

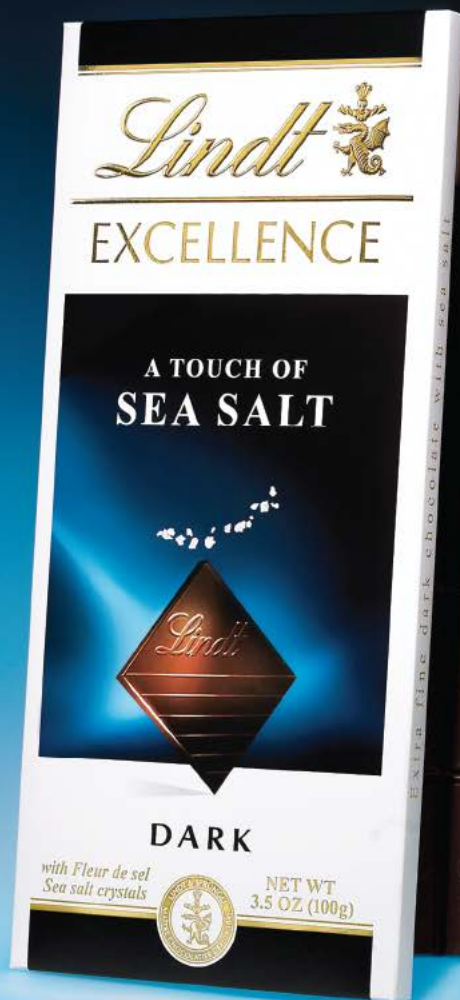
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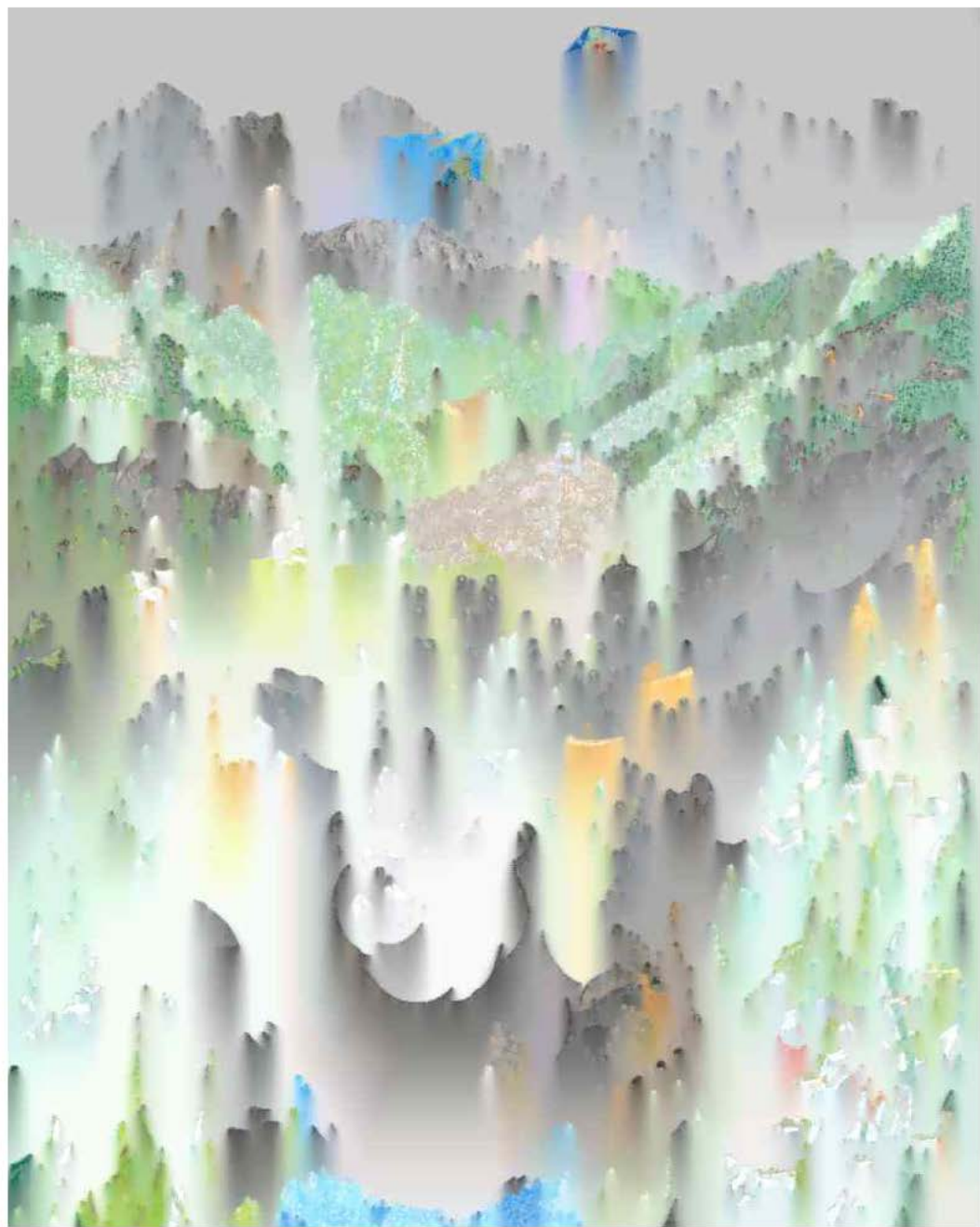
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“Alphorn Snorkelling”

by Daniel Wettling



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Message from the President

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

We are proud and happy to present to you the 2014 edition of s'Alphorn. Together with the Annual General Meeting – which took place on 27th of March, 2014 – the publishing of our annual magazine marks the closing of a past and the start of a new year in the Association's history.

What makes the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) relevant and interesting are without a doubt the numerous and various events organized for the local Swiss community and its many friends. Accordingly, much of the content in this publication is dedicated to reviving some of the most memorable happenings of the past year.

This is therefore also the right context to reiterate that none of this would have been possible without the passionate help of so many. Be they Committee members or organizers and supporters of some particular events, their contributions are what makes the SAHK come to live and stay alive. We are also truly fortunate to enjoy excellent relationships with and support from the Swiss Consul General Mrs. Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and her team at the Swiss Consulate, as well as the Swiss Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported the SAHK in whatever way.

We would finally like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to get in touch with us if you are interested in some form of active participation in the SAHK. Whether you might be interested in being a member of the Committee, or in helping to organize events – any participation will be most welcome. You may even have some special hobby or pastime that you want to share with others – our belief is basically that any group activity can be turned into a SAHK Event, and you can count on a vast network of resources and experience to turn almost any experiment into a success.

For now though, we hope that you will enjoy reading through s'Alphorn, and that it may revive some fond memories of past events and/or spark your interest in future ones. We wish you much fun, success and health for the Year of the Horse!

On behalf of the Committee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong

Tobias Heller
President of the SAHK



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Mueller-Rappard
1st VP



Benno Jaeggi
2nd VP



Simona Pinelli
Hon. Secretary



Pietro Immordino
Hon. Treasurer



Evi
Pfister-Hollinger
Event Advisor



Verena Mooser
Events
Coordinator



Damian Bethke
Events
Coordinator



Kesang Spirgi
Events
Coordinator



Virginie Dafforn
S'Alphom Editor



Martina Kaeslin
Website
Coordinator



Rene Herrmann
Swiss School
Committee



Michael Balsiger
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Stefan Bollinger
Past President

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) serves as a focal point for the local Swiss community to socialize, foster friendships, conduct business networking, and 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 organises a variety of activities including monthly luncheons with guest speakers, monthly Jass evenings, monthly golfing, holiday parties for children and family hikes. The SAHK works closely with other Swiss organisations such as the Consulate General of Switzerland, Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss School Committee, Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Swiss XI, Swiss Dragon Boat Team, Swiss Sedan Chair Race Team and Swiss Rifle Association.

