried the victory 1:0. There was not much time to celebrate as we had to travel back to Hong Kong. The celebration took place on the Hong Kong side and the trophy was proudly shown to the crowds in the streets.

...the winning team of the Shenzhen 8's – September 2009



#### Nomad's 6-a-side tournament in Manila

The Swiss XI sent a strong team to this tournament, which has a long tradition. Having taken part for many years and having achieved a fine result in the previous Year (second runner up) expectations were naturally high.

In the first game against Manila All Japan we knew we would face a tough team. At the end we were not happy with the 2:2 as a win should have been possible.

The second game was against Digiprint FC (another local team) and ended in a 1:1 draw. This meant that in our final group game on Saturday 7 November we would have to win with at least 3 goals to get an extra point. The Swiss XI did not disappoint and achieved a 3:0 win. This meant we were in the Cup round on Sunday, with a late kick-off. On Saturday evening we enjoyed the traditional sponsored team dinner at La Tienda, one of the finest Spanish restaurant in town. The food was as always delicious and the atmosphere and spirit were great. Sunday lunch-time, when we arrived at the Nomad's Sport ground, we saw that our next opponent would be another Swiss team - the Swiss Kickers Tokyo! We know the guys well from previous tournaments and knew we would face a tough test. Unfortunately, our opponents from the land of the rising sun were slightly better and luckier than us and beat us 2:1. That meant the end of the tournament for us, and we were free to enjoy the swimming pool and finally have some beers.

#### Season 2009/10

The season is not yet finished. At the halfway line we were close to bottom of the first division. In the meantime the team has won a few points and the outlook is positive. If we continue with the same fighting spirit in the remaining games we should be able to stay in the top division. In the cup the SwissXI has reached the semifinal.

#### Nomads seven-a-side (over 40)

The Swiss XI was, once again, represented by a team of somewhat mature players, took part in this yearly event. Regrettably, we only just managed to get eight players for this tournament – meaning most of the players had to play the full length of almost every game. As a consequence we lost all three group games on Saturday and the plate game on Sunday. This did not prevent us from having a good time with the usual team dinner on Saturday at La Tienda.

Peter (el Presidente)

## Melchterli Cup 2009

Twelve golfers had registered to play for the coveted Melchterli Cup, first played for in the year 1970 – always at Shek O Golf and Country Club. The preceding days were cold, made worse by a northerly wind blowing from China. Once again, however, the weather gods were smiling on 20 November and the lush green of the fairways was sharply contrasted by the deep blue sky, without any clouds as far as the eye could see.

After a fortifying snack and drinks the course was attacked by our three flights. Everybody seems to have enjoyed the outing even if, at times, the results were not always as players might have wished – but that's golf. Back at the Clubhouse the participants discussed their adventures (and misadventures!) over drinks. The dinner that followed, combined with fine wines, in a beautifully decorated room with an open fire to fend off the chills of the night, was enjoyed by all.

Before the prize presentation the organizer talked briefly about the history of the Melchterli Cup and informed everybody that next year would be the 40th anniversary – one reason why he decided to try, one more time, to organize the event, despite the low attendance again this year.

Finally it was time to announce the results and present prizes to the winners.

1st: Mark Staudenmann	35 stableford points
2nd: Peter Klaus	33
3rd: Wally Nahr	30
4th: Christine Bokhari	20





Rolly Schaerer Christine Bokhari Peter Klaus Peter Klaus booby prize longest drive ladies longest drive men nearest to pin

The various comments after dinner indicated that everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and all were looking forward to next year's anniversary event on October 8th.

A special mention to Christine and Salman Bokhari, who flew in all the way from Singapore just for the Melchterli Cup! And they confirmed that they will be back next year.

Finally, it was a special treat to have Hardy and Gerda Diethelm with us for dinner – both former long-term residents of Hong Kong. Some of us see Hardy during the golf week in Switzerland where he is the organizer of the legendary "Coupe Hardy".

Peter Klaus





# Golf Week Switzerland

In 2009 the Swiss Golf week took place in the Northeastern part of Switzerland. A group of over 20 of us met in Waldkirch, where we played the first round. The last few flights were unfortunately drenched but this was to be the only rainfall we had all week. After the golf we all proceeded to our base, the Romantik Hotel Saentis right on the "Landsgemeindeplatz" in Appenzell.

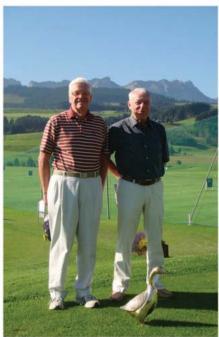
The following day we played in Linday (Germany) on a very beautiful course under brilliant sunshine. The golf was good, and there was plenty of food and drinks afterwards.

