S'Alphorn



138



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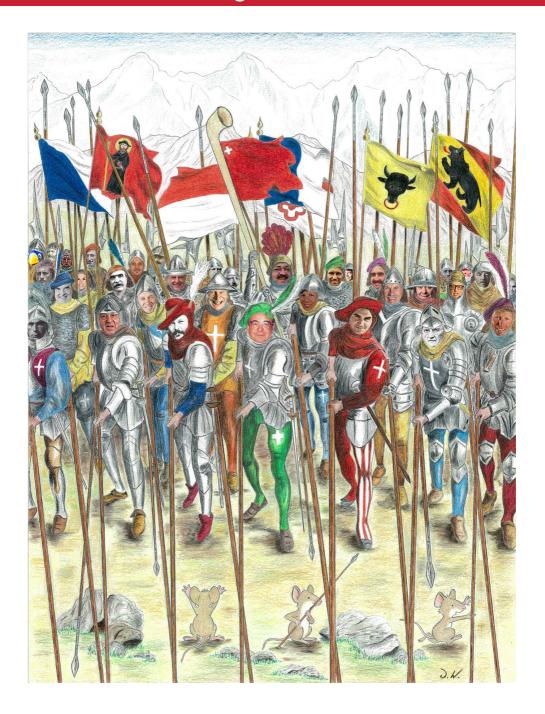


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Eidgenossen



s'Alphorn issue 138

Drawing by Daniel Wettling

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Eidgenossen (page 3)

Aside from being triumphant in "battles" around the world, the "Eidgenossen" also laying the foundation for education and creating opportunities for many others based on common sense and equality.

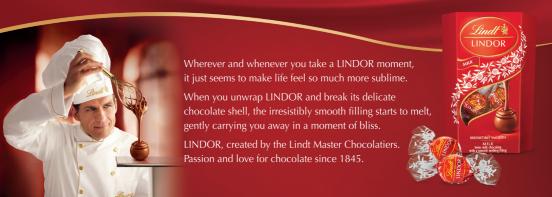
The Eidgenossen are extremely ambitious, intelligent and known for their ability to multitask. As they always say:

"Until you spread your wings you will have no idea how far you can fly!"





Melt into a moment of bliss.



Message from the President

Dear Members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong, Dear Readers,

2019 marked a significant and challenging year for many around the world. In Hong Kong, series of demonstrations took place since June, followed with the lingering covid-19 pandemic. Businesses were on the mend to rewriting the future, establishing new practices and behaviors. Families have compromised while instilling stronger values with the time spent working and schooling from home. The Swiss Association remained a platform for the exchange of knowledge and support to our Swiss community, and for contributing back to enhancing the common good.

Thanks to the 71st Anniversary Committee, who hosted our signature event, the Swiss National Day Dinner, with success and celebrated August 1st. Over 220 Swiss gathered to relish a lovely evening with traditional music, exquisite food, and games.

The SAHK have had to indefinitely postpone several events including Raclette in the Park, and the New Year's Cocktail Reception, resulting from the enacted public gathering ban and social distancing since February. Prior events ranged from the coffee mornings and Jass Evenings, to our traditional Samichlaus and the Christmas Charity Luncheon presenting Home of the Loving Faithfulness were heartily hosted.

I am grateful to our Committee members who gave their time and helped preserve our 70+ years of heritage and friendships. The organization of events, and collaboration with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce



has seen another successful year and we extend our warmest thanks.

The SAHK is seeking new committee members, and inviting those who wish to get involved to visit our website and reach out to us.

We are very fortunate to have received the excellent support from the Swiss Consulate of Hong Kong, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, and our members. The community has flourished over our values.

A special thank you to our sponsors, who have made the annual publication of the s'Alphorn possible, keeping the Swiss community connected and informed.

On behalf of the Committee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong: Danke, Merci, Grazie, and Engraziel!

Rosalind Keller-Liang

Committee 2020-21



Rosalind Keller-Liang President



Finn Krü gerHon, Treasurer



Andres Flueckiger Sponsorship Coordinator



Ashley Lau Events Coordinator



Joshua Spirgi
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Ricardo Ferraz s'Alphorn Editor



Verena Mooser
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The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) serves as a focal point for the local Swiss community to socialize, foster friendships, conduct business networking, meet and engage in activities of common interest.

Throughout the years, the SAHK has welcomed numerous Swiss nationals in Hong Kong and enabled them to maintain and share their heritage and cultural experiences while abroad.

The SAHK organizes a variety of activities, including monthly luncheons with guest

speakers, monthly Jass evenings, holiday parties for children and family hikes. The SAHK works closely with other Swiss organizations such as the Consulate General of Switzerland, Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss School Committee, Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Swiss XI, Swiss Dragon Boat Team, and Swiss Rifle Association.

Membership to the SAHK is open to all Swiss and friends of Switzerland residing in Hong Kong. To find out more, please write us at info@swiss-hk.com or visit our website at www.swiss-hk.com

New Committee Members





Rosalind

I am a Hong Kong born Swiss and Australian, raised in upstate New York. I met my other half, Philip, when we worked in private banking at UBS in Paradeplatz. Our family moved back to Hong Kong in 2008 after living in Singapore, Zurich, and London.

The same year my first child Maximus was born, I was prompted to explore an emerging field in corporate sustainability. After receiving my masters in sustainability and environmental management from Harvard University, I have been involved in sustainability and philanthropy initiatives at a British Conglomerate.

Having lived in many cities, it is difficult to identify home. Hong Kong will always have a special place as I have raised my two children in this beautiful city. I enjoy making new friendships, explore traveling to new places, and learning new knowledge.