Membership to the SAHK is open to all. To find out more, email us at info@swiss-hk.com or visit our website at www.swiss-hk.com.

tobias.heller@swiss-hk.com
benjamin.mueller-rappard@swiss-hk.com
benno.jaeggi@swiss-hk.com
simona.pinelli@swiss-hk.com
pietro.immordino@swiss-hk.com
evi.pfister@swiss-hk.com

verena.mooser@swiss-hk.com
damian.bethke@swiss-hk.com
kesang.spirgi@swiss-hk.com
virginie.dafforn@swiss-hk.com
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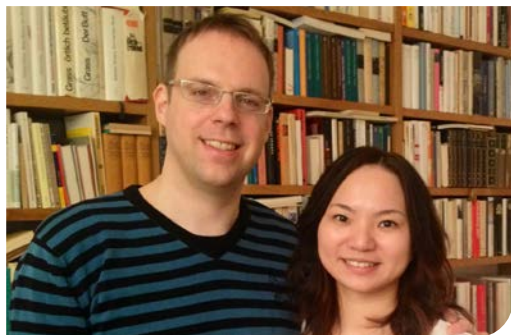


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New Committee Members



Benjamin
Mueller-
Rappard

I have been in Hong Kong for ten years and I first got in touch with the Swiss community when I was involved in the "Switzerland greets Hong Kong" campaign in 2004. Since then, I have enjoyed every moment here: be it strolling around the vibrant and bustling life of Central or Mongkok, hiking around Lantau Island, or enjoying some great food and wine with my wife Samantha in Stanley. Likewise, I have joined various events of the Swiss Association such as the Night at the Races, listened to some insightful talks at the monthly luncheons, and was also involved in the National Day celebration. Over the past seven years, I have been active with the Young Professional community of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and am quite familiar with both the Chamber and the Association.

I was born and raised in Schoeftland, canton Aargau, a village with less people than the entire workforce in IFC 2 in Central. My background is in hospitality and I take great pleasure in interacting with colleagues and guests of different cultural background, making their day.

I gladly accepted the invitation of Tobias Heller in joining the board as Vice President. I am very much looking forward to getting more involved with the Association and getting to know many of you and being actively involved in this excellent Swiss community abroad.



Benno
Jaeggi

I arrived in Hong Kong on 1st of January 2000 as a young, eligible bachelor to enjoy my life outside of Switzerland and certainly soaked up the energy of Hong Kong fully. Over the course of the years I always remained connected to the Swiss community, mostly by playing a Jass every now and then. To myself, being able to pull off a "Matsch" remained the quintessential proof that skills were not lost and my personal Swissness remained intact.

Today I am happily married to my Chinese wife Judy with two small kids. While I pursue the Chinese lifestyle with her – we established a Chinese Medicine clinic, Oriental Health, in Sheung Wan – it is a good Swiss friend of mine, Tobias Heller, who suggested that I could contribute my local knowledge to the Swiss community through the SAHK.

I will be looking forward to contributing my time and insights to the SAHK and meeting many interesting people along the way.



Damian
Bethke

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong is unique. People here usually speak English with a distinguished Swiss-German-French-Italian pronunciation, they meet in parks and enjoy delicious raclette, they organize a fabulous celebration every year on 1st of August and they eat the world's most famous chocolate almost every time they meet – and this all in Hong Kong.

Being part of the Swiss Association is a very nice “little-extra” that adds Swiss tradition to the life here in Hong Kong, which I treasure so much. I feel charmed to be offered the job of an event organizer and I believe the job suits me as it gives me good excuses to skip work for monthly coffee mornings and stay out late for our events. And, most importantly, it is great to do this all together with fellow Swiss compatriots and friends like you.

I am delighted to be on board and hope you will continue enjoying our events. We offer several activities throughout the year and all of you are invited to come along. And if you haven't yet found the event you wish to have in Hong Kong, let us know and we may make it happen.



Virginie
Dafforn-
Gorgemans

A Swiss married to a Brit, I have been in Asia for 8 years, and counting... After a brief return to Switzerland from London for a dream job, my love for my then fiancé conquered: I followed him to Singapore and then Hong Kong. We now have two children (aged 6 and 4) and the rest, as they say, is history.

Despite having spent almost more time living out of, rather than in Switzerland, I still consider it my home and have always felt the need to keep strong ties. This had always been through my alumni network, until one day, I was convinced to join SAHK. Sadly, with our busy Hong Kong social and work schedules we haven't been able to participate in nearly as many events as we would have like to.

I have always loved writing, so when one evening in early September 2013, Stefan Bollinger admitted he was still looking for an editor for s'Alphorn, I jumped at the opportunity to combine my skills and desire to be closer to the Swiss community. I hope you will find this 2014 edition of s'Alphorn a pleasant, informative and amusing read!

New Committee Members



Kesang
Spirgi

For almost 4 years I have the pleasure of living in this amazing city. In Summer 2010, my husband Erich took a new job opportunity in Hong Kong and the whole family, including my kids, Carole 14, and Joshua 16, joined this adventurous journey. In the meantime, I almost feel I have another home in this fascinating international environment.

Actually, both my parents came as refugees from Tibet to Switzerland in the 1960s. Well, I could share lots of funny experiences, as a Asian looking "Guaylo". At least something good is that I am not longer as short

as amongst Europeans! But, to be honest, I must admit communicating in Cantonese is still a big issue.

While the kids and Erich were immediately involved into daily business, it was quite a challenge for me, after leaving Switzerland for the first time not just for vacation, but to really live abroad. I learned to think positive and to be active. So, soon I also found a number of "lost" expats having the same situation. I really love to socialize and when I started to join some Swiss events such as Raclette in the Park, Welcome Back Apero or paddling with our Dragon Boat Team, I started to be connected to our nice community. It is great fun to get this new view of Swissness and amongst other things, I found out that Raclette even tastes better so far away from home.

Recently, I was asked if I could help to coordinate the events of the Swiss Association. Due to the good time I spent in the past at many of these events it was a small step for me to decide to become more active.

In this sense I really look forward to joining the committee and to be even more connected. Last but not least: I will be happy to meet and get to know old as well as new members of our community at one or the other of the coming events.

See u soon!

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Welcome and Goodbye

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Yves & Doris Betz
Nicole Eichner
Jean-Marc Fluckiger &
Liza Melfi-Fluckiger
Thomas Burkhalter
Philippe Herminjard
Eric Landolt
Hans & Avice Guenter
Babette Keller-Liechti
Josef & Jenna Marianne Risi-Bracher
Mario Knoepfel
Christian & Nancy Gschwind
Andreas & Yee Man Szeto Brechbuhl
Michael & Virginie Dafforn
Urs & Doris Hess
Adrian Andreas Baumgartner
Alessandro C. S. & Dalana Caironi
Remo Riva & Zhan Xujuan
Martin & Heidi Baumann
Xie Xiao Ying & Ali Khelifa Mahadjaubi
Thomas Neff & Nga Tran Thi
Peter C. Borer
Niklaus Peter & Yijun Nuesch Zhou
Christoph & Lucia Suter
Thomas & Ruth Haller
Laurent & Marcelle Rosfelder-Leu
Rudolf Gildemeister & Sisu Otto
Marc Menard
Julie Progin & Jesse Mc Lin
Helmuth Aberer
Susan Gallagher
Franck & Vicky Eggmann
Gaelle Devins
Serge Aymon
Erik & Vanessa Berqvist
Andy & Yawen Umbricht-Chang
Robert & Stephanie Guenter
Urs-Ulrich & Fang Ting Katzenstein
Lukas & Elena Markwalder
Nicolas Koehl
Alexander & Jacqueline Kobler Radzuweit