On Wednesday it was time to play the famous "Coupe Hardy", whose winner takes home the bronze duck – which has to be delivered back in polished condition in 2010! We were in Gonten for this event.

Afterwards we were driven to "school". The Hotel/Restaurant where we were scheduled to have dinner first sat us down in the "Schnuggebock" at original wooden school benches for three hours of "teaching"! All had great fun and enjoyed the unusual setting and proceedings. The prize-giving took place and the results were announced:

Winner of Coupe Hardy Runner-up Second runner-up Kurt Schaerer Alex Hirt Peter Klaus

The result was the combination of golf and throwing darts. Kurt managed a bull's eye with his first throw, giving him an almost unassailable lead.







On Thursday, after another round in Gonten we proceeded for dinner in the restaurant "Baeren" where we were exclusively entertained by the "Alder Bueben" from Urnaesch. Three old timers from Hong Kong (Benno Welschen, Eugene Coray and Urs "Peninsula" Aeby) joined us for dinner and later drinks at our base until well past midnight. On the way back home we all stopped at Niederbueren for a final round of golf, followed by a small snack and a heartfelt good-bye, see you next year!

And next year will soon be here. The organizers have already made preparations for the next meet on August 4-8 2010. Headquarters will be Hotel Cèdre in Bex. Courses most likely to be played are Blumisberg, Sion, Sierre, Crans-Montana and Montreux.



# Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong

Our 30 + members continue to uphold the twice annually shooting competitions on a 50-meter shooting range near Sheung Shui, which is owned and operated by our friends from the RHKR Sports Shooting Association. The range overlooks the border with Sehnzhen and provides a dramatic background – and weather ranging from steaming hot, heavy rain to cold and windy, as experienced in spring 2010.

Since we are no longer shooting on a military range we are a private club, and subject to stringent regulations. Our members must be Swiss Army trained people. In exceptional cases we can accept members that have done active duty in other military units, and undergo our bi-annual training course. We are using the standard Swiss Army assault rifle 57 with ammunition regularly supplied from Switzerland.

Our shooting events usually result in a keen competition between our members and the members of the RHKR, and are a social event including traditional Swiss food.

Our next shooting is our traditional Operation Mercury on 21 November. Interested parties can contact us via our website www.srahk.com

Alexander Luedi











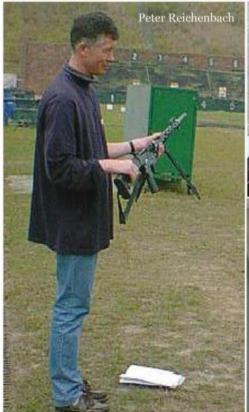
#### Swiss Sports Shooting Federation (Schweizerische Schiessportverband, SSV) Honors two Members of the Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong

For their extraordinary contribution to sport shooting activities in Hong Kong, the SSV has awarded merit medals to two of our longest serving members, Peter Reichenbach and Peter Thüler.

Peter Reichenbach held all possible positions in the committee over a period of more than 20 years, and he was instrumental in turning our association into a private club after 1997.

Peter Thüler is one of our longest active members a certified Range Officer, and Arms Instructor.

Thank you and congratulations to both of you!







#### Welcome Back Apéro



36

in a breathtaking view of Hong Kong harbour from the terrace of 11 Magazine Gap Road. There were no long official speeches, but a short word of welcome from our president Stefan Basler.

## Friday Night Bowling Fever



rounds of bowling. There are no prizes for winners or penalties for losers, only drinks all

around at the bar afterwards!

#### A Walk in Causeway Bay with Jason Wordie

We met in front of Sogo and after everybody fought their way through morning traffic, we headed to Victoria Park. A much better place to hear what Jason was telling us about Causeway Bay history. He told us so many interesting things that we would not have known about otherwise....

Did vou know that ...

... in the 1890s there were sugar refineries owned by Jardine Matheson, as well as cotton mills, cotton spinning, weaving and dyeing. When they closed down, the buildings were handed over to French nuns from the Order of St. Paul de Chartres. Still today you can find the school and St. Paul's Hospital there. Hidden in the "backyard" is a real jewel – a beautiful church.

...the statue of Queen Victoria originally stood on Statue Square. But during the Pacific War the Japanese took it away to Japan for scrap metal. After the war, in 1950, a new site was found, and the statue repaired and relocated to the newly reclaimed Victoria Park.