Andres

Hi, my name is Andres Flueckiger. Since 2005 I'm spending my time in Asia. The first 12 years I spent in Hong Kong where I also joined the Swiss Association and volunteered already. After that I was away and worked in Shanghai and Shenzhen for around 2 years. 2019 I came back to Hong Kong and married my now wife from Taiwan. We are living half in Hong Kong and half in Taiwan for the time being. We love to travel around the world together and enjoy our lives. It's my pleasure to be back here and happy to volunteer again for the Swiss Association.

New Committee Members





Denise

Originally from Bern and having lived the majority of my adult life in Zurich, my husband and I moved to Hong Kong with our two sons (4 and 7) in 2018.

I spent most of my working life as an Executive Assistant at 20 Minuten AG and UBS. Being a published children's book author, I am passionate about writing and reading. Living in Hong Kong, I dedicate my time to my children, to the SSC and GSIS as a KPR as well as a German tutor.

In our free time we enjoy travelling, exploring the beautiful city, seeing friends and sitting nervously on the couch when guests from Switzerland arrive, wondering what kind of cheese or chocolate they will eventually bring along.

Finn

Hi, I am Finn, originally from Germany, but by now more a product of all my travels and experiences. I came to St Gallen in 2010 for my master's degree, and only left Switzerland in November 2018 to come to Hong Kong. However, with my parents, brother and many friends living there, I consider it home.

I work for Swiss Re in the core Reinsurance business in Strategy & Operations, having transitioned from Economic Research where I started my career in Zurich.

In my free time I enjoy travelling with my partner and experiencing the culinary delights Asia has to offer. To keep fit, I bike, but I am not a morning person, so in the heat of Hong Kong this confines me to the stationary bike. Dragon boating became my new pastime and I enjoyed competing as one of the "Swiss Dragons".

New Committee Member / Goodbyes

Ricardo (New Committee Member)

Hello, my name is Ricardo and I am the s'Alphorn editor and the newest addition to the SAHK committee. I was born in Brazil but today I am bonded for life with Switzerland.



I was lucky enough to marry an amazing Swiss woman, Katia, and since 2015 we are travelling the world together because of her work as a diplomat. Last year our family grew bigger with the arrival of Leonardo, the cutest Swiss baby.

We arrived in Hong Kong at the end of 2019, after three very intense years in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Our first months here have not been less intense, although we are delighted to live in this vibrant city, appreciating its contrasts, like the one between ingenious architecture and lush green.

Back in Brazil I studied communications, worked as a journalist, but also had many different jobs throughout my life.

Goodbye and thank you very much to our friends who left the SAHK Committee in 2019-2020. We are really gratefull for their commitment and we wish all the best for their new projects.



Pying-Huan Wang, Sponsorship Coordinator

Claudia Pope, Events coordinator



Goodbyes

Goodbye and thank you very much

Vishnu Murthy, Hon. Treasurer



San Wang, Hon. Secretary



Susanne Fanton, Events Coordinator



Martin Reinhard, First Vice President



Annual General Meeting



72nd Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 31st March in an unconventional setting, over Zoom conferencing. The meeting chaired by President, Ms Rosalind Keller-Liang, and opened by past President, Ms Verena Mooser, had welcomed 23 participating members including the Swiss Chamber, and Swiss Benevolent Society. A special welcome was extended to our new Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Switzerland, Ms Katia Stampfli-Ferraz.

The Association had organized online proxies to enable voting for members who were unable to attend the AGM. We are thankful to the 94 members who had sent in their proxies and were excused from the AGM. The meeting lasted no longer than the anticipated one hour, with members joining from



their offices, home, and a few had "Prost" with us during their small dinner gathering at the Swiss Chalet when the public gathering ban of no larger than four persons were enforced at the time. It was interesting to see different methods of voting via zoom with both the polling tool, and raising hands. The meeting was followed with the Swiss Benevolent Society AGM that and also carried out smoothly.





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Alumni Chapters of Swiss Universities in Hong Kong



University of St. Gallen (HSG)

The HSG Alumni Club Hong Kong was started in 1999 and addresses all alumni of the University of St.Gallen who currently live and/or work in Hong Kong. The HSG Alumni Club Hong Kong is run on an informal basis with 4 to 5 events per year. Our "classic venues" include the Christmas/New Year dinner at the Library of the China Club, the fondue/raclette dinner at the King Ludwig Beerhall in Stanley, as well as the BBQ at the Foreshore Deck of The Hong Kong Country Club. We had also participated in other "joint-alumni events" including Tsinghua University in 2012, the Toronto University in 2013 and the HSG Asia Alumni Meeting. The average attendance per event varies from 20 to 30 people. Some of our members have been living in Hong Kong for more than 20 years, while others are on "short-term" contracts. For more information, please contact Alexandre Tunik, President of the HSG Alumni Club Hong Kong at tpf@transpacificfareast.com or go to the website

https://hsgalumni.ch/de/chapters-clubs/uebersicht/



ETH Alumni Chapter Hong Kong

The Chapter of the ETH Alumni in Hong Kong was founded on 4th of February 2013. The founding members intend to organize three to four events each year related to current and relevant topics researched and taught at ETH. They are also inviting guest scholars and industry leaders from ETH Zurich to present their areas of expertise to Hong Kong audiences. It is the aim to foster an active and mutually beneficial relationship between ETH University, its alumni and the wider business community in Asia through programs and events. Given the chapter recently are actively seeking contact to alumni of ETH Zurich. ETH alumni based in the region are encouraged to contact Magnus Huber, President of the Alumni Chapter in Hong Kong at magnus.huber@arctic.ac To become a member, individuals simply need to register as ETH Zurich Alumni. The affiliation to the local chapter does not incur any additional costs.