Patrick & Cynthia Blust Fung
Simon Herrmann
Pierpaolo Rainolter
Andreas Reichlin
Damian Bethke & Cheung Tim-Zi
Kuehne Simon
Gyger-Monroi Peter & Veronica
Mark & Alicia Rohner / Lim
Stefan & Tanja Lecher
Jacqueline Riederer & Kaspar Theiler
Will & San Wang
Christophe & Sonja Morel
Christine Frei Kwok
Dieter Meier
Niklas & Stephanie Rowold
Gerhard & Esther Wenger
Andy & Katia Macaluso

Resigned Members

Markus & Bettina Burri
Peter Buser and Hyun Jeong Buser-Park
Jean-Michel Chatagny & Isabelle Chatagny-Cuony
Stephane & Hee Jeong Chopard
Tobias Fuerer & Lynette Sue-Ling Gremli
Lau Anita Po Yee
Vincent & Cathia Magnenat
Thomas & Mylene Meier
Franciane Olenik
Patrick Schlageter & Fabiola Ackermann
John & Claudia Walshe
Beat & Fumie Yasukuri Jaeggi
Henriette F.K. Leimer
Brigitte Weber
Gisela Schmuki



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The Sai Kung Campus was refurbished to suit the needs of young children and features a wide range of educational toys, a library and a gym area.

For admission details, please contact Ms Eva Ubowski by email at EUbowski@gsis.edu.hk or by phone at (852) 2961 4028.

Events of the year



- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Coffee Morning
- Bowling
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon



- Dragonboat festival
- Horse Race
- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Coffee Morning

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG



- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Beach Day
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Coffee Morning



- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon



- National Day
- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Coffee Morning



- Family Hike
- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Coffee Morning
- GSIS Bazaar



- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Welcome Back Event
- Coffee Morning
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon



- Santa Claus
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport



- Evening golf at 9 Eagles at the airport
- Jass Evening at the Pacific Club in Kowloon
- Coffee Morning



For more information please refer to the website of the Swiss Association
www.swiss-hk.com

Consulate General of Switzerland



Rita
Hämmerli-Weschke
Consul General



Erwin Lüthi
1st Secretary & Deputy
Head of Mission



Sandra
Chawla-Gantenbein
Consul & Head of
Chancery



Sacha Bachmann
Vice Consul & Deputy
Head of Chancery



Frank Eggmann
Director of Swiss
Business Hub



Natalie Nicolet
Consular Attache



Wing Kai Chan
Trade Officer



Anita Nahr
Assistant to the
Consul General



Eva Enzler-Kölliker
Consular Officer



Siu May
Consular Officer



Winnie Kan
Cultural Officer



Nelson Ku Man Ching
Driver

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Swiss Business Hub

by Frank Eggmann, Director of Swiss Business Hub

Dear Reader,

In just one year of operation in Hong Kong, the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) has already successfully helped various companies in their market entry. The range of sectors represented by these SMEs is quite varied and sometimes even surprising, covering fashion, ICT products, watches and luxury goods (e.g. sunglasses for U\$70,000), FMCG, gastronomy, health & natural products, market research and event management. Based on this first year's experience, we expect a growing interest for Hong Kong as the perfect springboard into China and ASEAN for Swiss & Liechtenstein companies. Of course, the launch of a company's products is never limited to Hong Kong. After a test phase in this new environment and certainly some fine-tuning, the next logical step is always towards Mainland China.

This successful first year of operation wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of the team from the Consulate, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce as well as many dear compatriots that shared – freely or on a mandate basis – their expertise with me.

With the experience gained while scouting for the right partners or distributors for its Swiss client base, the SBH has developed many solid contacts as well as a certain expertise in various fields, identifying opportunities for innovative products. I will be glad to share further with fellow Hong Kong experts when required and will certainly continue to support business expansion of Swiss companies already settled in Hong Kong. Let me know how the SBH can help you!



Frank Eggmann
Director of Swiss Business Hub

Swiss Business Hub Hong Kong
Consulate General of Switzerland
62/F, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Telephone: +852 3509 5000 Fax: +852 3509 5050
Email: frank.eggmann@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.osec.ch/en/country/Hongkong



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Alumni Chapters of Swiss

University of Zurich

UZH Alumni and
Friends Hong Kong



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

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 interdisciplinary 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 website www.alumni.uzh.ch/organisation/international/hongkong.html.

On this website you will also find the link to register your membership and join the UZH Alumni Hong Kong and Friends.

ETH Zurich

ETH Alumni Chapter
Hong Kong

ETH zürich

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 launched, the founding members are actively seeking contact to alumni of ETH Zurich. ETH alumni based in the region are encouraged to contact Matthias Steiner, President of the Alumni Chapter in Hong Kong at matthias.steiner@hk.schindler.com. 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.

Universities in Hong Kong

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://www.aehl.net/index.php?/eng/content/view/full/888>

University of St. Gallen (HSG) HSG Alumni Club Hong Kong



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 also participate 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/>

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Interview with our new President, Alexandre Tunik

How long have you been in Hong Kong?

I came to Hong Kong 23 years ago, straight after University. Against all odds, (or at least that was the consulate's view at the time – "Sie häehn ja keine Arbeitsbewilligung") I found a job within 3 weeks of landing. Two and half years later, I decided to leverage on the opportunities available in China and my South American contacts to launch my own Export business. This business evolved into a manufacturing business. My Chinese business partner and I own two factories in Fujian province. We manufacture swimwear and winter gear for the likes of Gant, Bogner, Woolrich, Triumph, Sloggi, HOM, Descente, Arenea, etc. I am in the process of opening a new factory in Ganzhou, in Jiangxi Province.

What motivated you to run for the OSA presidency?

An ex-SAHK president, President of the HSG alumni and active member of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, I like to keep a link to Switzerland and the Swiss community. After over 20 years in Hong Kong, I felt it was a good time to get involved with OSA and give something back.

Can you tell our readers about the OSA Congress, which took place in August?

The OSA Congress is held over two days. The first day is the Council of the Swiss Abroad during which the board discuss issues pertaining to the Swiss living abroad. The main issues discussed remained as in previous years: e-voting (which is canton-dependent), possibilities for Swiss living abroad to keep a bank account in Switzerland to enable pension matters and the much talked about law governing the Swiss abroad.

The second day focused on the theme "Switzerland and Globalisation". Different projects were discussed and an interesting presentation was given about Switzerland as an Innovations centre, rather than a workplace or financial centre.

What do you think are the most important themes for OSA in Hong Kong?

Aside from the e-voting issues and the law governing the Swiss abroad, I believe the issue of allowing Swiss students who studied abroad access to Swiss education to be a key topic.

What will your focus be for OSA during your term of office?

Being actively involved with the HSG, I think that I will look into the education issue.. It is not necessarily easy and straight forward for Swiss Children who have studied abroad to get into Swiss Universities if they did not passed the Swiss "Matura".

OSA's role:

Inform: OSA informs Swiss living abroad about Switzerland and current news

Link: OSA is committed to creating a strong link between Swiss expatriates and their home country. OSA offers a wide range of services to fulfil this aim.

Defend: OSA represents and protects the interests of over 700,000 Swiss living abroad.

Advise: OSA offers free advice to Swiss expatriates and any Swiss person wishing to return to Switzerland.

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COFFEE IS NOT JUST BLACK



Other Swiss Organisations in Hong Kong

Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Werner Heimgartner, President
werner.heimgartner@swiss-hk.com

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. 30% of the SAHK membership fee is contributed to the SBS fund.

Swiss Chamber of Commerce (SCCHK)

Susanne Sahli, President
Joyce Chan, General Secretary
www.swisschamhk.org
admin@swisschamhk.org

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 allow members to meet and discuss their common interests. The Chamber 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.

Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Benjamin Mueller-Rappard
bmrbmr@gmail.com

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

Dragon Boat Team

Werner Heimgartner
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, beginners are welcome.