... the Tin Hau Temple was originally located next to the shoreline. It hasn't been moved at all: reclamation took the sea further and further away.

....behind the Hong Kong Stadium is the "Tai Hang Racecourse Fire Memorial". It was build to give the 614 souls/spirits who died during the fire a nice place so they wouldn't trouble the people in Hong Kong out of revenge for their sudden death. We saw many other sights and learned a lot about Chinese beliefs and Hong Kong culture. It was an eye-opener for many situations we encounter in our everyday life here in Hong Kong. I am certainly looking forward to the next walk with Jason Wordie.

Sandra Herrmann













## A Walk in Kowloon City with Jason Wordie

On Thursday march 26th 2009, Marguerite and Claudia organized an interesting walk with historian and writer Jason Wordie.

After meeting at Lok Fu MTR station, Jason introduced us to probably one of the most mysterious places in Hong Kong. The tour which had attracted 15 people, took us along governmental houses to the beautiful Hau Wong temple that was build in 1730.

When we stepped into the amazing Kowloon city park, where only 15 years ago, 50'000 people had lived on 0,026 km2, I couldn't stop wondering how it must feel for them to walk on the very same ground that once used to be their crowded, dark and busy hometown.

Thanks to Jason's lively anecdotes, the photo exhibition at the Yamen (Almshouse) and the impressing scale model, I felt like I had actually been in the walled city itself.

It was definitely another unforgettable days out in Hong Kong.

Heidi









## Karting at the Gold Coast



The group of 14 "racers" met quite early on this Saturday, and hence the compulsory written test on the rules of regulations of karting was a bit of a challenge for some... Then, we moved onto the race track and demonstrated that we have quite a few good racers in the SAHK. However, sometimes the speed and lap times were not exclusively a product of the drivers ability but more of the "fitness" of the kart itself.

We received great feedback from the participants and it was a lot of fun indeed. Looking forward to organizing such events very soon again.

#### Wet Market Tour





Ever wondered what to do with that strange vegetable that look like a zucchini with ridges? Or how to cook the many members of the cabbage family available all year long in Hong Kong? SAHK members had an opportunity to find out on September 23rd, when intrepid wet market explorer and cook Claudia Walshe led us on a discovery tour of Bowington road market. Claudia, an avid home cook who also teaches cookery classes, has plunged right into the local wet market, and tasted, cooked and tested practically every food on offer. Despite its somewhat unappealing location one street over from the expressway flyover in Causeway Bay, the Bowington Rd market offers a huge range of produce along two intersecting streets. Every staple of Cantonese cuisine is available here: from live fish to sides of pork hanging from hooks, fresh noodles and spring roll wrappers to beautiful fruits and vegetables, which most of us pass over because we are unsure how to use them. After working up a good appetite, the group hopped on the tram to Happy Valley for lunch at the famously delicious Dim Sum on Sing Woo Rd in Happy Valley.







#### Farmer's Bread "Buurebrot"



Do you miss good crusty bread in Hong Kong? Why not try your hand at making your own? Claudia Walshe shares this recipe with s'Alphorn readers.

100g rye flour
200g light brown flour
200g strong white flour (breadmaking flour)
2 teaspoons salt
7g dry instant yeast
150ml water, lukewarm
150ml milk, lukewarm

Mix the flour and put it into a bowl or an electric mixer; add the salt to one side and the dried yeast to the other. Add milk and water. Knead the dough by hand or with a dough hook until it is smooth and elastic. Shape it into a round ball and cover it with a tea towel until it has doubled in size, which will take about 1 hour.

Once doubled, knock the dough back and shape it into a round loaf. Roll it in flour and put it on a dusted baking tray or a tray lined with parchment paper.

Preheat the oven to 220°C. Let the loaf prove again for around 20 minutes. Cut the bread 5 times horizontally and 5 times diagonally with a small, sharp serrated knife. Reduce the temperature to 210°C after you put the bread in the oven and bake the loaf on the second shelf from the bottom for 40-50 minutes or until it sounds hollow when tapped. Cool on a wire rack.

#### Bread Baking Tips:

- The oven temperature in the above recipe is set for a conventional setting, if you use a fan-forced oven, reduce temperature by 20°C. When baking bread it is best to use conventional setting, however if you bake multiple trays of bread it is best to use the fan-forced setting.
- Fresh yeast is difficult to get in Hong Kong and therefore I recommend using dried instant yeast which does not need to be activated. If using fresh yeast, dissolve it in tepid liquid before adding it to the flour. 7 g dried yeast is the equivalent of 15 g fresh yeast.
- Always use table salt in baking.
- Never mix salt with yeast. Always put salt to one side and yeast to the other.
- The recipe is suitable to make small bread rolls instead of a large loaf. Reduce baking time to 20-30 minutes.
- Bread is always best freshly baked but it can be frozen as a whole loaf in a freezer bag for up to 1 month. Defrost at room temperature and reheat bread at 200°C for about 10 minutes or until heated through.
- Bread should always be cooled sufficiently on a wire rack before serving.