Alumni Chapters of Swiss Universities in Hong Kong



University of Zurich UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong

It is the aim of the UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong to provide a platform for discussions on education and research in humanities, arts, law, science and economics, reflecting the inter-disciplinary study fields of the University of Zurich. The platform shall help to strengthen ties between visiting scholars/alumni and the Hong Kong alumni bodies (Universities and Alumni) by inviting them to join and contribute to the events of the UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong. Since the start of the Hong Kong UZH Alumni chapter in March 2012 several events have taken place. The UZH Alumni and Friends is open to all alumni of the University of Zurich and to people supportive of their aim. For more information, please contact Tobias Brandner, Chairperson of the UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong at tobias.brandner@alumni.uzh.ch or go to the below website where you will find the link to register your membership & join the UZH Alumni HK

http://www.alumni.uzh.ch/wer-wir-sind/international/hongkong.html



Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Hong Kong Alumni Chapter

The Hong Kong Alumni Chapter of the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne meets at least once a quarter, offering great opportunities for social gatherings and professional networking. It is also a good platform to help both interns and new graduates integrate easily into their new environment. For more information, please go to the website:

http://aehl.net/eng/hong-kong

Other Swiss Associations

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK)

Gabriel Mallet, President

SCCHK represents the Swiss business community to both the Swiss and HKSAR governments. Regular meetings and luncheons allow members to meet and discuss their common interests. SCCHK also informs members of new government initiatives that might have relevance to them and acts as a lobbying vehicle to promote their interests to the Government.

www.swisschamhk.org gabriel.mallet@swisschamhk.org

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Thomas Müller, Hong Kong Representative OSA ensures 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 emigrating or moving back to Switzerland.

www.aso.ch aso@swiss-hk.com

Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Tobias Brandner, President

The SBS of Hong Kong was incorporated in September 1949 to assist Swiss nationals who encounter financial difficulties in Hong Kong. 30% of SAHK membership fee is contributed to the SBS fund.

obias.brandner@swiss-hk.com

Swiss Rifle Association

Alexander Luedi, President

Founded in 1982, the Swiss Rifle Association organises shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shooting and Operation Mercury.

www.srahk.com rifle_association@swiss-hk.com

Swiss School Committee (SSC)

Denise Probst, President

Established in 1978, the Swiss School Committee (SSC) is a committee of the SAHK with an additional reporting-line to the Swiss government. The SSC provides a platform supporting the educational needs for children in the Swiss community of Hong Kong, focusing on Swiss culture.

denise.probst@swiss-hk.com

Swiss XI

Peter Klaus, Honorary President

Founded in 1977 to offer members of the Swiss community and beyond an opportunity to participate in local amateur football league games. Jürg Niederberger is Vice President and Manager of XI. He has been in charge since 2006. He is also the Swiss XI article contributor for S'Alphorn for the last few years.

j_niederberger@hotmail.com

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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad Recap of 97th ASO Congress in Montreux

Dear SAHK Members,

From 16th to 18th August 2019 the Council and Congress of the Swiss Abroad took place at the 2m2c Montreux Music and Congress Centre and I would like to briefly report about the main two topics the ASO Council discussed and voted on and which also drew special media attention and was covered in both press and TV:





Resolution E-Voting

The withdrawal of the e-voting system of the Canton Geneva at the end of 2018 and the system by Swiss Post in July 2019 was a big setback for the Swiss Abroad and it meant that Swiss Citizens abroad have the option for electronic voting during the Swiss Federal elections in autumn 2019. For many Swiss Abroad e-voting is the only way to execute their political right as the voting documentation often arrives too late or never by standard post.

The ASO Council has voted with a large majority for a resolution requesting the government to stronger push for the development of a reliable, secure, trustworthy and economically viable e-voting system.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Resolution Framework Agreement

Switzerland - European Union

Given the importance of the relationship with the EU with approx. 1.8 million EU citizens resident in Switzerland and about 458'000 Swiss Citizens living in the European Union, the council voted with a large majority in favour of a resolution to demand the signing of the framework agreement with the EU that ensures continuation of the bilateral way.

The **ASO Congress** on Saturday, 18th August 2019 was under the headline "Which World For Tomorrow?" and the discussions touched on some of the great challenges of the future society, how to deal with those and - already today – how to find solutions and answers.





Swiss Federal Council, Ignazio Cassis, opened the afternoon session by underlining the importance of the ASO that campaigns for the Swiss Abroad since 1916.

Mr. Cassis explained the engagement of Switzerland for the future and some of the key elements of the AVIS 2028 strategy.

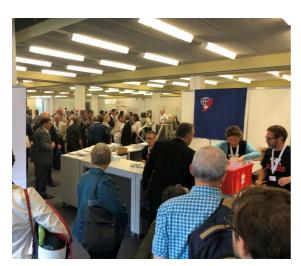
Mr. Francesco Pisano, director of the UN library, explained the UNO's goals for sustainable development.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad



Consequences of climate change is a topic that currently is of great concern and followed very closely. Mrs. Martine Rebetez, Professor for applied climatology of University of Neuenburg, gave some very interesting insights and facts as well as an alarming prognosis.

Some of the other highlights were the presentations of Mr. Urs Eberhard, Vice-Director of Swiss Tourism, about the development of tourism in the digital age; Mrs. Salomé Vogt, Head of Avenir Jeunesse about the vision of the younger generation and "think-tanks" instead of political parties as well as the podium discussion with members from both the public and private sector to elaborate how work and job market will look in the future.



The next ASO Congress with the theme "Challenges For Our Democracy" will take place in Lugano from 21st to 23rd August 2020.* This will be the last ASO Congress of my term as ASO representative for Hong Kong and I hope that many SAHK members are keen to take up this role for the 2021-24 term.

Tom Mueller thomasm@zamira.hk

* Editor's note: the 2020 ASO Congress was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Message from the Consul General

Dear Members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong,

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

It is with great pleasure that I have taken over in November of last year the function as Consul General of Switzerland in Hong Kong and Macau after 4,5 years in Taiwan.