Monthly Golf

Patrick Meyrat
golf@swiss-hk.com

Jassen

Thomas Burkhalter
jass@swiss-hk.com

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

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO)

Alexandre Tunik
www.aso.ch
tpf@transpacificfareast.com

The organisation of the Swiss Abroad 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.

Swiss XI

Peter Klaus, President
www.swissxi.com
klausp@hotmail.com.hk

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

Rifle Association

Alexander Luedi
www.srahk.com
alexluedi@netvigator.com

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



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Spotlight: “I say fondue, you say hotpot”

by Virginie Dafforn-Gorgemans



At first glance, there doesn't seem to be much in common between Cantonese and Swiss food. There really doesn't seem a place where Hoisin and Tartare sauce can meet. Not quite so, I say, for have you ever gone to one of Hong Kong's Swiss restaurants for a fondue or for a typically Cantonese hotpot? Or even better, have you ever had a Fondue Chinoise in Switzerland? Let me explain...

Traditionally, Swiss fondue is a combination of cheeses (the type depends on the region you hail from) melted together in a pot with a healthy dose of garlic, white wine and kirsch, if you so fancy. Although the origins of fondue can be traced back to Homer's Iliad in 800BC to 725BC, its modern day adaptation as described above hails from the Rhone-Alpes region, where it first made an appearance in the 1800s. It is however only in the 1930s that the Swiss Cheese Union declared it a National Dish.

So what, you now ask, does this have to do with hotpot? Legend has it, a Swiss man visiting China

had been served a dish similar to fondue using broth instead of cheese, a hotpot! Upon his return, his story inspired Swiss chefs to create “Fondue Chinoise”, a dish in which thinly sliced strips of high quality beef, pork or veal are served raw to be cooked in a communal pot filled with broth, and then dipped in an array of dipping sauces. Raw fish and shrimp are also steamed in the pot using metal baskets. Does that remind you of something?

Whilst I agree that the Chinese hotpot and Swiss Fondue Chinoise, if one might call it that, don't have much in common except a broth and a common pot for cooking things in, fondue and/or hotpot are not just about the actual food. They are hearty dishes shared around a table with good friends, the essence of what we might call conviviality. And maybe this, more than the broth or the different types of meats, is what Cantonese and Swiss people share the most: their love of socialising with friends and family around good food.

Hotpot	Fondue Chinoise
Protein	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef, Lamb, Pork, • Chicken • Shrimp • Fish • Shellfish, • Quail egg • Beef Tripe • Sausage • All kinds of balls (beef, pork, fish, shrimp) • Fish tofu 	Beef, Lamb, Pork, Chicken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrimp • Fish
Carbs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice • All kinds of noodles • Rice cake • Potatoes • Yam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potato chips • Noodles • Bread
Vegetables	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercress • Mushrooms • Bean sprouts • Spinach • Leafy greens • Pumpkin • Bamboo • Seaweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salads (green, carrot, corn) • Carrots • Broccoli • Celery

Dipping sauce recipes:

Hotpot	Fondue Chinoise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ginger soy: light soy sauce, minced ginger and a few drops of sesame oil • Chinese mustard: light soy sauce, mustard, peanut oil, tsp salt and a few drops of vinegar. • Hoisin sauce: hoisin sauce, ketchup, vinegar, 1tsp sugar and soy sauce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocktail sauce: mayonnaise, ketchup, cognac, Tabasco, lemon, salt and pepper • Tartare sauce: mayonnaise, chopped boiled egg, chopped cornichons (type of gherkin), parsley, pepper • Curry sauce: mayonnaise, curry powder, salt and pepper, a little lemon juice



Coffee Mornings

by Verena Mooser

Every last Thursday of the month there is a new place to meet up for coffee or tea, greet old friends, welcome first-timers and have a bite to eat! From Kowloon to Wan Chai or Central, sharing French crepes or organic salads, we meet long-time residents and newcomers, exchange experiences and tips and have a great time along the way.



Ladies Night

by Simona Pinelli

On 27th November 2013 I participated in the Ladies Night @ Ozone. We were about 15 ladies and spent a nice evening together in a wonderful location: the view over the Hong Kong skyline was fantastic! The evening was so interesting and joyful that some of us continued the evening at the Civic Square until midnight...

Why don't you join us for a coffee morning or ladies night out next time?



Raclette in the Park



Sun, cheese, wine and good company, what more do we need to make a perfect event? An alghorn player of course!

The Raclette in the Park event took place on 1 of March in Parkview. About 80 members delighted in the creamy, melt-in-your-mouth fondue and raclette. Experts Inge and Stefan Herzog once again skilfully prepared our nation's two favourite dishes.

Set in one of the picnic hut areas in Parkview, the combination of wine, cheese and an alghorn player was almost reminiscent of being back home in the Alps. Samuel Kunz happened be travelling through HK with his alghorn in tow, and thanks to his daughter, Tabea Kunz, who also performed a song, he agreed to play the alghorn for us.

A picturesque day, old and young went home with another hard believe story to tell: "When I lived in Hong Kong, I once enjoyed real Swiss raclette whilst listening to an alghorn player!"



Swiss XI: The best amateur club in Hong Kong, which is not a “club”

by Jürg Niederberger



Season 2012-13

In the last S'Alphorn edition at the beginning of 2013, Franco Foschi, the Swiss XI coach, mentioned that Swiss XI's spirits were high and that we were in fifth position with six points behind the third ranked. An amazing Spring later saw the Swiss XI team climbing up the ranks. The season ended with an impressive 3rd place in the first division of the Yau Yee League. As far as the Swiss XI archive can confirm, this seems to be the best ever result of any Swiss XI team since its establishment in 1977!

Season 2013-14

The preparation of the new season always starts in

blistering Hong Kong heat around mid-July. There is much to be done with regards to preparation until the first game in mid-September. With regards to the team management, it was reconfirmed at the Swiss XI AGM that Franco Foschi continues on as the team's coach while I will continue to take care of the overall team management.

With the team management's consistency being re-established, it was time to make sure the team is strengthened in order to take care of the players that we lost as they left Hong Kong. The Swiss contingency of Swiss XI was increased by Michael Isenschmid and Tobias Lüdén joining the previous

Swiss guys like Rene Bühlmann, Peter Bachmann, Chris Baur, Paul Lutz, David Hanzl, Marco Klaus, Andrea Benenati, Christian Cappelli, Fabio Weiss, Jürg Niederberger and last but not least Sandro Treier. Wow, looking at this list makes me proud, as it was not always like that, there was a time when the Swissness in the Swiss XI was butter-thin. This bunch of guys together with five Japanese, five Germans, one Slovak, one French, one Canadian, one English, one Waliser and two Hong Kong players forms the current edition of Swiss XI.

The season started with a late, narrow loss against KCC Dragons, but that was it, since then we improved steadily and that resulted in clipping seven wins, five draws and two losses. We are currently in 3rd position after having just winning 3-2 against the second placed Club, the Wanderers. This now brings me back to my subject title: Swiss XI is actually the best "club" which is not a club with all the impressive facilities like the current leader USRC – United Services Recreation Club, or the second placed Club Wanderers (from the Hong Kong Football Club) or the fourth placed KCC Dragons (from the flashy Kowloon Cricket Club). We can be proud of that as we make good use of our Wednesday training sessions at King's Park. With eight more games left in the season, let's see what we are capable of achieving!

As always there are more activities than just league

football, there is the Cup competition which started nicely for us with a 10-0 thrashing against a third division team, but we then lost against a first division team in penalties. There is the Manila 6-a-side tournament, which we "attacked" with five (!) players after three players dropped out at the last minute. The runner-up in the Plate competition is therefore a decent result. There was also the posh Christmas party, organized by our team DJ Shawn Campbell at Lily&Bloom followed by Club Boujis.

