

s'Alphorn 133





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Message from the President

Dear members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong,
Dear readers,

Proudly, we present you with your personal copy of the 133rd edition of the s'Alphorn magazine. You will learn more about the Swiss Association in Hong Kong, past and upcoming events, as well as some exciting stories of your compatriots.

The Swiss Association provides many opportunities for you to make new friendships, to network with people who are in the same boat having left Switzerland, to mingle with other families, and to celebrate Swiss traditions coupled with great food and wine. I am looking forward to an exciting time serving as president. As a volunteer organisation, the Swiss Association constantly looks for members who would like to get involved as part of the committee. There is a great fellowship among the volunteers and we would like to include more of you so please reach out to us.

Starting with the Swiss National Day Celebration last year, we introduced a new tool where you can register and settle payment for joining events online. At the same time, our website became more interactive so as to make full use of today's technology. Please make as much use of it as possible but please let us know if you need any assistance. It is of course still possible to send your registrations the traditional way.

The Swiss Association organises over 70 events every year with several large signature events you can read more on the following pages. None of them would have been possible without the passionate and enthusiastic help of so many. It is thanks to their contribution which makes the Swiss Association so lively and active here in Hong Kong.

My goal is to continue making our association fun and interactive and a gathering and meeting place for all Swiss and their friends in Hong Kong. Organising events and fostering the relationship among the Swiss community in Hong Kong is both a pleasure and honour for me. I would like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues on the committee, the excellent relationship and support from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, as well as everyone else who has supported the Swiss Association in one way or another.

We trust you will enjoy this year's edition of s'Alphorn and wish you an abundance of health, joy and prosperity in the year of the sheep/goat.

With my best wishes,
Benjamin Mueller-Rappard
President of the SAHK

Dear members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong,
Dear readers,

A few days before our AGM on March 19th 2015, Benjamin Mueller-Rappard announced to the SAHK committee that he had just accepted a great job opportunity back in Switzerland and will be leaving Hong Kong by the end of April 2015.

I was asked by the new president (Benjamin Mueller-Rappard) and the immediate past president (Tobias Heller) to take over the presidency of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong once Benjamin leaves Hong Kong. I have served the Swiss Association for the last three years as the Honorary Treasurer and have been appointed as the First Vice President for this year.

As there was not enough time to change the agenda for the ordinary AGM, Benjamin Mueller-Rappard was appointed as president during the meeting. However an extraordinary (online) AGM will be organised to elect me as the new president of the association.

When confirmed, my goals echo what Benjamin has written, i.e. to continue making our association a fun and interactive meeting place for all Swiss and their friends in Hong Kong with the support of all of you. I would like to thank my fellow committee members for the trust they put in me and I am looking forward to working with them.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our committee. Please do reach out to me or any of my colleagues in the committee if you are interested in helping our association in a more active role.

Enjoy this new edition of s'Alphorn and see you in one of our future events.

With my best wishes,
Pietro Immordino
President of the SAHK to be confirmed



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Peter Paul Rubens, Detail from "Portrait of Clara Serena Rubens", c. 1616. © LIECHTENSTEIN, The Princely Collections, Vaduz-Vienna

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Committee



**Michael
Balsiger**
Sponsorship
Coordinator



**Tobias
Heller**
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@swisshk.com or visit our website at www.swiss-hk.com

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New Committee Members



Ashley Lau

I am a typical Hongkonger who grew up in Hong Kong, studied in local schools and have always been working here.

I started loving Switzerland, Swiss Cheese & Chocolate (and SWISS of course) 10 years ago when I joined Swiss International Air Lines in Hong Kong. This gives me the opportunity to know more of the Swiss Culture.

Thanks to Benjamin Mueller-Rappard for inviting me to join the SAHK as an Events Co-ordinator.

This is a great opportunity for me to meet new friends as I really enjoy getting in touch with all the interesting people in the Swiss Community. I am so excited and looking forward to meeting you soon!

MORE OF SAHK

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong was formed in June 1948 with Walter Naef, Director of Ciba Ltd. as its first president.

Whereas presently the Association plays a mainly social role, in the beginning, its primary objective was to offer financial help to Swiss citizens in need (a role taken over by the Swiss Benevolent Society since 1972).

At the time the Swiss community numbered 40-60 people.

Nicolas Köhl

Nick moved to Hong Kong in August 2008 while working for Man Group. It was such a great opportunity to relocate from the little mini hedge fund town of Pfäeffikon SZ to one of the biggest financial cities in the world.