One of my first readings after my arrival was the booklet you are holding now in your hand. I have to say that I was deeply impressed by the number and quality of events the Swiss Association organized during the previous year. I would like to take this opportunity and thank the Committee of the Swiss Association for its immense dedication and time for the Swiss Community. I would like to extend my gratitude also to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Rifle Association. Please be assured that I will do my utmost to support all your activities and I am excited to participate in as many gatherings as possible and to get to know many of you.

I often heard people telling me, that I arrived in peculiar times: The demonstrations were in their 6th month and while writing these lines we face the challenges of the COVID-19 which affect all of us in different ways. Together with my team we attach great priority to the care and support to the Swiss people in Hong Kong and Macao. Also in difficult moments our office continued its normal operations in order to provide consular services to our clients. We make sure that you can contact us or our helpline in Bern around the clock. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



I am looking forward to promoting and representing Switzerland in Hong Kong and Macau, cities with which we enjoy very good relations. Beside our consular tasks, we support and encourage exchanges in the economic, trade, cultural, educational and innovation field.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our Head of Chancery, Mr Reto Läderach, for his great work at the Consulate General during the past years. He will move to Singapore in July and his successor, Mr Thomas Fischer, will join us from Doha in August.

Kind regards,

Rolf Frei Consul General

Interview with Katia Stampfli-Ferraz

The s'Alphorn had a conversation with Katia Stampfli-Ferraz, the new Deputy Consul General.

Can you tell us something about you?

I am originally from Mendrisio but I left Ticino after high school. I first moved to Zurich where I studied and worked for several years and then to Hong Kong to complete an MBA at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology back in 2012. I was always fascinated about different cultures, travelling and international relations and I was hoping to have an opportunity to come back to Hong Kong.

When did you arrive in Hong Kong?

We arrived in November 2019. I am in Hong Kong with my husband Ricardo and our little son Leonardo who was born in June last year.



Where were you posted before coming to Hong Kong?

We were in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was my first posting abroad after one year of training at the FDFA. It was a fascinating experience both on the professional and personal side. Also a densely populated place, although of course very different from Hong Kong.

What are your first impressions of the city?

As mentioned I already knew Hong Kong and it is a city that I like very much. Although Hong Kong is going through difficult times, it is still an amazing city and I am sure that it will prove once more its resilience. I am impressed about how this city manages to re-organize itself very rapidly and face any challenges.

What is your job ad Deputy Consul General

I am mostly responsible for the field of "Public Diplomacy" which broadly speaking is any government-sponsored efforts aimed at communicating directly with the publics. Through Public Diplomacy we aim to establish a dialogue with different actors designed to inform and exchange of expertise, opinions and values. For us important fields of public diplomacy are activities related to the promotion of business, culture, education, tourism and innovation and technology. Despite the fact that many events had to be cancelled at the beginning of the year, Switzerland will still be very active for the rest of 2020 and we look forward to major events such as the Hong Kong Book Fair, the FinTech Week and Entrepreneur Day.

Interview with Reto Läderach



"Even though being a global citizen for almost all of my adult life, I am still proud of my Swiss roots, born in Berne and having two siblings living in Switzerland."

During this summer of 2020, Reto Laderäch will complete four years as the Swiss Consul in Hong Kong and will soon leave the city for his new post. While the General Consul is the whole consulate chief and oversees more general diplomatic matters, the consul is the head of the consular affairs, what means he or she is the main responsible for looking after Swiss people in Hong Kong and Macau. We asked Reto a few questions to get to know him and his work better.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

In my early professional years, I was working in the Swiss banking sector, before entering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs twenty-five years ago. Discovering different cultures and living abroad has fascinated me ever since. So, I had the opportunity to work abroad in Lagos, Barcelona, Beijing, Berne, Pristina, Rabat, Addis Ababa and now Hong Kong. Since my posting in Morocco my spouse has been accompanying me.

What is the best quality a consul can have?

Being in this profession, whether in my role of a Consul/Head of Operations, one should never lose its curiosity. Luckily, this profession offers me so many opportunities to dive into different worlds. As for the job itself, it is a privilege to constantly work together with people coming from different backgrounds and sectors. The dynamic and good spirit of a team are key and therefore, it is always sad to move on and let it go.

How do you compare Hong Kong to other places you worked?

Even though living for instance in Africa is so completely different from the daily life in South East Asia or anywhere else, I always treasure so many good memories from each posting and pack them into my souvenir-luggage. To work and live in such divers contexts, is an extremely enriching experience.

What can you say about the Swiss community in Hong Kong?

When I arrived in Hong Kong I learnt and appreciated the dynamic of the Swiss Community and it was a great pleasure to develop all these different relationships through my duties as the Swiss Consul. I take this as an opportunity to thank each one, whose pathway I had the pleasure to cross during my assignment here.

Do you know where are you going after Hong Kong?

After four wonderful years in this stunning and dazzling place Hong Kong, I will start my new assignment in Singapore in summer 2020. A new chapter is opening and my wife and I are eagerly looking forward to it.

Consulate General of Switzerland



Rolf Frei Consul General



Katia Stampfli-Ferraz Deputy Consul General



Reto Läderach Consul



Claudia Solenthaler Head of Swiss Business Hub



Wing Kai Chan Trade Officer



Richard Kurz Assistant to the Consul General



Eva Enzler-Kölliker Consular Officer



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Kan
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Senna Ma Driver & Office Assistant



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Swiss Business Hub

Dear Reader,

What a year it has been so far, and for many small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) it surely has been a challenging one.