We also seem to have secured the Swiss XI team edition 2030, as no less than five players became fathers (again) in the last six months. Congratulations to Marco Klaus, Paul Lutz, David Hanzl, Henry Callaghan and Peter Martisek.

Other memorable recent "events": Rene Bühlmann scored his 100th competitive goal for Swiss XI, Peter Bachmann became the oldest Swiss XI goal scorer at 44 years and 4 months, Jürg Niederberger played his 200th game for Swiss XI!

Please keep supporting the Swiss XI, send new players our way, join us for games, join our parties, join our football trips etc. Of course, our biggest thanks go to our sponsors, "Swiss Sure Limited", "Ziggy's Fine Food" and "UBS", without them, Swiss XI would still happen, just not with such nice warm-up shirts and football kit. Thanks very much!



Melchterli Cup

by Tobias Murer



A beautiful and warm Hong Kong autumn day, on 15th of November, set the perfect conditions for the 2013 Melchterli Cup. The Melchterli Cup is a tournament for Swiss golfers and friends of Switzerland. For the 43rd year already, the beautiful ShekO Golf & Country Club was not only the perfect host for the 24 golfers that day, but also their spouses and friends who joined later in the day to hear the many stories of long drives, missed puts, and shots that nearly led to glory. A record total of 36 people attended the dinner, as important an element of the Melchterli Cup as the friendly competition during the day.

It can only be speculated whether the motivation to top his runner-up position from last year, or the long travel from his home base Manila, or maybe some course management tips from ShekO member, and former Melchterli Cup organizer, Peter Klaus made the difference that day. Markus Knoll came out as the winner of this year's tournament. His name will be engraved into the wooden Melchterli Cup trophy for eternity.





Waste Management Tour: a success to be repeated

by Robert Günter

Saturday the 12th of October saw the SAHK's fully booked Waste Management field trip. Accompanied by Robert Günter of Gellert Eco, the group visited key sites depicting Hong Kong's current and future waste management strategies. The group was even able to get a behind the scenes look at one of the world's largest landfills, the WENT landfill, a future relic of Hong Kong's highly problematic solid waste situation.

This tour included a view of the barge offloading site and a rare drive up close to the current dumping zone. Later, the group visited the HK Eco Park - a showcase site for recycling in Hong Kong. The issue of Hong Kong still being the largest generator of domestic waste per capita in the world was discussed, as well as Hong Kong's ambitious waste

reduction targets for the future.

The Swiss Association would like to thank all participants for their interest, as well as SITA Waste Management and the Hong Kong Eco Park for their hospitality.

For more information on Hong Kong's new waste management, please visit <http://www.epd.gov.hk> and go to the waste management tab.



Daniel Wettling, BA(Hons)
Cartoonist, Caricaturist

Siena One, No.16, 1/F, Discovery Bay, Hong Kong
Home: (852) 2987 1244 Moblie: (852) 9278 1448
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Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong – Going Strong

by Alexander Luedi,

President of the Swiss Rifle Association



Shooting with our adapted Swiss army rifle continues to be an exclusive activity in Hong Kong. Some 50 registered members have an opportunity twice a year to come to a friendly shooting competition at a 50-meter shooting range in Sheng Shui.

In spring we shoot the Swiss army compulsory and field shoot (Obligatorisches und Feldschieszen) and in the fall a traditional program, which since its inception over 30 years ago goes under the name Operation Mercury. On each of the two days each shooter fires over 60 rounds - between a game of Jass, or a Bratwurst and Cheese.

Our traditional club is open to all Swiss army trained residents of Hong Kong. For people that were trained on the old army rifle Stgw57 we provide an introduction and refresher course.

The Swiss government provides rifles and ammo through its "Schiesswesen Ausland" Section in Berne. Rifles are on long-term loan, and stored at a secure armory managed by a private Hong Kong arms dealer. The same goes for ammunition,

which due to limited local storage capacity, needs to be imported from Switzerland every 18 months or so. This is an established routine involving the preparation of numerous documents, until the cases find their place in a Swiss airliner for a flight to Hong Kong. Here, our ammo is picked up and transported under police escort from the airport to a private armory.

All of this activity follows strict regulations, and is overseen by the Hong Kong Police Force, who continues to be a great supporter of our activities. For more information and how to join look up SRAHK on Facebook.

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Jass Evenings

by Thomas Burkhalter



For the Jass events, 2013 was an interesting year as, for the first time since its inception, it was held every month. Any apprehension over attendance during the winter months was quickly dispelled with solid participation at all 12 sessions and even, on occasion, with attendance over the limit set by our host, The Pacific Club. A good time was had by all participants and we look forward to a good turnout in 2014. Any Jass players are welcome to join us for good games and excellent food, not to mention the socializing that is always great fun.



**Swiss Association of Hong Kong**

Chlaus Jass 2013

Great prizes:

1st round	Sweets from Switzerland
2nd round	Schinkli
3rd round	Deluxe Salmon
4th round	6 Bottles of Wine
Winner	Dinner for 4 at Pacific Club





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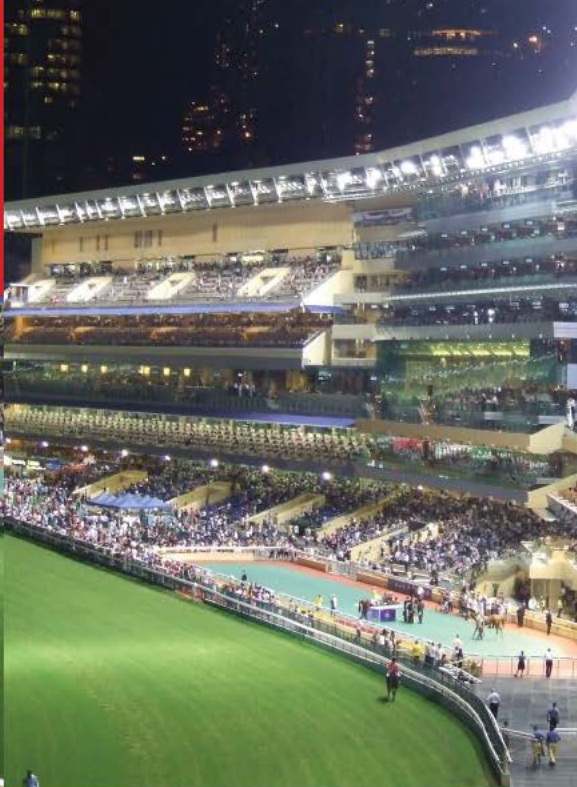
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A Night at the Races

by Tobias Fuerer



On 5 June 2013, the Swiss community gathered at the Happy Valley Racecourse to watch the exciting horse races. The members indulged in a mouth-watering buffet with a diverse range of gastronomic delights and good wines while overlooking the races from an exclusive box at the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The box also contained counters where the members could try their luck and bet in countless ways on the participating horses. Judging by the loud, happy and exciting shouting and cheering when the horses passed the finishing line, it seemed that numerous wins were celebrated. It was yet another unforgettable evening and the members enjoyed the thrilling atmosphere of the packed Happy Valley Racecourse.



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Lindt. Happy Sweet Easter!



Dragon Boat Festival

by Tod Mawhinney



The annual Sun Life Stanley International Dragonboat race taking place on the Dragonboat Festival day on Stanley beach marks a highlight in the Hong Kong Calendar. With over 250 different teams in several categories the beach is overcome with paddlers and spectators in the thousands.

The Swiss Dragons have been participating for as long as there has been a race in Stanley. The past year, under the slave driving "Captain Werner" saw the Swiss Dragons make one of their best rankings. In the mixed division they came 12th out of 168 teams. Quite an impressive finish for a team that practices only once a week and spends the rest of the afternoon at Spiaggia on the Stanley boardwalk.