#### United Family Hike 2010





Continuing a now well-established tradition, Jacqueline and Christoph Ringger organised a family hiking day, designed to meet the needs of hikers, walkers or those who prefer stroll followed by a picnic in Sai Kung country park.

On Sunday 29 November, after meeting in Central at the early hour of 9 am, 28 walkers and hikers large and small drove to Ma Liu Shui Pier in Sha Tin, where they embarked on the Swiss Navy Ship that conveyed them to the first stop, where the more ambitious disembarked and began the climb up to Mount Shek Uk.

The shorter-legged pirates (some of them still getting around on four legs...) continued their morning glide until Lai Chi Chung Pier and then walked in a leisurely way towards Hoi Ha via Nam Shan Tung and Pak Sha O where they met the first group for a barbecue picnic before heading to the beautiful, calm and clear waters of Hoi Ha bay.

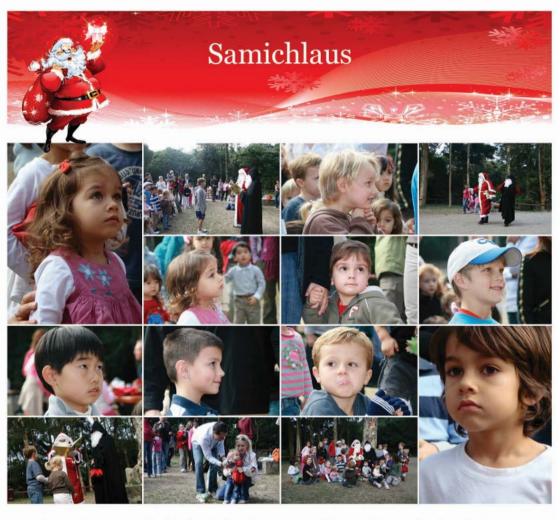
The more energetic then embarked on another 6 km hike along the picturesque shoreline by Tai Tan Country trail, while the others enjoyed the rest of the afternoon on the beach, as the children splashed the water of Hong Kong's "best kept secret" beach. In such moments we can't help thinking how much nicer it is to be lying on a warm beach in Hong Kong than under the grey, rainy, cold skies of a Swiss November!

See you again in 2011!









Ein Hauch von Zimt und Nelken liegt in der Luft. Nüsse, Mandeln, Mandarinen und auch Glühwein gehören einfach dazu zu unserer Winterzeit, auch hier in Hong Kong. Und so war es dann am 6. Dezember wieder so weit. Die Spannung wuchs bis dann endlich der Samichlaus mit seinem Schmutzli durch den Wald bei Tai Tam stapfte. Sehnlichst erwartet hatte er es dieses Jahr wohl sehr eilig, hatte er doch glatt seinen Esel am Nordpol vergessen.

Aber viel wichtiger war den über 60 Kindern das große Buch, in dem in goldenen Lettern alle Taten der großen und kleinen Schelme aufgeschrieben standen. Zum Glück konnte der Chlaus dieses Jahr fast nur Gutes über die Kinder berichten, hatte selten noch eine Idee für Besseres und verteilte großzügig Nüsse, Mandarinen und Grittibenz an die Artigen.

Sogar der Präsident musste sich dem Duo stellen und wurde als letzter schließlich für gute Arbeit in der Suiss Assotiation mit einem extra Glühwein belohnt.

Vielbeschäftigt an diesem Tag mussten die beiden Reisenden vom Nordpol leider zeitig aufbrechen, ließen aber Weihnachtsgefühl und gute Stimmung zurück. Und so saßen dann Kinder und Familien bei Kerzenschein und Feuer noch lange beisammen, leerten so manches Chlaussäckli und freuten sich gemeinsam mit alten und neuen Freunden auf das nahende Weihnachtsfest.