In the business world, issues can arise daily, whether it's trying to meet payroll, satisfy investors, dealing with unexpected complications or trying to deliver a new service to the market. Not all businesses are cut out for navigating stormy waters, but those who are able to turn what seems like an unending stream of challenges to their advantage, usually emerge stronger and achieve more.





Above, Claudia Solenthaler, Head of the Swiss Business Hub, with her colleagues in the Swiss Consulate.

On the left, a meeting during the 2019 Cosmoproof

For many, a push of positivity can go a long way. A crisis is a remarkable and ironic thing. It can make normally successful people crumble, but for others, it can be a powerful stepping stone to greatness. The most experienced players can become mediocre and the less experienced often find new ways to grow.

Now is certainly a great time to start strategising new opportunities for the post-crisis

phase in order for your business to reach new and effective goals. Turning crisis into opportunity can result in fundamental, long-term growth and success if carried out well. There is no doubt that a crisis causes many problems, but it also creates great opportunities for innovation.

This year, sustainability is the core topic of all Swiss representations in Mainland China and Hong Kong. Sustainability is becoming

Swiss Business Hub

more important for all companies across several industries. As the expectations on corporate responsibility increase and as transparency becomes more prevalent, companies are recognising the need to act on sustainability. Since this is a headlining topic of our representations, it may be time to consider business opportunities across sectors such as CleanTech and HealthTech.



The Swiss General Consulate team



Claudia Solenthaler

Head of Swiss Business Hub claudia.solenthaler@eda.admin.ch

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Some noteworthy trends and opportunities for SMEs surrounding this topic of post-crisis include: water filtration systems or devices, special air purification or cleansing systems for household/commercial properties and potentially plant-based or natural sanitation products for childcare or health-conscious markets.

Did you know that in Chinese, the word for crisis 危機, also bears the meaning of opportunity? It has been said that there can be opportunity only if there is risk. Despite this turbulent time, we believe that opportunities are there for us to grab and persevere from these words of wisdom.

Looking to set up your business in the above-mentioned topics? Got any questions about your current business? Know a Swiss company that may be interested to set up in Hong Kong? Get in touch, always happy to assist.

Monthly Jass

The monthly Swiss Jass evenings continue to take place at the Pacific Club in Tsim Sha Tsui. It is a fun event with exciting games, interesting debates and a high-quality stellar dinner. The top three winners of each Jass evening will bring home a bottle of wine and the player with the best overall result out of five participations will become Jass champion, winning a Swiss cow-bell!

A year after Angela, another Jass Queen has emerged at this year's Jass championship. It was none other than Stella, who dominated the season winning two Jass evenings. In one of those evenings she earned a total of 3,815 points, the highest score of all times. Adrian came close as the first runner-up, while Roland came in at third. A big congratulations to all of our winners!

By Raffael Morger







In December we held our traditional Chlausjass, a special event loaded with fantastic prizes. Lukas won the evening, taking home the prestigious Peninsula Hamper as its grand prize. A big thanks to our generous sponsors who made the event a memorable one.

For those who wish to participate, you are more than welcome to join. The 2020 monthly Jass evenings are published on the Swiss Association Website. To register, kindly e-mail at jass@swiss-hk.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Swiss National Day Celebrations

Swiss National Day First of August

The annual celebration gathered families and business partners to enjoy a lavishing evening with Swiss delicacies, traditional music and singing performances, lucky draw, and observance of the national anthem. Farewell remarks to the former Consul General Mr Reto Renggli were also made. It was a hearty evening and ended with a lucky draw that concluded a midsummer night's dream.











Swiss National Day Celebrations

Swiss National Day













We are grateful to our sponsors for donating a good range of prizes for our lucky draw, and the Swiss Chamber for co-hosting and supporting the event.

Swiss National Day Celebrations

Swiss National Day













Dim Sum Cooking Class

At the end of last summer, SAHK members had a chance to learn the secrets for preparing and cooking delicious Dim Sum. Using the state of art V-Zug kitchen in Causeway Bay, a professional chef teached how to prepare four different types of Dim Sum. Naturally, the fascinating class finished with a delicious lunch.









Donation of Schoggi Meier Cookies

Schoggi Meier had gathered a handful of volunteers at the factory a week before the Charity Luncheon to prepare bags containing Christmas cookies and truffles. The company traditionally donates these sweets for luncheon. The volunteers not only helped with cookies packing but tasting the remaing of the harvest!







Junk Boat Trip

It was a warm November evening when about 40 SAHK members met at the Central Pier to get on board of the junk. Our vessel swayed gently back and forth on the water, the city's skyline shining bright in the background.







With good-tasting wine, finest cheese, wonderful bread and air-dried Parma ham, it was no surprise that we all had a good time! Walter was constantly making sure that the buffet was full of fine treats, and Rene made members happy with Swiss chocolate and Kirschstängeli. Fortunately, the beer was only finished when the junk headed home. I got to know some new people, and discussions about life, politics and schooling were very lively and accompanied by funky 80ties background music. It was no surprise that the four hours passed quickly. When we returned to the harbor we could look back on an all-round successful evening. Maybe, next time with you on board? (text by Denise Probst)







One foggy morning in early April, a group of twelve hikers met to hike from Parkview to Stanley. Following the first section of the Wilson trail, we started by walking to the top of Violet Hill, before we started our descent towards the south side of Hong Kong Island. For our youngest participants there were some amazing boulders to climb and treasure to collect on the way. Although the fog gave our hike a very special atmosphere, it covered the views over the valleys and the seas.







After a short rest for a quick snack and some drinks, we followed the route along the catchwater, which made for great exploration for the younger members of the party.

Once in Stanley we met up with the Swiss Dragonboat Team for lunch and drinks. In all, an enjoyable morning!