The theme of the 2013 Sedan Chair race was too tempting for the Swiss Association to miss its 34th participation in this great charity event organized by the Matilda hospital. The theme, 'Travel around the World' was a perfect opportunity to raise money for local charities while advertising our home country to the crowds that gather around the Peak for this yearly event.

The decision for the costumes was reached very quickly. We decided to turn the sedan chair into a ski gondola, which would be carried by Swiss ski instructors in traditional red color ski gear. Finding winter equipment in Hong Kong was not the easiest task, but thanks to the support of the Swiss Association, Swiss Tourism and motivated members, we managed to pull it all together, including finding cow bells and skis. Once all the material assembled, decorating the chair was a lot of fun.

On race day, conditions could not have been better, it was sunny but not too hot, which was obviously a big advantage as we were all going to run wearing



ski instructors gear. The costumes and the chair were a great success. While the cow bells made sure the audience could hear us from afar. The distribution of chocolates provided by SWISS was definitely the highlight for our youngest supporters. The icing on the cake was the Swiss Association being awarded a prize for team spirit.

A big thank you to all the people who have supported our participation to this great event and helped the Swiss Association donate money to the charities for the 34th year.

Sedan Chair Race

by François Hora



Historical Walks

by Verena Mooser



Historical Walk through Central

How much can you learn about Hong Kong and its history in just one hour? Much more than you could possibly imagine!

Our journey began in front of the HSBC building. From there we walked over to Statue Square and the Legislative Council Building, turned back to Queen's Road and finished in front of St. John's Cathedral. Meanwhile, we learned about Hong Kong's beginning as a military outpost, discovered where the original shoreline ran, and followed the city's development and growth to present times. On the way, we saw traces of the Japanese invasion during World War II (hint: look at the back side of the HSBC lions) and compared old and new Hong Kong. Mr. Wordie made history come alive, explaining the land reclamation scheme, showing us the different stages of development in Central with old paintings and pictures and explaining how some of the streets we walk along every day got their names, like Ice House Street or Battery Path.

Historical Walk through Tsim Sha Tsui

Although the weather forecast was not very encouraging, a wonderful group of 18 people met in front of the old Kowloon-Canton Railway clock tower in TST on Saturday morning to start the walk in search of the traces of old Kowloon. Led by Mr. Wordie, we journeyed through time from the city's beginning to its actual manifestation, covering some very interesting facts.

Did you know, that once upon a time the fastest way to Europe from Hong Kong was over land, via Beijing, Manchuria and Moscow, using the Trans-Siberian Express?

What happened to most of the trees in Hong Kong during World War II? What was the round building with a big metal ball on top in front of 1881 Heritage used for? And that is has a twin on top of Signal Hill? That there are several buildings made of English brick in Hong Kong, as using it was a means of supporting this industry during a severe crisis? That quite a few buildings in San Francisco are made of stone quarried in Kowloon? That the red spots

on walls and floors of Chungking Mansion are not blood but betel leaf juice?

Historical Walk through Kowloon City

On a lovely Saturday morning a group of 17 enthusiastic people met up with historian Jason Wordie at Lok Fu MTR station, from where we walked to Kowloon Walled City Park. Along the

way, we learned about HK government's housing policies, which are reflected in the different styles of public housing built over the years and which we saw on our walk.

Kowloon City, near the old Kai Tak Airport, has a rich and varied history, especially the area that used to be a no-man's-land: Kowloon Walled City, a high-rise slum now converted into a lovely park. Right in the middle of the park, the old buildings, which used to house the old magistrate are now a museum bearing testimony to a by-gone era where drug-runners and illegal gambling dens shared the space with small factories, restaurants and even dentists!

Three hours were barely enough to get a taste of this corner of Hong Kong: it really is worth a further visit.



Junk Outing

by Evi Pfister-Hollinger



The weather conditions were perfect for the annual Junk-outing on September 27th, 2013. Once again this very popular event was fully booked and the atmosphere was great right from the start.

The Junk itself was a beautiful and very roomy wooden vessel. The route led from Pier 7 all the way along the South Side of Hong Kong Island via Aberdeen to Repulse Bay. The trip started with drinks and delicious appetizers, which went very well with the diversified views of the coast. The engines stopped in Repulse Bay and while enjoying the beautiful views from the top of the boat, a mouthwatering buffet with "Fleischchäs", various salads, and other treats, contributed further to the success of this fun and very relaxed evening. Despite going back the same way, the views by night were different and calm, almost serene. Nightcaps were barely finished upon arrival at central Pier and everybody went home happy and with new memories of another great Hong Kong experience.





A stunning view over Stanley Bay and that day's sunset were the perfect welcome for this year's Welcome Back Apero at "The Boathouse" restaurant. Delicious food, varied drinks and great company on the rooftop terrace made for a lovely evening under the stars and a happy start in Hong Kong after the summer break.



Welcome Back Apero

by Evi Pfister-Hollinger



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As in previous years, the organisers had to send out a "sold out" email well before the day given the huge popularity of the event and it proved to be well worth signing up early! 1st of August at the Happy Valley Racecourse started in style with delightful Swiss wine courtesy of our Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke. Following the welcome remarks from our President, Stefan Bollinger, we were treated to a speech by our Consul General and listened to the audio address by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Ueli Maurer. We all did our best to sing the Swiss National Anthems simultaneously in 4 languages before we eventually could enjoy the delicious buffet with plenty of Swiss specialties. Judging by the huge queue in front of the raclette, it was the crowd's favourite!



MC Werner Heimgartner skillfully guided us from one highlight to the next. The Wilhelm Tell theme made the apple shooting competition very fitting and Werner even managed to find three candidates for best dress. The competition was won by Christian Toggenburger, whom we will thoroughly miss next year. The traditional quiz and the Alphorn contest were additional highlights. After most people ran out of money because of all the acquired raffle tickets that were sold by charming volunteers, we eventually got to the lucky draw with phenomenal prices! It concluded a memorable evening celebrating Switzerland's birthday among old and new friends. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made it happen!



A visit from Santa Claus

by Evi Pfister-Hollinger



As every Year in December the children were wondering if Santa was coming to visit us again and bring a Grittibaenz and some Christmas cookies.

It turned out that Santa and Schmutzli chose once again a nice Sunday afternoon to come and see the 58 boys and girls who came to Tai Tam for the occasion.

Santa had lots to say and since there were mostly smiling children, it must have been good things. Everybody was busy, the parents with talking and enjoying the food, the children with crafts and playing outside with their friends. Thanks to everybody involved, it was another nice Sunday afternoon among Swiss friends.



Raclette Stand at the GSIS Bazaar

by Virginie Dafforn-Gorgemans

A Hong Kong tradition, the Raclette stand at the GSIS Bazaar ensured once again that all Bazaar visitors got to have a taste of Switzerland. The first raclette of the season for many, the Raclette stand is also a good fundraiser for GSIS. 160kg of cheese, 7 raclette machines and the good cheer spread by 20 volunteers kindled a friendly family atmosphere across the GSIS Courtyard. A big thank you goes to Inge and Stefan Herzog and the hardworking volunteers for making the stand possible.



New Year Cocktail

by Damian Bethke

The Swiss community was invited to the traditional New Year Cocktail reception on January 22, held at the Backyard of the Langham Place Hotel in Mong Kok for the first time. The Backyard was decorated with rows of Swiss flags, Swiss delicacies were offered and a Swiss DJ gave the guests a good time. While 'Guets Neus' wishes were offered, the hits of Züri West and Göllä were played and good portions of Swiss Raclette were enjoyed, one could have mistakenly thought to find himself in good old Switzerland. It was a great reception with plenty of old and new friends giving the New Year a first enthusiastic Swiss-Hong Kong welcome. The Swiss Association and Swiss Chamber of Commerce as the organizers of the event were excited about the success of the event.