#### Raclette im Park





Beim diesjährigen "Raclette Im Park" waren die Temperaturen bereits im Februar so hoch, dass einem der Gedanke an geschmolzenen Käse etwas seltsam anmutete. Doch das Buffet mit den grossen Käselaibern, dem frischen Brot und dem hausgemachten Fleischkäse, überzeugte auch skeptische Gäste. Herzlichen Dank and Inge und Stephan Herzog fuer den kulinarischen Schmaus. Etwa 40 kleine und grosse Kostgänger haben sich am 27.Februar in Tai Tam Park eingefunden, unter Ihnen auch Mister Schweiz, der sich inkognito unter die Gäste mischte.

Die Atmosphäre war geprägt von Gemütlichkeit und Musse und die letzten Gäste verabschiedeten sich als es bereits dunkel wurde.

Gabrielle Bischof













#### Christmas Cocktail at the China Club



cocktail in the stylish surroundings of the China Club's library. Around 35 people enjoyed drinks, hors d'oeuvres and conversation, while admiring the lights of Hong Kong from the 15th floor of the old Bank of China Building. The brainchild of Sir David Tang (the creator of Shanghai Tang), the club evokes the retro style of old Shanghai and is worth visiting for its collection of Maoist propaganda posters and modern Chinese art from the early 1990s (back when it was still reasonably priced...).

#### Christmas Charity Luncheon

In a spirit of Christmas giving, the final SAHK/Swiss Chamber luncheon of the year is traditionally devoted to a good cause. Fabulous prizes are raffled off, and the money raised is donated to a charity chosen by the speaker. For the charity luncheon on 7 December 2009, the SAHK committee invited two speakers from the Women's Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong through research, community programmes, education and advocacy.

Our speakers were Su-Mei Thompson, Executive director of TWF, and Dr Mike Yao, assistant professor in Media and Communication at City University and a TWF director.

Dr Yao began his talk with a provocative question: why should men care about promoting gender equality? Because, he argued, gender stereotyping is far more prevalent than we would like to think: the media, textbooks, and cultural norms all contribute to propagating negative views of women, which limit their choice of careers and roles. This in turn has an impact of the development of a society.

Furthermore, as Ms Thompson explained, income inequality is a large problem in Hong Kong. Behind the apparent overload of luxury cars and designer handbags lies a more sobering reality: 20% of Hong Kong children under 14 are living in poverty (defined as a household income of less than half the median monthly income, or under 11,850HK\$ for a family of four). Like elsewhere, the burden of poverty is disproportionately borne by women and children.

TWF is tackling this problem in three ways: through research into the causes and consequences of gender inequality in Hong Kong, through financial literacy programmes for poor women, and through leadership courses for underprivileged teens, both boys and girls.











The raffle, graciously drawn by Su-Mei Thompson, saw many prizes being put up for auction by their winners, with Angelina Bussinger officiating as the very persuasive auctioneer.

We warmly thank all the individuals and companies who contributed to the success of the event by donating valuable prizes, from jewellery to chocolates and wine.

The raffle allowed us to raise 70,000 HK\$, of which 50,000\$ was donated to The Women's Foundation for the organisation of a financial literacy course for disadvantaged women. The balance of 20,000\$ was donated to the Joshua Hellmann Foundation for Orphan Disease.

Joshua Hellmann Foundation for Orphan Disease was formed by Christina Hellmann, a Swiss national who was an active member of SAHK, when Joshua, her teenage son, died of complications from a very rare disease. With the help of his doctor and other specialists in the field of Orphan diseases, Christina has since worked tirelessly to encourage and fund more research and spread the awareness and early detection of such diseases.

The Women's Foundation: www.thewomensfoundationhk.org

Joshua Hellmann Foundation for Orphan Disease: www.jhforphandisease.org





The Swiss Association of Hong Kong primarily organizes events for the Swiss community in Hong Kong. However, it was felt a long time ago that perhaps we could do a bit more for the local community by bringing Switzerland closer to Hong Kong, while at the same time contributing to worthwhile charities, such as the Matilda Hospital Sedan Chair race.

We have always tried to decorate the chair in a typical Swiss motif with the team dressed to match the theme. Many typical clichés of Switzerland have been portrayed – William Tell, ski instructors, Heidi, watchmakers, snowmen, to list only a few.

This year represented the 31st anniversary of the Swiss Association's participation in the Sedan Chair Race. Peter Klaus has been a team member right from the beginning and he was captain for many years. The present captain, Werner Heimgartner, has been a team member since 1990.

This year, the organizers of the Sedan Chair Race invited the teams to "Make Fairy Tales Come True" at the 2009 Sedan Chair Race & Bazaar. We chose to bring Snow White and the 7 dwarfs up to the Peak. The chair was decorated accordingly and the team was dressed up as 7 dwarfs, Prince Charming and the Witch.