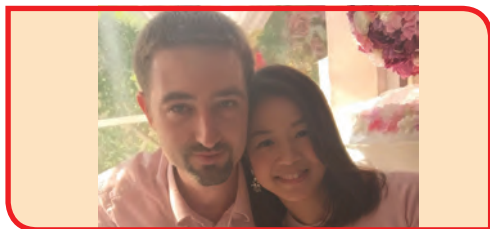


Over the years he's worked for several major financial companies as well as in the past two years branching out and starting his own IT business. Principally acting as a Part-time CTO for startup companies and using his experience and connections to help them get traction in the local market and make the right strategic decisions, life in Hong Kong has proven to be very interesting and intellectually challenging.

As such joining the SAHK to help bring the technology of the association up to speed was a welcome and interesting way to contribute to the community.

Saving everyone a few minutes every time they join an event by creating an online payment solution really adds up and makes a huge difference!

New Committee Members



Tobias Luedin

I first came to Hong Kong for a short business trip in 2002, although not seen a lot of the city I knew this would be an interesting place to live in.

Two years later, on 1st of April 2004, I left Switzerland (no joke) for my Hong Kong adventure intended for two years. Now after almost eleven years, I am still here and still loving every moment of it.

In the beginning I was not too much involved with the Swiss community but this has changed in recent years after I started joining more and more events. In doing so I started having my own ideas as to what else could be done for the Swiss community. I therefore accepted the invitation from Benjamin Mueller-Rappard to join the SAHK Committee and play a more active role.

I grew up in a small village near Basel, Arlesheim BL. 3 years ago, Jessie (who is from Hong Kong) and I got married. I spend most of my working life in the freight forwarding industry and I am enjoying the fast moving and ever changing environment.

I am looking forward to contribute more actively to the SAHK and to meet all of you very soon.

Roland Jossi

I came to Hong Kong for the first time more than 30 years ago during a stopover on my way to Japan.

I remember that I stayed at the Shamrock Hotel on Nathan Road, which is still there now.

Many things have changed here since then, but not my love for this vibrant city. I later came to live and work here with my family from 2000 to 2007 and after new experiences in other countries, we have been back again since 2012.

Most of my adult life I have stayed outside of Switzerland and I have always been somehow involved in the Swiss societies, most of the time more passively than actively, though.

After a similar role at the Swiss Society of the Kansai in Japan, I agreed to become more active in Hong Kong and look forward to joining the committee of the SAHK as the new Honorary Treasurer.



New Committee Members

Cordula Voegtle

Since my arrival in Hong Kong last summer I have attended a couple of events of the SAHK and enjoyed the opportunity to converse in Swiss German, to indulge myself with traditional Swiss food and to meet people as diverse as the population in Switzerland itself.



Michelle Char

When my husband (Pietro Immordino) and I were married, we decided to make Switzerland our home. It never occurred in our minds that after a few years, we would be back in Hong Kong again because of work.

I spent my early childhood here and grew up in Singapore. Returning to Hong Kong was like returning home for me. Nonetheless I missed my second home in Switzerland.

I met a lot of nice people in Switzerland that made my integration easy. They cared a lot about the community and reached out to help in different ways. As well, I found the picturesque sceneries of the lakes and mountains mesmerising.

During dinner last July I found out from Pietro that the editorial position was still open. Our President, Tobias Heller, accepted my offer to help and very quickly I joined the Committee and attend the monthly meeting.

Everyone in the Committee is very committed and we work well together as a team. It is nice to be in this team and I will continue the efforts to make s'Alphorn an interesting magazine for you.



My family and I have lived near Zurich before moving to Hong Kong. We were lucky to be able to take a sabbatical in 2013 and travel through Southeast Asia for some months. We all liked it so much that the move to Hong Kong came as a positive surprise even for the children. Nevertheless to keep up with traditions while being abroad feels important and gives especially the children the roots that hopefully encourage them to venture out and explore our new home. I am very happy that we found a community like the SAHK where we can share this.

I have always loved organising events, parties, weekends, whether it was for my family, friends or the women's network I was involved with in Zurich. So I was delighted when being asked to join the committee's events team. I hope I will make up for the limited inside knowledge to Hong Kong with enthusiasm, commitment and good spirit!