Civil Aviation Tour

by René Herrmann

On November 21st we had the opportunity to visit the recently relocated Airport Air Traffic Control Complex (ATC) for an insider's view. The Complex recently relocated from midfield to a location near the Dragonair house outside the security parameter of the airport.

Welcomed by CAD-employees, (CAD stands for Civil Aviation Department), the Swiss Association group signed up for this fully booked event met in the main lobby of the ATC's brand new building.

After a brief summary of Chek Lap Kok airport's history relating to Air Traffic Control (ATC) we learned about the new Civil Aviation Department buildings' features. The new complex incorporates a main and a slightly separate backup building. The latter is to be used as a back-up building should there be an emergency (fire, electric breakdown, etc...) in the main building. ATC will be able to transfer to the alternate building to provide control of Hong Kong's airspace and HKIA. At the moment, ATC is still using the "old" facility located within the building underneath the midfield control tower for area and approach control. The new facility is planned to be operational at the latest by the end of 2014.

Continuing along the educational path we learned about airport security, baggage scanning, dangerous goods and some aircraft equipment like a mock-up of a cabin section introducing a passenger seat airbag system.

After the initial more general subjects, our tour continued to the more ATC specific part passing a viewing window of the future air traffic control room, noise insulated for minimum distractions of the respective controllers at work. The new state-of-the-art workstations will allow the controllers to safely direct the 276,000 square km large area.

This concluded the tour, which from now on, unlike past visits, will unfortunately exclude the visit of the actual control tower.

Since the tour was finished in just over an hour, some of the group joined a spontaneous visit to the Cathay headquarters. This completed the insiders' tour of Hong Kong's aviation.

More Information regarding air traffic control in Hong Kong can be found at the following website:
http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/cad_division.html#atmd

Hong Kong International Airport in figures

370,000 flight movements in 2013, averaging over 1,000 daily.
220,000 overflights in 2013, averaging 600 daily.

The single-day record for HKIA was created on 29th of March 2013, with 1,172 landings and take-offs and 617 flight movements operated through HKFIR within the 24-hour period.

You may refer to our website for more figures about HKIA:

<http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/p-through.htm>



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Tour of Gate Gourmet Catering

by Evi Pfister-Hollinger



On a nice Saturday in November a group of about 20 people made their way out to the airport for a different reason than flying away.

We had an exciting look behind the scenes at what happens to our food before we fly. The airline catering company Gate Gourmet opened its doors for us.

After some introduction we went to see the kitchen. Our tour took us from the loading area to the cold kitchen, hot kitchen, tray setting area to where the trolleys are loaded and on to the huge dishwasher. It was surprising to see how much is still made by hand. We were all impressed with the logistics involved to make sure the right food gets to the right plane at the right time.

I am sure many of us will think about that, when the flight attendant asks: "chicken or pasta?" on the next flight.



SAHK Family Walk – Thwarted by Sha Lo Wan Rebels

by Michael Balsiger



A happy Swiss crowd of 30 people met on an early November morning in Tung Chung with the goal to hike to Tai O.

This is a very nice hike starting out opposite from the airport and then going along the coast with the chance of seeing some Chinese White (Pink) Dolphins.

Unfortunately, the SAHK squad didn't even make it to the halfway point where some of the members had planned to take the ferry.

We were stopped by threatening signs and finally

a big fence, installed by demonstrators. The Sha Lo Wan rebels insisted on blocking the way to our peaceful (neutral) bunch of people, as well as all other passerby's, as they wanted to be heard by the Hong Kong Government.

Although the reason for obstructing the hiking trail was not fully understood, everybody had to turn around and sadly walk back to where it all began.

The event ended happily with a nice and well-deserved lunch at the Thai Restaurant in Tung Chung!

Visit of the Wan Chai Police Station

by Joyce Chan



On 21st of November 2013, a lucky few got an inside view of the Hong Kong police station. The group met in the report room of the police station where we were given an introduction to the Hong Kong police force. We were then given a briefing of the updated technology tools used for investigations (e.g. police fingerprint scanner and database). A guided tour then took us to various rooms including the identification parade room, traffic control and surveillance room and the interrogation room. The group who joined the tour thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and we all hoped never to have to see the inside of the police station for any other reasons!



Studer Trust – Building for the Future of Children

by Tim-Zi Cheung



Studer Trust was founded in 2004 by the late Peter Gautschi with the mission to provide educational opportunities for underprivileged children in Asia and offering donors full transparency and the pledge that every donation is spent solely for the project for which it is intended.

In his typical charismatic style, Peter was a hands-on, passionate leader. Since establishment, Studer Trust has built 95 schools in China and Myanmar, supporting over 28,800 students.

At the time of Peter's sudden and tragic passing in 2013, plans were in hand to build a Teacher Training Center in Mandalay, Myanmar. This is a project that was very close to Peter's heart. The cost of the new building has been raised thanks to the generosity of Peter's friends, including the amazing donation of HKD 73,600 received from the Swiss Association's luncheon in December 2013. The building will carry Peter's name and is the essence of Peter's legacy - a project for the future of Myanmar's young students.

Studer Trust expresses its deep gratitude to the Swiss Association and the donors of this project.

Joint Monthly Luncheons



Change is in the air – Hong Kong's Action to Improve Air Quality 2012-2020

Guest speaker Ms. Christine Loh, Under Secretary for the Environment

Hong Kong residents are impatient for improvement in air quality. They are become more and more knowledgeable about the issues and more and more pointed in the questions they demand answers to. This is the basis for Hong Kong to make choices, change behavior where necessary and upgrade practices in controlling emission from major sources, including vehicles, vessels and power plants.

Ms. Christine Loh was the Chief Executive Office of the non-profit public policy think tank Civic Exchange prior to joining the HKSAR government in September 2012.

Congress & Exhibition City A Successful Public Private Partnership

Guest speaker Dr. Guy Morin, President of the Executive Council of Canton of Basel-Stadt

Over the past decades, MCN Group (Messe Schweiz) has developed into a national exhibition company with international appeal and attraction. The world class Art Basel and Basel-world fairs have characterized the company's development: the Baselworld because of its size in terms of investment in infrastructure, the Art Basel with its offspring Art Basel Miami Beach and Art Basel Hong Kong in terms of expansion abroad. These developments can be attributed to the development of the exhibition and convention space in Basel and the ownership structure of the MCH Group. The public sector as the largest shareholder has created the right framework for the development of the company and individual exhibitions. At the same time, the trade fairs have become an important economic factor in the region of Basel.

Hong Kong in the Coming Year - Outlook for 2014

Guest speaker Mr. David O'Rear, Chief Economist, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Hong Kong's many economies, from trade and finance to tourism, construction and transportation, face very different near-term futures. Some segments will be wholly subject to the fortunes (or lack thereof) of major trading partners, while others will be driven by what we ourselves do to enhance our competitiveness, hone our service skills, train our people and burnish our reputation and the best business and financial centre in the Asian part of the world. Mr. David O'Rear shared the immediate past record and an overview of prospects for the coming year.

Feng Shui Predictions for 2014 / Year of the Horse

Guest speaker Mr. Raymond Lo, Feng Shui Master

Grand Master Raymond Lo, popularly known as "Fung Shui Lo", is a professional Feng Shui and destiny consultant, author and lecturer.

Besides being a world renowned Feng Shui consultant and teacher, he founded the Raymond Lo School of Feng Shui and Destiny, which offers training for people of different countries to take up Feng Shui as a professional career. As of 2013, he is one of only five people alive to earn the title of "Grand Master" from the International Feng Shui Association (IFSA)

The Swiss Financial Centre: Strategy in a Changing World

Guest speaker Mr. Patrick Odier, Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association

The world has changed fast in recent months and years, especially the financial sector. During our luncheon, Patrick Odier, Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association, described the challenges faced by the Swiss financial centre and presented its strategy.