At 8:00 o'clock in the morning of November 15th, the team met at the entrance of Matilda Hospital on the Peak. Under harsh conditions with nasty winds and almost freezing temperatures, the team dressed up, put the final touches on the chair for the race and quickly learned a song which was vital for the entertainment of the audience around the race course.

Just before 9:00 all teams had to line up in full gear to make the best possible impression on the judges who would decide on prizes for the best decorated chair and team. After a long wait in the cold the race was finally started at exactly 10:00 a.m.

I am proud to announce that once again the Swiss Team won the prize for the best decorated chair. Thank you to all the team members for your effort in making this event very special and successful year after year!

#### Cast of characters:

Snow White Winnie Heimgartner
Prince Charming Albert Hausammann
Dopey Andreas Heimgartner

Grumpy Stefan Basler
Doc Peter Klaus
Happy Dagmar Winkler
Bashful Rudolf Gildemeister

A special thank you to the staff of the Swiss Consulate who made it up to the Peak to cheer us on and provided Swiss refreshments after the race.

As mentioned beforehand the purpose of the Sedan Chair Race is to raise funds for local charities. With the support of companies and individuals, this year our team collected t almost HK\$ 40,000. We thank all the sponsors for their generous donations and we hope to have your support again in the coming year.

Werner Heimgartner



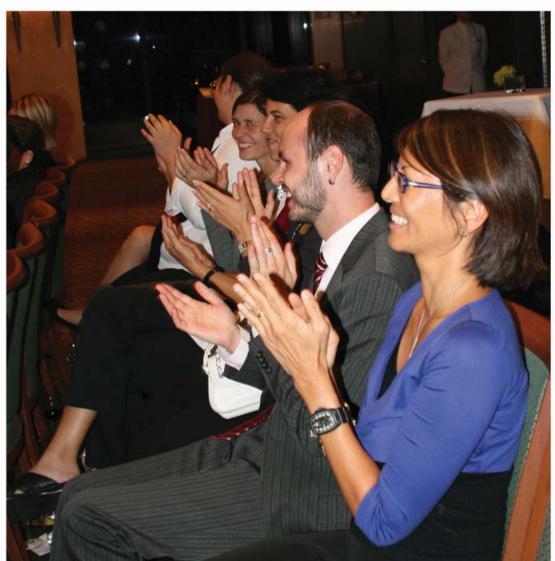
## Samuel Sommer A Swiss Mime in Hong Kong

Shortly before the German Swiss International School (GSIS) fall mid-term break, Samuel Sommer had accepted to commit his time and talent to introduce the students to 'pantomime', the craft of the mime artist. His program prepared and organised by GSIS Art and Language teacher Mrs. Erica Dell'Orto - included a week of various workshops that would integrate the art of mime into the curriculum, working with the children on acting out a story through movement and gesture, without the use of speech. His professional and serious approach to his art, sprinkled with a large pinch of humour, offered the GSIS students of Primary Department, Secondary English Drama Group as well as the Business College an insight and first step into to the use of the powerful tool of entertaining communication.

While in residence at GSIS, Mr Sommer provided teaching hours at the school, participated in department assemblies and hosted an entertaining evening at GSIS during which he showed parents, students and staff members his highly successful rehearsal and coaching method. He also accepted an invitation to the Hong Kong Bankers Club on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, for the members and friends of the Swiss Association. It was thanks to this charity cocktail event, generously sponsored by LGT Wealth & Asset Management, that the curtain could be lifted at school as well as on this evening.

Chef Daniel Wettling and his team of the Bankers Club spoilt us with a delicious selection of cocktail food and drinks while Samuel Sommer took us on a voyage into the wordless world of the mime. He acted the art of cooking spaghetti al dente for us — no, not the recipe but the cooking process itself — he became Roger Federer, and brought a football goal into the Bankers Club against the backdrop of Central from the 43rd floor location, and finally he catapulted our multi-cultural Hong Kong society westwards into the current problems of Swiss politics and safely back to bustling city of "Hong" — as the artist nicknamed our city on this occasion.







For Samuel Sommer it was not difficult to make everyone – parents, children, GSIS staff members, dentists, bankers and many more – laugh, giggle, and cackle ... and a many of us could not help but be carried away by the precise but shy, ironic but tender, rich yet light scenes of outstanding pantomime that he concocted on demand from impromptu "orders" placed by the audience. Thank you Samuel Sommer for having stopped by in Hong Kong!