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Welcome to our New Members

Nuria Barbey
Michael Bucher
Alex Buerge
Konrad Graf & Priya Chauhan
Sebastien Cretegnny & Emanuela D'Aloisio
Marc Ducommun-Dit-Verron & Emilie Del Do
Hess Dennys
Matthieu & Celine Eigenmann
Priska Erni
Daniel Fahrny
Karma Gochotshang
Catherine Grossrieder
Sven Hartmetz & Melodie Hauser
Boris Brunold & Anna Herzog
Richard Hoyer & Qi Hoyer-Liu
Caroline Huber
Roland & Jun Jossi Watanabe
Michael Martin Kleger
Peter Schindler & Angie Koon
Ivo Kurath
Cedric Litzistorf

Roger Haennie & Jocelyn Liu
Lois Lu
Marco Mueller & Caroline Morger
Raffael Morger
Marco Osterwalder
Lukas Peyer
Markus & Corinne Purtschert-Frei
Daniel & Sze Wun Crystal Rauti Ho
Derek Ritzmann
Jean-Pascal Salvaj
Melissa Saumont
Eduardo Serrano & Michaela Scarpatetti
Christopher & Sabina Simmons
Roger & Nicole Staeheli
Tommy Burk & Shan Ting Karen To
Cordula & Nick Voegtli Adamus
Bernhard & Surisaday Walker Alvarez
Claudia Walshe
Eva Wang
Juergen Kaufmann & Yee Lin Yip
Sven Zuber
Daniela Zuppa



The Sheep is in the limelight of s'Alphorn Cover edition 133.

The sight of the Sheep is endearing to most people. The Sheep is a very common farm animal in Switzerland and even

though it is not number one in population as the Cow, they can be found in most farms.

In the picture, the flock of sheep are of different colours. In reality, not many of us can tell them

apart and assumed there is no diversity as they live peacefully in flocks.

Coincidentally 2015 is the year of the Sheep/Goat in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Traditionally the Sheep has been considered a peaceful animal in the Chinese culture and the generalisation is that what the animal symbolises, it would bring to the household / community. And that is exactly what all of us wish for - a peaceful and harmonious 2015



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Goodbye to our Resigned Members

Hanny Stadelmann & Udo Alfare
Serge Aymon
Martin & Heidi Baumann
Miguel & Doris Betrisey
Antigone Theodorou & Stefan Bollinger
Peter & Cecilia Bussinger
Alessandro C. S. & Daiana Caironi
Michael and Virginie Dafforn
Gaelle Devins
Jean-Marc Dizerens
Pierre Donnet
Charles Andre Dubois
Daniela Faustino
Franco Foschi
Michael & Shireen Frei
Christine Frei Kwok
Luc & Resham Froehlich
Luca Fumasoli
Susan Gallagher
Charles-Josef & Usa Grossrieder
Robert & Stephanie Guenter
Florian & Stephanie Haab
Mark Hellmann
Heinz & Ruby Hoss-Chiu
Philip & Rosanne Jehle
Sai & Alexander Jenny
Martina & Dieter Kaeslin
Max Kagi
Juerg & Doris Kesselring
Andreas & Anne Knecht
Alexander & Jacqueline Kobler Radzuweit
Christoph & Rita Koller

Laurent & Diana Kretz
Niklaus & Bich Hue Lang
Johann Kaspar Locher
Andy & Katia Macaluso
Roland & Ruby Macek
Stephane & Magali Marbehant
Igor & Hei-Yan Jennifer Matthez Lam
Chaoran Wang & Florian Michel
Ho Yan Mok
Andrea Nessi
Daniel & Sibylle Oester
Jessie Poon
Pierpaolo Rainolter
Andreas Reichlin
Kaspar Theiler & Jacqueline Riederer
Robert Rohner
Mark & Alicia Rohner / Lim
Kurt & Roseli B.M. Schaerer
Christian Schiller
Ekaterina Serbina
Lukas & Regula Studer
Chun-Him & Shin Ji Hae Tam
Symon & Jacqueline Tilberis
Oliver & Debbie Trueb-Chan
Andre & Nadia Utzinger
Eddy & Alexandra Van Gelder
Elise van Stolk
Diego & Hoi Chun Wittlin-Yau
Katrín Haudenschild & Andreas Wullimann
Georges Zecchin
Peter & Shoba May Zehnder
Michele Nathalie Zopfi

Goodbye and best wishes to Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and Sacha Bachmann

It was announced during the New Year Cocktail that Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and Sacha Bachmann of the Consulate General of Switzerland will be leaving Hong Kong this summer for other postings.

We thank Rita and Sacha for their support to the SAHK and wish them well in the coming future

A modern kitchen and dining area with large windows overlooking a city. The kitchen features a stainless steel sink and a curved faucet. The dining area has a round table and white chairs. A large arched lamp is visible in the background.

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Annual General Meeting

March 19th, 2015
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

The 67th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the **Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK)** followed by the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the **Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong (SBS)** was held at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club on Thursday, 19th of March 2015 .

The quorum of 47 members of the SAHK was met, hence the meeting was declared to commence.