Intellectual Property Protection in China for Western Companies: Best Practice & Focus 2014

Guest speaker Elliot Papageorgiou, Executive & Partner, Rouse Legal (China)

The topic of China Intellectual Property has never been more relevant to those who want to protect their brands and create value from intangible IP assets. The speaker discussed China's IP strategy for 2014, Chinese Companies' 'IP Weapons' and the impact of the recent Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement.

Asia's Luxury Market – understanding the context and challenges

Guest speaker Ms. Anca Tutuianu, Deputy Director Regional Marketing Services, Richemont Asia Pacific Ltd

The luxury market has undergone tremendous evolutions in the recent past and today it must continue to adapt in order to thrive in an increasingly complex environment. What used to be a straightforward recipe to success is now challenged by the shift in distribution of wealth, increasingly complex consumer tastes and numerous new factors never before seen in the industry. Facing this new situation, brands have to work on all aspects of their value proposition. Luxury brands must be able to find the right balance between adapting to local expectation; all while staying true to their DNA and also managing to keep the perception of exclusivity. The audience learned about the evolution of luxury, the state of the industry today and the challenges lying ahead. The focus was specifically on the Asia-Pacific context, including numbers, clients' profiles and evolutions. According to Ms. Tutuianu, the outlook is robust for those who know how to adapt accordingly.

Swiss School Committee



The Swiss School Committee has been a subcommittee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) since 1978, and, therefore, is completely independent from the schools. Presently, we are a team of six members. By reporting to the Swiss Government and the SAHK, we provide a platform to support Swiss teachers, Swiss students and their parents, and the Swiss community. We help newly arrived families as well as departing families with their educational enquiries.

Switzerland is supportive of Swiss educational options abroad and here in Hong Kong, these are the German Swiss International School (GSIS) and the French International School (FIS), which give our Swiss students the opportunity to study in their mother tongues. To safeguard the educational and cultural interests of Swiss citizens, government support is currently not given directly to GSIS or FIS, but instead, it is through partially sponsoring Swiss teachers at the respective schools. Presently there are three sponsored Swiss teachers at GSIS and one at FIS.

What we do

Reflective of the Swiss social spirit, the Swiss government requires active participation from the Swiss business community here in Hong Kong. This is where the Swiss School Committee comes into play and organizes the fundraising, manages the Swiss funds and liaises between the Swiss government and GSIS / FIS. A yearly fundraising effort aims to cover part of the costs of the Swiss teachers, the other part being sponsored by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.

In return, future Swiss students have priority status to enter the German Stream of GSIS and the French Stream of FIS - a considerable advantage, considering the long waiting lists at international schools in Hong Kong. To ensure this benefit is not lost in the future, it is imperative to gain the support of Swiss companies in Hong Kong!



Supporters and Sponsors of the Swiss School Committee



The Swiss School Committee wishes to thank its 2013 sponsors for their continuous support. Hopes are high that previous sponsors will renew their valuable donations in 2014. The donor's list is open to all and any additional contributions are more than welcome. Interested sponsors may contact the President of the Swiss School Committee, Mr. Rene Hermann at rene.hermann@swiss-hk.com

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Schlüsselzahlen per 01.01.2014)

I. Säule	A H V / I V Alters-, Hinterbliebenen- und Invaliden-Versicherung		
	Ab dem 1. Januar 2014, gelten die folgenden Leistungen gemäss der "Renten-Skala 44" (volle AHV/IV Rente)		
	Alters- oder Invaliden-Rente:	Monatlich	Jährlich
	Minimal Einzel	CHF 1.170	CHF 14.040
	Maximal Einzel	CHF 2.340	CHF 28.080
	Minimal Ehepaar	CHF 1.755	CHF 21.060
	Maximal Ehepaar	CHF 3.510	CHF 42.120
	IV-Rentenstufen:		
	IV-Grad mind. 1/4-Rente; 1/2-Rente; Dreiviertelrente; respektive die Vollrente		
	Hinterbliebenen-Rente:	Monatlich	Jährlich
	Minimal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 936	CHF 11.232
	Maximal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 1.872	CHF 22.464
	Die Mindest-Prämie pro Jahr beläuft sich auf CHF 475 (oder mit Ehegatte ohne Barlohn CHF 950) und die Beitragssätze für Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitgeber, betragen zusammen ca 10,3 % des Lohns (AHV/IV/EO; mit AHV/IV/EO/ALV = 13,5 %).		
	Auslandsschweizer zahlen 9,8 % des Lohnes.		
	Zusätzlich werden 3% Verwaltungskosten belastet.		
	Nichterwerbstätige CHF 904 bis ca CHF 11.000 pro Jahr (plus 3% Verwaltungskosten).		
Achtung!	Bei fehlenden Beitragsjahren werden sämtliche oben genannten Zahlen reduziert.		
	Die individuellen AHV-Nummern wurden per Juli 2008 geändert. Alte Nummern sind weiterhin brauchbar.		
II. Säule	B V G Berufliches Vorsorge-Gesetz (Gesetzliches Minimum)		
	Auf Lohnbestandteilen von unter CHF 24.570 bzw. über CHF 84.240, brauchen keine Pensionskassen-Beiträge geleistet zu werden. Der obligatorisch zu versichernde Maximallohn, beträgt somit		
	maximal anrechenbarer Jahreslohn		CHF 84.240
	minus Koordinations-Abzug (= maximale AHV-Rente, minus 3.510)		CHF 24.570
	Obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohnanteil		CHF 59.670
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	Mindestjahreslohn ist CHF 21.060]		
	Gesamtbeiträge je nach Alter 10 – 24 % des versicherten Lohns		
U V G	Unfallversicherungs-Gesetz -- obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohn		
	kein Minimum / Maximum = CHF 126.000		
A V I G	Arbeitslosenversicherungs- und Insolvenzentschädigungs-Gesetz /Änderung per 1.4.2011		
	Versicherter Lohn kein Minimum / Maximum CHF 126.000 respektive 315.000		
	Lohnbestandteile bis CHF 126.000	2,20 Lohnprozente	
	Lohnbestandteile ueber CHF 126.000 bis zu maximal CHF 315.000	1 Lohnprozent	
		(je nach Branche 0,17 – 13,5 % für Betriebsunfälle	
		(je nach Branche 0,68 – 4,87 % für Nichtbetriebsunfälle	
M V G	Militärversicherungs-Gesetz		
	Maximal versicherter Lohn = CHF 137.545		
III. Säule	Privat: Gebundene und Freie Vorsorge		
	Für ein sanftes Alters-Ruhekissen, inklusive der Erfüllung von Extrawünschen oder einer frühzeitigen Pensionierung, reichen die ersten 2 Säulen nicht aus - insbesondere nicht für die Eintrittsgeneration (36 - 65-Jährige). Damit es im Alter kein böses Erwachen gibt, bieten klare, massgeschneiderte Pläne individuellen Vorsorge-schutz und Sicherheit.		
	Gebundene Vorsorge	=	Steuerlich begünstigt (NUR mit Wohnsitz in DER SCHWEIZ) Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Arbeitnehmer CHF 6.739 p.a. Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Selbständige CHF 33.696 p.a.
	Individuelle Vorsorge	=	Weltweite, steuerliche und erbrechtliche Begünstigung

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District _____

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Mandatory

Membership Fees

(Thirty percent of the fee will be contributed to Swiss Benevolent Society)

☐ HK\$ 250.00 for individuals

☐ HK\$ 450.00 for couples

I / We would be interested to

☐ participate in committee work

☐ help organizing events, e.g. Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Claus, etc.

Payment

Please complete this form and post it together with your crossed cheque, payable to 'Swiss Association of Hong Kong', to the following address:

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