Béatrice Rogger

#### **Quiz Solutions**

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 4

Shek Kip Mei fire

1960s

The Beatles

Star Ferry

Answer 5

Answer 6

Answer 7

Answer 8

1970s

1983

The Sino British Joint Declaration

Civet Cat

Answer 9

Answer 10

Answer 11

Answer 12

6: Geneva, Athens, Karachi, Calcutta, Bangkok

1680

1990s

Kwun Tong Line

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## Voyage d'une famille suisse au pays des minarets!

par Marguerite Candiotti

Coïncidence, nous avions décidé de nous rendre en Arabie Saoudite bien avant le referendum sur les minarets qui allait provoquer la tempête que nous savons sur notre placide ciel helvétique et ouvrir un débat qui n'en finit plus, non seulement en Suisse mais dans les autres pays européens.

Pourquoi donc avoir choisi l'Arabie Saoudite me direz-vous?

Après avoir vécu sept ans en Asie et visité les pays les plus classiques nous en sommes arrivés à nous lancer un défi pour choisir des pays qui ne figurent pas touiours dans les catalogues des agences de voyage et qui au premier abord sont certes moins touristiques mais qui rendent justement leur découverte plus excitante. Après entre autres, la Mongolie, qui depuis figure sur les catalogues de voyages, la Corée du Nord, la Nouvelle Guinée et les pays en « stan » comme le Kirghizstan ou le Turkménistan qui sortent du circuit habituel nous voilà donc parti pour l'Arabie Saoudite.

Le choix étant fait il restait à trouver une agence de voyage et expérience faite, lorsque l'on sort des sentiers battus, il vaut mieux aller directement à la source car en dehors des circuits



habituels les agences de Hong Kong n'ont pas grand chose à proposer. L'agence trouvée, restait à faire les visas. Je téléphone au consulat d'Arabie Saoudite pour connaître les horaires d'ouverture pour faire nos visas touristes et on me répond poliment mais très sûrement qu'il n'y pas de visa touriste!! Là aussi nous avons appris qu'il ne faut pas s'arrêter aux premières embûches et ie me rends donc au consulat qui deuxième coïncidence se trouve dans le même immeuble que notre consulat helvétique. L'accueil et très poli et encore plus chaleureux lorsque j'explique que nous nous rendons en Arabie Saoudite pour visiter le pays et non pas pour affaires. La première surprise passée le responsable est enchanté d'avoir une famille qui part à la découverte de son pays et m'aide à remplir les formulaires via internet sur l'ordinateur qui est à disposition dans leurs locaux et me demande si nous serions disposés à notre retour à leur faire un petit compte-rendu sur nos impressions. En fait le visa touriste existe mais à Hong Kong le consulat a plutôt l'habitude d'hommes d'affaires et ce qu'il faut avoir pour obtenir le visa c'est la lettre d'invitation fournie par l'agence de voyages et l'on obtient le visa en quelques jours.

Nous avons opté pour un séjour de 10 jours qui nous emmènera d'abord dans la capitale Riyad, puis Al Ula, Mada'in Saleh, pour finir avec El Wedjh et Djeddah au bord de la mer rouge.

Les formalités étant remplies nous voilà prêts et nous nous retrouvons à la porte d'embarquement à Dubai. Première constatation, il y a très peu de femmes ce qui ne rassure pas tellement ma fille et moi-même d'autant plus que j'ai lu tellement de choses sur internet, par exemple qu'il ne faut pas regarder un homme dans les veux, qu'il ne faut pas amener de magazine féminin qui pourraient offenser leur croyance de par les photos souvent dénudées, ne pas adresser la parole à homme qui n'est pas de la famille, ne pas sortir toute seule, ne pas... ne pas... ne pas... que nous nous attendions au pire. Comme lors de notre précédent voyage en Iran, quelques femmes qui sont à bord de l'avion et qui sont habillées normalement revêtent l'abava (tunique noire plus ou moins brodée et portée sur une tenue normale). Nous avions prévu la chose et nous faisons donc de même. Arrivés à l'aéroport de Rivad longue file d'attente pour les formalités mais uniquement pour les hommes car pour les femmes pas de problèmes, comme nous avons une file spéciale et que peu de femmes voyagent toutes seules nous passons les formalités en 5 minutes sans aucun problème.





En attendant le reste de la famille nous constatons que les saoudiens tout comme les femmes sont très respectueux des traditions et portent tous leur tunique immaculée blanche ou noire et leur couvre chef rouge et blanc sur la tête. Ceux qui ne la portent pas, sont soit des visiteurs ou alors les nombreux immigrés pakistanais, indiens, népalais qui sont la force de travail des saoudiens.