(text by Verena Mooser)

Private Guided Tour of

"Encounters Across Cultures: Seeds of Life"

An Immersive Art Experience with Swiss Artist Katja Loher

Last summer, we had hosted a Swiss artist, Ms Katja Loher, on a private guided tour as part of The House Collective's first ever Art Programme. Ms Loher was born in 1979 in Zurich, currently residing in New York, incorporates music, dance and costume to explore nature and its interconnected forces.

Her over-arching concept for this project is inspired by the Chinese theory of the Five Elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. It has explored the ancient patterns of creation and destruction putting into questions our environmental impacts.



As part of the exhibition at The Upper House, Loher had showcased a unique taste of Hong Kong through her collaboration with Ms Thierry Chow, the innovative Feng Shui designer reinventing the ancient discipline with cutting edge aesthetics.

Exclusive to our Swiss Association Members, we opened up the unique opportunity for an experience to a very personal introduction to Loher's work at the launch event, in one of Hong Kong's most exclusive and intimate spaces

Meet and Greet Shek O Beach

On the 5th of October approx. 50 members and friends of the SAHK met at Liu's BBQ at Shek O Beach to spend a nice afternoon together.

The weather was great. The kids were playing very happily at the beach and many participants decided to have a swim because it was a lovely and warm afternoon. New people met and had interesting conversations together.







Some participants were still not in the mood to go home after the official ending. So a small group of people stayed a little longer and were able to enjoy the sunset at the Beach.

It was a very enjoyable event with nice food, which was contributed from all attendees and was shared with all.



A special thank you goes to Roberto Pace from The Swiss House Shop for sponsoring Beer and to Joshua Sprigi from HK Bread Box for sponsoring Bread.

See you at Shek O Beach again next time!

(text by Susanne Fanton)

Meet and Greet Shek O Beach (Deutsch)

Am 5. Oktober trafen sich ca. 50 Miglieder und Freunde der SAHK bei Liu's BBQ am Shek O Beach zusammen, um einen gemütlichen Grillnachmittag zu verbringen.

Das Wetter war einmalig. Die Kinder spielten ausgelassen und viele Teilnehmer zog es ins Wasser, da es ein sehr warmer Nachmittag war. Es wurden neue Bekanntschaften gemacht und rege Gespräche geführt.

Einige Teilnehmer waren auch nach dem offiziellen Ende noch nicht in der Stimmung nach Hause zu gehen und so blieb eine kleine Gruppe noch etwas länger. Diese konnte dann noch den Sonnenuntergang am Shek O Beach geniessen.









Es war ein sehr geselliger Anlass mit feinen Speisen, die von allen Teilnehmern beigetragen und geteilt wurden.

Ein herzlicher Dank gebührt Roberto Pace vom Swiss House Shop, welcher der SAHK für diesen Anlass Bier gesponsert hat und ebenfalls ein herzlicher Dank gebührt Joshua Spirgi von der HK Bread Box, für das grosszügig gesponserte Brot.

Auf ein Wiedersehen am Shek O Beach! (text von Susanne Fanton)

Mahjong Evening at the Hong Kong Country Club

On Thursday, 13th of June 2019 the SAHK organized a Mahjong Evening at the Hong Kong Country Club. Everybody was welcome. From the beginner to the advanced player. The organisers could welcome 9 guests.

First some rules had to be discussed and then the game could start. Two tables with four people each were filled. As we were an uneven number (Mahjong is a game for 4 players) the ones that couldn't play had some time to have a chat,a drink and some nibbles. As soon one game was over one of the non-players could sit on one of the tables and hopefully win the next game.

Time went on and it was too soon time to say goodbye.

A special thanks goes to Walter Kern for organizing the location and to Tanja Lecher to take the effort to create a Mahjong leaflet for every attendee. (S.F.)







Am Donnerstag, 13. Juni 2019 organisierte die SAHK einen Mahjong Abend im Hong Kong Country Club. Jedermann war willkommen. Vom Beginner bis zum versierten Spieler. Die Organisatoren durften 9 Gäste willkommen heissen.

Zu Beginn wurden die Regeln erklärkt und dann konnte bereits gestartet werden. Zwei Tische mit je 4 Spielern wurden besetzt. Da wir eine ungerade Zahl Teilnehmer waren (Mahjong wird zu viert gestpielt), hatten diejenigen die nicht spielen konnt-





en Zeit, sich zu unterhalten, etwas zu trinken oder einen kleinen Imbiss zu geniessen. Sobald ein Spiel beendet war, wurden ein oder zwei Spieler gewechselt, damit jeder Gast die Möglichkeit zum Spielen hatte.

Die Zeit verging wie im Flug und es war bald Zeit um auf Wiedersehen zu sagen.

Ein spezielles Dankeschön geht an Walter Kern für die Organisation des Mahjong Raumes und an Tanja Lecher. Sie machte sich die Mühe ein kleines Faltheft mit den Mahjong-Regeln zu gestalten. (S.F.)

Santa was here!

This year my sister and I were allowed to help Santa with the preparation of his visit.

He visited us at Chung Hom Kok Beach. This was a pretty long way to come for him and "Schmutzli" his helper.

Together with my sister we made the registrations from the attending families and made sure that they knew where everything was. There were BBQ Pits for those who wanted to have a BBQ and my Mum made Mulled Wine. Thankfully my Mum also did a kids version of the mulled wine. It's actually mulled apple juice — which I really like!!!

After 11am Santa and Schmutzli appeared. All the helpers prepared a nice seat for Santa that he could sit comfortably. Each child was allowed to go to Santa and with each child Santa had a little chat. Santa was really nice and Schmutzli helped Santa with the presents. Each child got a little bag with nice treats inside. We even got a "Grittibänz" (sweet dough man)! That man is delicious!