Tobias Heller, the to be outgoing president of the SAHK welcomed **Sandra Chawla-Gantenbein** from the Consulate General of Switzerland and our guests for their participation.

The meeting agenda was as follows:

- Approval of last year's SAHK minutes and year end accounts report announced
- The Swiss School report and accounts read
- Approval of SBS minutes and their accounts announced.

Alex Tunik, representative of Hong Kong in ASO, gave an update.

The audience gave a warm applause to the outgoing president, **Tobias Heller**, the newly appointed president, **Benjamin Mueller-Rappard**, the president to be confirmed **Pietro Immordino** and the entire SAHK committee for their much appreciated efforts made last year.

Evi Pfister-Hollinger and **Damian Bethke**, who served the Committee as Event Advisor and Event Coordinator will be returning to Switzerland soon. The committee thanked them and wished them best of luck.





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Events of the year



April 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening

May 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Horse Race Night

June 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Beach Day
- Dragonboat Race



July 2014

- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Swiss Jass Evening

August 2014

- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Swiss National Day Celebration

September 2014

- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Meet & Greet at Shek O Beach

For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/events

Events of the year



October 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Melchterli Cup 2014
- Sedan Chair Race



November 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Family Hike
- INSIDE SERIES : Visit T Hotel
- Ladies Night



December 2014

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Claus Jass Evening
- Santa Claus is coming to Town



January 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Bowling Night



February 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- New Year Cocktail



March 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Evening Golf at 9 Eagles
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Raclette in the Park
- AGM
- SEVENS Jass Evening

For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/events

Consulate General of Switzerland



**Rita
Hämmerli-Weschke**
Consul General



**Erwin
Lüthi**
Deputy
Consul General



**Sandra
Chawla-Gantenbein**
Consul



**Sacha
Bachmann**
Vice Consul



**Pascal
Sollberger**
Attaché



**Frank
Eggmann**
Head of Swiss
Business Hub



**Wing Kai
Chan**
Trade Officer



**Anita
Nahr**
Assistant to the
Consul General



**Eva
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Consular Officer



**Siu
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Dear Reader,

A year ago who could have foreseen such terror acts like recently in Paris, the war in Ukraine, the crude barrel at half its normal price or the end of the cap 1.20 Swiss Franc per Euro? Nobody really did and it took us all by surprise. These and many other major issues are constantly reshaping the landscape of international trade, nothing new under the sun and 2015 won't be any different from the previous years.

So it might seem harder to prepare a "look ahead" for the New Year and carefully plan a strategy because one is guaranteed to again face sudden changes, old paradigms will be challenged and Mother Nature will also have its say at a certain point. In other words, stay alert and be ready for anything!

Luckily you are professionally active in Asia where markets remain potentially important and - even a slowdown is being felt in China - Switzerland should soon start to harvest the first fruits of the newly signed free-trade agreement, an achievement many other nations envy us for. Also, the rise of the new middle-class in Asia is overwhelming and offers tremendous opportunities for Swiss products and services.

In the last two years, over 30 Swiss SME's have enjoyed the active support of the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) for their first steps into the Asian Market. Interestingly, those that have been successful in setting foot in Hong Kong share similar attitudes and competences. They are not afraid of changes, on the contrary; they even nurture their business-model. They have this "can do" attitude which triggers positive energy and are open-minded. Above all, these companies understand that there is a unique Asian way of looking at and doing things. Thus, it doesn't necessarily mean one has to completely change its business practices. It just means to understand that there are differences.

Some weeks ago, a businessman from a renowned Swiss company shared the philosophy of his – very successful - company in front of a large crowd. He said: "First we tried to make money, then we improved our product but finally our main focus shifted to making our customers really happy. This influenced the whole operation and became the driving factor for our success."

2015 offers another wealth of opportunities for Swiss expertise in Asia. With the right attitude and a respectful approach, paired with the willingness to learn and establish strong local partnership, new doors will certainly open and keep us all happily busy until the 2016 edition.

With my sincerest wishes and kind regards,

Frank Eggmann
Head of Swiss Business Hub

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ASO CONGRESS IN BADEN AUGUST 2014

Alexandre Tunik

The Association of the Swiss living abroad (ASO) met up for last year's congress in Baden, Canton Aargau. Information Technology and Social Media - Opportunities for the Swiss Abroad were the themes of the Congress.

There are more than 730,000 of Swiss living abroad and play a significant role as "ambassadors" of Switzerland. As such, many Swiss schools abroad do not just provide education but also create a cultural, social and emotional relationship with Switzerland.

The Meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad took place the day before. The following two resolutions were adopted by the Council:

1. Mandatory registration for Swiss Abroad within the framework of the new law on the Swiss Abroad.

2. Call on the government to oblige the Swiss Post Office's financial institution to give all Swiss Citizens abroad the right to hold an account with them.

Issues related to Hong Kong as follows:

1. Permanent Seat for Hong Kong within ASO

I have raised the above issue with both the President, Mr. Jaques-Simon Eggly as well as his predecessor, Rudolf Wyder.

The idea discussed was to have it as being part of "China" but permanent. Usually a seat is given to each country and the number of seats allocated

dependent on the size of the Swiss Community in the respective countries. For example, France has 6 seats, Australia has 2 seats...etc.

To have 2 seats would usually request +/- 5000 citizens. Arguments in favor of Hong Kong based on following:-

1. Size of the Swiss community in Hong Kong is the largest in Greater China.

2. Swiss Exports to Hong Kong are substantial.

3. Swiss presence in Hong Kong is strong in terms of the size of the Consulate, Swiss school and the Associations here (Swiss Association, Swiss Business Chamber, various alumni)

2. Education for Overseas Swiss Students not doing a Swiss Matura (IB, FRENCH BAC)

In Switzerland the percentage of students doing the Matura (a demanding matriculation examination) and subsequently going to the University is relatively low compared to other countries. As a comparison, close to 100 percent of students from International Schools in Hong Kong pass the IB or equivalent exam and end up going to the University.

Swiss students doing another exam than the Matura do not have direct access to Swiss Universities. There are certain higher requirements for non-Matura holder at most Swiss universities.

University of Zurich UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong



University of
Zurich ^{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 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>

University of St. Gallen (HSG)



University of St.Gallen

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/>

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 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.

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>

Neue Jugendangebote der ASO

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

Auch kommenden Sommer können Jugendliche mit Schweizer Wurzeln von den Freizeit- und Bildungsangeboten der Auslandschweizer-Organisation (ASO) profitieren. Nebst Individualprogrammen bieten wir vier Sommerlager, einen Französischkurs, einen Deutschkurs und zwei Seminare an.

Dank Ihrer Mithilfe erfahren Schweizer Familien von unseren Jugendprogrammen. Wir bitten Sie deshalb wiederum um Ihre Unterstützung, unsere Programme über Ihre Kommunikationskanäle bekannt zu machen. Sie finden den Flyer in elektronischer Form in Deutsch, Französisch, Italienisch, Englisch und Spanisch unter <https://app.box.com/s/cubdfiacdhcd06dajpa2u8llhkk8785>

Sehr gerne stellen wir Ihnen gedruckte Exemplare zu. Bitte teilen Sie uns die gewünschte Anzahl/ Sprache und Zustelladresse an youth@aso.ch mit.

Weitere Informationen zu unseren Angeboten finden Sie unter www.swisscommunity.org (Rubrik „Jugend“) und www.aso.ch (Rubrik „Angebote“). Wir freuen uns bereits jetzt auf viele Teilnehmende aus aller Welt!

Besten Dank für Ihre Unterstützung und freundliche Grüsse
Jugenddienst

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Consulate General of Switzerland
www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong

Swiss Government
www.admin.ch

Schweizer Revue
www.revue.ch

SwissInfo (International Service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation)
www.swissinfo.ch

Wir Auslandschweizer
www.wirauslandschweizer.ch

Hong Kong Government
www.gov.hk

German Swiss International School in Hong Kong
www.gsis.edu.hk

French International School in Hong Kong
www.fis.edu.hk

Glion Institute of Higher Education Alumni Association of Glion (AAG)

The AAG mission is to promote a strong link between Alumni and Glion that supports social and professional networking and maintains the “Glion Spirit” among the Glion community and other stakeholders.

AAGHK CHAPTER started in 2009 and offers the opportunities to share knowledge, contacts and foster friendship and networking within the hospitality industry and the local community. The Glion community meets 1-2 times annually with different events.

To join us please contact Mr. Jimmy Lui, Chapter President of Glion Hong Kong at Jimelov@gmail.com or register your information at <http://alumni/glion.edu>

Other Swiss Organisations in Hong Kong

swisschamhk.org Hong Kong

Swiss Chamber of Commerce (SCCHK)

Peter Spirig, President

Joyce Yan, General Secretary

www.swisschamhk.org

admin@swisschamhk.org

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.

Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Gabriel Mallet

gabriel.mallet@abacare.com

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

Swiss XI

Peter Klaus, President

www.swissxi.com

klausp@hotmail.com.hk

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

Found in 1982, the Rifle Association organises shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shoot and Operation Mercury.



Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Werner Heimgartner, President

werner.heimgartner@swiss-hk.com

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.

Dragon Boat Team

Werner Heimgartner

dragonboat@swiss-hk.com

SAHK'S dragon boat team participates in the legendary Stanley Dragon Boat races in June yearly. 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 monthly at the Pacific Club Kowloon for four friendly rounds and dinner. Refer to www.swiss-hk.com for dates

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO)



Auslandsschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organismo della Svizzera a l'estero

Alexandre Tunik

tpf@transpacificfareast.com

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



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Rita Hämmerli-Weschke, Swiss Consul General, announced during the New Year Cocktail on 4th February 2015 that she will be leaving Hong Kong in summer. She shares her experiences in Hong Kong with us in the below interview.

1. You arrived in Hong Kong at the end of August 2010. It is now more than 4 years since you lived here. How has your perception of Hong Kong changed over time?

I count Hong Kong as my home; it will be very difficult to leave in summer. Together with my two postings in Japan, Hong Kong is definitely my favorite assignment. It is a pleasure working here and to show to Hong Kong that Switzerland has even more to offer than beautiful watches, fine cheeses and the best chocolate.

2. Your personal participation in the SAHK events, Joint Luncheon Sessions and the Swiss School Committee is heartwarming to many. What do you hope to achieve with your continuous support to the local Swiss Community?

I always thought it is important and interesting to know what Swiss living in Hong Kong are doing. You all are our best ambassadors. I love to listen to all the interesting stories that the Swiss who have been living here for a long time have to tell. It may not have a direct impact on my daily work but it is a great contribution to get an overall picture of what makes Hong Kong so special.

3. How much Cantonese or Mandarin have you learnt since living here?

The first three years I took Mandarin classes, but with a very busy agenda I did not have enough time to really learn the language. Since nearly everybody speaks English in Hong Kong, we are rather spoiled and there was simply not enough pressure to really learn the language.

4. When you first arrived, you named your three favourite places in Hong Kong as The Peak, Stanley and Nan Lian Garden. Are they still your favourite places and why? If not, where are your current favourite places and why?

They are still my favorite places. It is easy to go there to relax. Of course there are many other wonderful spots to go to, but these three I recommend to every visitor.

5. Has your diet been localised? (i.e. Using more of the rice cooker and wok in cooking)

As I have to eat outside most of my lunches and dinners, I am more used to eat local dishes in restaurants. My favorite Hong Kong dish is Dim Sum.

6. Have you taken up some new hobbies or sports since you lived here?

I would have loved to; there are so many possibilities here. But that is the only set back with my stay in Hong Kong: practically no free time – therefore no chance to take up new hobbies. You could say: My job is my hobby.





7. Is it official about when will you leave and where will you be posted next?

I will be posted back to Switzerland this summer. I will be in charge of nearly everything touching our Swiss citizens abroad. Therefore I hope to keep up our good relations! I trust you read the new law for Swiss citizens abroad, so you know roughly what I will be doing.

For those who had no chance to read it yet, Swiss Parliament has approved a new law on the Swiss Abroad which has come into effect on 1st January 2015. It consolidates the interests of the growing Swiss diaspora and combines a number of different legislations. It maintains the requirement that expats register with the government and appeals on the own responsibility for each Swiss abroad, regardless whether he/she is a tourist or an expat. An important concept of the new law on the Swiss Abroad is that it coordinates and enhances the communication between the government and the public.

8. What will you miss most from Hong Kong when you leave?

We are lucky enough to live directly at the sea. I will miss many things about Hong Kong, but certainly I will miss the unlimited view of the ocean – a thing we cannot have in Switzerland. Or enjoying an ice cream at Stanley Plaza in January while the warming sun rays push the thermometer over 20 °C.

Last but not least: I will miss the people of Hong Kong. They seem to have endless energy for business and friendship.

Interview article by Michelle Char

9. For many Hongkongers, the branding of “Made in Switzerland” or “Swiss Quality” means top quality and high standard. What are some of “hidden gems” (products or services) from Hong Kong that could possibly make the branding of “Made in Hong Kong” more popular in Switzerland?

You should definitely do something about making Dim Sum better known in Switzerland!

Not so hidden gem is certainly the Octopus card. If you have tried in Switzerland to figure out how much the tram ride from the station to your destination will cost, you know what I mean. I therefore would urge to introduce an Octopus card in Switzerland.

10. After living in so many countries in Europe, Middle East and Asia, will you one day consider writing an autobiography to share your experiences of the various culture and interesting people you met?