Nous sommes accueillis par Ali, major parachutiste dans la garde nationale et guide à ses heures perdues et qui va nous accompagner pendant tout notre séjour. Son sens de l'humour, son anglais parfait ainsi que ses connaissances et son ouverture d'esprit ont certainement rendu notre voyage encore plus attrayant. Nous avons pu apprécier l'hospitalité saoudienne, qui est sacrée et comparable à l'accueil des pays méditerranéens et où le thé se transforme en un réel repas pantagruélique. Ce que nous retiendrons de notre voyage c'est d'abord la capitale Riyad. Grande ville aux portes du désert aux immeubles bas et blancs étalés sur des kilomètres partagée par deux grandes avenues ou ne trônent que deux tours d'où l'on a une vue sur toute la ville. Malgré les immeubles modernes climatisés Riyad a su garder son aspect ancestral

avec le marché aux chameaux, son magnifique musée retraçant toute l'histoire de l'islam, son souk, et sa grande place aux pavés dépoussiérés qui nous feraient presque oublier que comme par le passé les assassins sont encore décapités en public.

A 4h de route de Médine nous avons découvert Al Ula. Imaginez une petite ville plantée au beau milieu du Grand Canyon américain. Des montagnes dessinant des arabesques à perte de vue, une oasis remplie d'orangers, dattiers et citronniers ainsi que les vestiges d'une autre civilisation tout cela au même endroit au milieu d'un ciel bleu, on s'attend presque à voir arriver Aladin sur son tapis volant. Mais nous ne sommes pas au bout de nos surprises, car à Mada'in Saleh, à la sortie de la ville en plein désert, nous sommes stupéfaits de découvrir qu'à l'intérieur de chaque montagne ont été creusées des tombes datant de 1000 ans avant J-C. Certes au cours des années les statues des portes ont perdu leurs têtes et les tombeaux sont vides mais le fait qu'il n'y ait aucun touriste et que l'on entende que le bruit du vent les rend certainement plus mystiques que celle de Petra en Jordanie.

El Wedih est une petite ville au bord de la mer Rouge avec une partie sauvage où des kilomètres intacte et une autre partie de plages aménagées saoudiens viennent pique niquer et même s'installer tous en famille pour passer le week-end et camper. Comme il n'y a pas de discothèque, de cinéma, les Saoudiens privilégient une vie familiale où cousins, neveux, grands-parents se retrouvent tous ensemble pour danser, manger, voir un film. Un autre passe temps est la conduite enfants et les femmes, qui n'ont pas le droit de conduire, apprennent. Djeddah nous a parue un peu plus artificielle, les maisons au bord de mer y ont été construites au gré des fortunes des riches saoudiens sans respecter un ordre architectural ce qui n'est pas toujours du meilleur goût. Tout y est plus grand, v compris la copie du jet d'eau de Genève que l'on voit jaillir du parc du palais roval. La ville redevient plus humaine et accueillante au coucher du soleil lorsque les familles viennent dérouler leur tapis sur le bord de la jetée pour profiter de la fraîcheur du soir, pique niquer ou fumer le narguilé en regardant le coucher du soleil et l'appel à la prière passerait presque inaperçu dans ce décor de carte postale.



Nous retiendrons que l'Arabie Saoudite est un pays où l'eau y est plus chère que l'essence, où les hommes comme les femmes y sont couverts, où ces dernières ne conduisent pas mais ont des universités qui leur sont réservées et la majorité d'entre elles a un diplôme universitaire. Certaines ont le visage caché mais celles à qui nous avons parlé le faisaient par choix et non par obligation. Tout le monde prie mais la ville ne s'arrête pas au moment de la prière, et on en viendrait à dire que les mosquées sont presque discrètes. La classe movenne est aisée et lorsqu'en été la température devient insoutenable la plupart des Saoudiens part en Europe pour les plus riches et les autres en Indonésie, Malaisie, ou autres pays d'Asie. Il règne en Arabie Saoudite une certaine douceur de vivre et une hospitalité si chaleureuse qui rappelle celles des pays méditerranéens mais il est vrai que nous n'avons pas côtoyer les berbères dont la vie est certainement plus rude et où la femme a une vie plus difficile, il nous faudra attendre un prochain voyage pour découvrir une autre facette de ce pays qui nous a charmés.



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I/We would be interested in		
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	Maximal Einzel Minimal Ehepaar	CHF 1'710	CHF 27 360 CHF 20'520		
	I Market Co. Comment of the Control	CHF 3'420	CHF 41'040		
	Maximal Ehepaar	CHF 3 420	CHF 41 040		
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