"Mommy, that was my best day so far in Hong Kong.
I finally saw the real Swiss Santa Claus. He was even wearing a Swiss cow belt!"
Leonidas Probst, 7 years old





The weather was very nice and most people stayed for a chat or some BBQ.

It was a nice afternoon and I was happy that I could help Santa on his visit here in Hong Kong.

Melina and Shuna

Der Samichlaus war zu Besuch

Meine Schwester und ich durften dieses Jahr dem Samichlaus etwas helfen.

Diesmal kam er nach Chum Hom Kok Beach. Das war ein recht weiter Weg für den Samichlaus und Schmutzli, seinen Helfer.

Ich habe zusammen mit meiner Schwester die Familien registriert und geschaut, dass sie wussten, was sie wo finden. Man konnte Grillen, wenn man wollte und mein Mami hat Glühwein gemacht. Zum Glück auch Kinderglühwein – der ist mega lecker!

Kurz nach 11 kam dann der Samichlaus mit dem Schmutzli. Alle Helfer haben zusammen einen schönen Stuhl für den Samichlaus bereit gemacht, damit er bequem sitzen konnte. Jedes Kind durfte zum Samichlaus damit er mit jedem alleine sprechen konnte. Der war ganz lieb und der Schmutzli hat mit den Geschenken geholfen. Jedes Kind hat ein Säckli mit feinen Sachen bekommen. Sogar einen Grittibänz hat's gegeben! Den mag ich besonders!

Das Wetter war sehr schön und viele blieben noch etwas zum Grillen oder Plaudern.

Es war ein toller Nachmittag und es hat mich gefreut, dass ich dem Samichlaus bei seinem Besuch hier in Hong Kong helfen durfte!

Melina und Shuna









Company visit at Schoggi Meier





















Charity

Charity Luncheon hosting the "Home of Loving Faithfulness" (HOLF)

On 2 December, we hosted a successful Charity Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club and showcased the meaningful work of Home for Loving and Faithfulness (HOLF). The proceeds raised from the event and at Swiss National Day celebration dinner totaled over HKD70,000, had been donated to HOLF to help serve the disadvantaged community in Hong Kong.

The luncheon gathered 60 guests with numerous sponsors including some Swiss and French companies. The prize drawing and auctions were highlights and prizes ranged from precious silver jewelry, dining vouchers, fine wines, to winter jackets, sweaters, and other delicacies.









Since 1965, The Home of Loving Faithfulness has been providing life-long Christian care to children and adults with special needs in Hong Kong. Through prayers and network alike, HOLF receives guidance on the vision and direction on serving people with disabilities which represent 15% of the world's population, and are one of the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups in society. They are routinely denied the most basic human rights, often cut off from education, employment and healthcare, and many are living in extreme poverty. Visit this page for more information on HOLF:

http://www.holf.org.hk/

Swiss Rifle Association - Still here!

We did have our first of two annual regular shootings in March 2019, but the November event had to be postponed: Firstly was our order for new ammo from Switzerland stuck in the approval system for several months – June to September was not necessarily the best time to ask for permission from the Police to import ammo - and once cleared, did we not think it was a good idea in November to drive to a shooting range in the New Territories with rifles and ammo in a private car.

Little did we know that the March 2020 shooting was also not to take place for totally different reasons!

We are now hopeful that we will be able to resume our activities in November 2020 with the Operation Mercury.







There are also new regulations in the making in Switzerland, but we are committed to maintain our activities, including a Young Shooters course later this year, or then early 2012. Members will be informed directly.

Alexander Lüdi

President

Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong



Where are we - it is late March: wouldn't that imply that we are just a few football games away from the end of the season 2019/20? Yes, of course, every other season would about to finish now. but 2019 and now 2020 are not normal years by any standard as hardly any football was played so far. This is not the time and space to talk about the recent Hong Kong social unrest or the COVID pandemic, therefore I shall not. I shall focus on the sport, the most beautiful sport as some call it, we shall talk about "football". Swiss XI, as founded back in 1977, continues to go strong and as every regular reader of S'Alphorn might remember, that there is plenty of action happening on and off the pitch (some of the recent articles in S'Alphorn were; "Swiss XI - richest football team in Hong Kong" (2012); "Swiss XI - the best amateur club in Hong Kong which is not a "club"" (2014), "Swiss XI - more trophies - more adventures" (2015), "Swiss XI - Swiss Quality that keeps running" (2016), "Wikipedia Entry - Swiss XI" (2017), "Swiss XI - 40 years and still going strong" (2018), "Swiss XI - 42nd edition - 3x Good News and 1x Bad News" (2019)).

Where have we left off in the last edition of S'Alphorn? Yes, we were saying that our football life in the Second Division started well. And now I can announce that last season ended well by saying we got straight back to the First Division. Yes, the team put

together a solid season and did not leave any doubt that we do not feel we belong to the Second Division and that we want to play with the "big boys" again. So, all back to "normal" again, Swiss XI is back in the First Division of the Yau Yee League.





Which teams - I mentioned it before, some years back we started the Swiss Select, which is the "indoor" team linked with the Swiss XI. Swiss Select plays in the Power Soccer league, a four-division indoor league that plays 5-a-side indoor football during weekdays at South / West Island School. By now the two teams are perfectly set up and in sync, some guys play in either team, while others even play in both teams. The novelty we have now, and we are very proud of this fact, is that both teams, the Swiss XI and the Swiss Select, play in the First Division of their respective leagues, all competitive with lots of fun along the way.