There are many stories that I could write. As you can imagine I have seen a lot and talked to many people. But I am first a diplomat serving Switzerland and a very discreet person. Maybe it is unfortunate, but the best stories will stay with me.

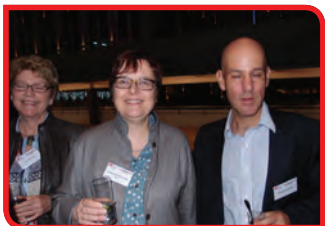
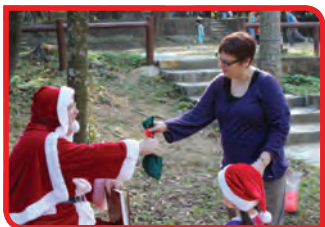
11. What will be the title of your autobiography if you decide to start this project?

Untellable Stories.



Spotlight

Thanks Rita for her support to the SAHK over the years!
We wish her every success in her career!



2010 -2011

2012 -2013

2014 -2015

Mr Felix Bieger & the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK)

2015 marks the 60th year since Mr Felix Bieger joined the SAHK. We were privileged to have Mr and Mrs Bieger as Guests of Honour in our 2015 New Year Cocktail for their 60th anniversary of membership with the SAHK. (More on Page48, New Year Cocktail 2015)

We took this opportunity to request Mr Bieger for an interview meeting. Below is an account of Mr Bieger's recollection of the SAHK in earlier years.

Mr Bieger arrived at Hong Kong in 1954. His employer arranged for him to fly over with British Airways in First Class, the airfare of which was almost equivalent to his two years' salaries. It took 54 hours to land in Hong Kong after 10 stopovers. Nonetheless it was an exciting start as most people could only afford to travel by sea during that period. (Note: Swiss Air only started flying to Hong Kong in 1958)

In 1955 Mr Bieger joined the SAHK as member. By then there were social activities such as bowling, hiking, football, card games (organised at different member's homes) and rifle shooting (organised by Mr Heinz Ueli Ammann, past president of the SAHK).

Initially the social activities were spread by word-of-mouth. To cope with the increased membership, a newsletter was mailed to all members 3 – 4 times a year with upcoming social activities details. That was the start of the s'Alphorn newsletter which later evolved to the s'Alphorn magazine. The first edition was published in June 1964.

The biggest annual event in the Swiss Community was, and still is, the Swiss National Day Celebration on August 1st which started in Hong Kong in 1953. Each year the Swiss National Day Celebration would be held in a different hotel with formal dress code requirement for the participants. The cocktail for the event was sponsored by the Swiss Consulate General.

Unlike today where most expatriates are offered between 3 - 5 years of work contract, it was generally 10 years or more in the 1950s. Hence most in the SAHK were committed in bonding with each other. Letter writing was the main form of communication with family and friends at home. Mailing between Hong Kong and Switzerland was approximately three days. It was expensive to own a telephone so for urgent matters, one would have to go to the Telephone Company for an operator assisted long distance call or to send a telegram. So staying close to each other helped in sharing news from home.

In 1990 Mr Bieger served the SAHK as President. One of the highlights during his term was the Swiss Day Event on 22nd June 1991 in celebration of the 700th year anniversary of the Swiss Federal Charter of 1291.

Interview article by Michelle Char

Mr Fritz Sommerau, Vice President in 1990 and President in 1991, managed the event held at the Shatin Racecourse. The Swiss Day Committee was set up with Mr Heinz Ruest as Chairman which opened the doors to Government House for the invitation of the Chief Secretary and the hot-air balloon license etc. The planning and organisation of the event took over a year.

On the day of the event, there was an amazing display of 800 different Swiss flags from the origins of birth place of the Swiss residents in Hong Kong. Musical bands from Switzerland were flown here to perform.

The event was fully supported by all the Swiss firms in Hong Kong who arranged their staff and families to participate in this special Swiss cultural experience. It was a success with over 5,000 people attending.



Hot Air Balloons

One of the many attractions of the 700th Year Swiss Day Event

Over the years Mr Bieger has established himself as a renowned hotelier and a role model in the industry. He was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Hotels Association three times, presided over the SKAL Club, the Hong



Kong PATA chapter, the Hong Kong ASTA chapter and was also a committee member of the Joint Council of the Travel Industry.

Mr Bieger continues with the Peninsula Hotels after his retirement and goes to the office everyday. One of the signature restaurants in the Peninsula Hotel is named after him in tribute to his dedicated contribution.

Many thanks to Mr Bieger for the interview meeting. We wish Mr and Mrs Bieger the best of health and happiness in many more years to come.