Where are we now - as mentioned, we should actually be towards the end of the season for Swiss XI, but we have hardly played any football. Everybody is hopeful that the season can be finished, but it is everybody's guess whether that really is going to happen. So far, we are in a solid mid-table position and had some great games played which gives us a strong desire for more football, if only we are allowed to play. The Swiss Select team finished all their indoor season's games while some other teams are still waiting to play some remaining games, so the indoor season is somehow not yet finished. The Team finished a strong third, while it looked very promising for winning the Championship earlier in the season. The funny parallel we have in both teams, and I make that statement now, if we have all players available, we would win the indoor and the outdoor league! Unfortunately, that is just hardly ever the case due to many players' travel commitments. Oh well, we keep dreaming of that perfect team, maybe we get it out onto the pitch more than once a season.





As always, I want to end with thanking our sponsors, currently these are Swiss-Sure Limited, hkBREADBOX.com, UBS, Swiss International Asset Management, Sahara Bar & Restaurant and Le Souk Bar. Thanks a lot, really appreciated.

(text by Jürg Niederberger)

Sports: Vincent Capol

Vincent Capol is an athlete on the rise. In 2019, the 16 years old showjumper became Hong Kong's first winner at a Longines Masters equestrian tournament. Half Swiss, half Chinese, he started horse riding when he was seven years old and only five years later he was already competing at an international level. Here he tells us about his challenges, achievements and expectations for the future:



Vincent Capol at the Longines Master 2019

Achievements: "My biggest achievement so far was to win the Asia Junior Grand Prix at the Longines Masters in 2019. Some of the best junior riders from around Asia were present at the competition, so I knew that it would not be easy. However, I also knew that it was a very special opportunity and I had trained extremely hard in preparation for it so I was ready for the challenge. To win in front of a home crowd in such a prestigious competition was an unbelievable feeling. I felt proud but also relieved because I wanted to achieve a good result not only for me but also to show my family and coaches that all of the support

they have given me was worth it."





As a baby with his father. With his mother and sister.

Challenges: "There are many challenges I have faced during this journey and I believe it is important to remain motivated through the ups and downs.

The biggest challenge was when my father passed away because of cancer. My father and I were very close and he always supported me and encouraged my development in the sport. It was therefore very difficult for me. From him I learnt to persevere through the worst times and to never give up. My biggest regret is that I was unable to get all the results I have now, when he was still alive, as I really want him to know that I continued to work hard and didn't waste the great opportunities he gave me."

Future goals: "The 2019-20 season was cut short, I received the Junior Rider of the Year Award and won the overall Show Jumping rankings in Hong Kong. Although I felt like I had made significant improvements again since the last season, due to many unforeseen circumstances I did not have the opportunity to show it at an international level. That means the Asia Junior. Grand Prix at the Longines Masters in 2020 was cancelled and I did not have a chance to defend my title either. In the short term I hope to be able to compete internationally again when the global pandemic is back under control. In the long term I hope to continue to improve in my sport and hopefully participate in many major championships. Apart from riding, I am also interested in economics and computer science and hope to develop further in those fields as well "

Swiss School Teachers



Isabelle VögelinPrimary Teacher
German Swiss International School



Priska Erni

Head of German Primary Department German Swiss International School

Rafael Mariaca Music Teacher German Swiss International School



sports where Swiss athletes excel.

DON'T TRUS



Swiss Student Graduates 2019



Tom Boehmer

FIS: Baccalauréat (Maturity Certificate) Graduate Tom Boehmer and Lya Simond with Reto Läderach and Marine Kohler, former vice-president SSC

Michelle Shao

GSIS: Abitur Graduate Michelle Shao with Sabrina Bühlmann, treasurer SSC and Denise Probst, president SSC





Sebastian Oes

GSIS: Abitur Graduate Sebastian Oes with Sabrina Bühlmann, treasurer SSC and Denise Probst, president SSC

New Honorary Members

Welcome, Guido Cherubini and Max Liechti, as honorary members of the SAHK!



Guido Cherubini

Max Liechti



Swiss Association Membership Form

Please write in BLOCK LETTERS

| Applicant Surname, First name, Nationality: | |
|--|---|
| Spouse/Partner Surname, First name, Nationality: | |
| Mailing Address Floor, Appt. No., Building Name | |
| Street Name and No. | |
| District | |
| Telephone No. (one number only) | |
| Mobile No. (one number only) | |
| E-Mail Address | Mandatory |
| OR APPLY ONLINE: www.swiss-hl | c.com/join (SAHK Website www.swiss-hk.com) |
| • | l be contributed to Swiss Benevolent Society d 1 year from January 1st to December 31st) |
| Choose one: HKD 250.00 for individuals | HKD 450.00 for couples FREE Short Term Swiss Exchange Student* (* less than 12 months) |
| I / We would be interested to participate in committee wo help organizing events, e.g. | rk Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Claus, etc. |
| Payment Please complete this form and post it 'Swiss Association of Hong Kong', to t | ogether with your crossed cheque, payable to |
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Membership of the Swiss Association is open to all Swiss nationals and persons with a close relation to Switzerland residing in Hong Kong. Members must be 18 years of age. Children under 18 years of age fall under their parents' membership.

How well do you know Switzerland?

See if you can pass this short quiz about Switzerland

1. How tall you have to be to serve in the Swiss Guard to the Pope?

a) 1.75

b) 1.80

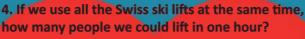
c) 1.85

2. Which is the biggest lake totally inside Swiss territory?

- a) Lucern lake + Lago dei quattro cantoni (combined)
- b) Zurich lake
- c) Neuchatel lake

3. Which tools does the original Swiss army Knife have?

- a) blade, can opener, awl, screwdriver
- b) blade, can opener, scissors, screwdriver
- c) blade, corkscrew, scissors, screwdriver



- a) 100.000+
- b) 500.000+
- c) 1.500.000+



To discover more surprising and fun facts about Switzerland, read "The Complete Switzerland". Author: Susann Sitzler ISBN 978-3-85256-673-3 English/German, 128 pages



ROLEX AND CINEMA

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