Dominic Nahr, an outstanding Swiss photojournalist has just won the latest award of “Photographer of the Year 2014” from the Swiss Photo Academy. Dominic lived and grew up in Hong Kong. His late father, Walther Nahr, was President and long time member of the SAHK and his mother Anita Nahr works in the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong. Dominic is now a contract photographer for TIME Magazine based in Iraq. His other clients include The New Yorker, National Geographic, Stern, Wired, amongst others and is represented by O’Born Contemporary in Toronto, Canada. To learn more about Dominic, visit his website www.dominicnahr.com, Twitter www.twitter.com/dominicnahr and Instagram www.instagram.com/dominicnahr

1. When and how did you develop an interest for photography?

Thanks to my mother, really. I have a terrible memory so I constantly forgot our family holidays. On my 16th birthday my mother gave me my first camera which had been a wedding gift from my father. She felt it was time to pass the camera on so I could remember my holidays and record my history.

I don’t think I would have been as successful if I didn’t have the constant and unwavering support of my parents. While in high school I used to walk past the Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC) in Hong Kong, running my hands along the building walls trying to sneak a peek inside. I was too young to be allowed in but when I got older and was able to enter, my love and appreciation for photojournalism really began. Inside, I found World Press Photo and Pulitzer Prize winning photographers, TIME Magazine picture editors, and walls covered with photographs by Eddie Adams, Nick Ut, Kyoichi Sawada, Hugh Van Es, Larry Burrows and many others. At the FCC I had found my mentors—both living and dead.

After high school, I think I held a desk job for about 3 days before I had to quit. I guess I wasn’t made for that kind of life, all my senses were screaming to run. Luckily, one of my mentors called the South China Morning Post and helped me get an internship in 2004.

They tried to put me behind a desk for a few hours before they realised that wasn’t going to work so they let me follow a photographer around. I was so blindly confident I took photographs right alongside him with the same camera my mom gave me 10 years ago.

Within a couple of days I was handed a SCMP camera, my first digital camera, and that was the beginning of my career as a paid photographer. Within a few weeks I had won an award for the paper and eventually went on to become a staff photographer.

2. You lived and grew up in Hong Kong, which is in a relatively peaceful region. And now you are a documentary photojournalist that brings you to regions that are either war torn or with civil unrest or hit by catastrophe. How did you prepare yourself for such a drastic change ?

I don’t think its really something you can prepare yourself for. I was curious to see the world, I wanted to see world events with my own eyes, not filtered by news on television or in magazines. I wanted to know how it felt to be in foreign places and countries no ‘normal’ person would ever consider going.

In a way, I think Hong Kong was the reason why I left. The fact that it was safe and so focused on money was what made me wonder how other people lived. I went to some photography workshops in the States and Canada while studying in Toronto, hoping they would have an answer. But I realised quickly that the only way to cross that line into the unknown was to take that first step.

After a year, I quit the newspaper and flew to East Timor to cover the civil unrest in the summer of 2006. Almost 9 years later I am lucky enough to still be doing the same thing: exploring, learning and meeting new people.

3. What other kind of skills do you need in your work besides photography expertise ?

One of the most important skills I rely on is to be able to read people: their body language, their eye movements, the way they talk to others. These little details really help you identify who to approach, which road to take, and also when it's time to leave.

I think I learned that skill in Hong Kong actually. I wish I had more time to learn Chinese but that was out of the question because I was already struggling with learning English, German, and French in school. I think that forced me to read Hong Kong and individuals differently. When people are talking to each other and I know some of the context I can usually figure out what is going on—it doesn't matter where I am or what language they are speaking. Sometimes I'll surprise my translators by responding in English.

4. What was the best experience you have had in your career?

There have been so many different experiences, and 'best' is hard word to use. I think one of the most memorable experiences was working in the Nuba mountains and other areas of South Kordofan in Sudan.

I was on assignment for TIME working with my close friend who was a TIME writer. We had two friends join us and we were hosted by Ryan Boyette, an American who had married a Sudanese woman and lived deep in the mountains. We lived in a Toyota Land Cruiser and spent our days riding around in the back of a pick-up truck filled with our bags and soldiers, struggling through the mid-day heat. At night, we'd sleep under the stars. Bombs would drop nearby from jets and Antanov's flying overhead and we documented people living in extreme hardship. People were hiding in caves trying to protect themselves with no food to speak of. We were robbed by militias

from Dafur, photographed an invading army, looting and ransacking, and dead soldiers floating in oil - the very thing they were fighting for.

I fell in love with the Nuban people who were fighting to protect their land and their way of life. In the Nuba mountains there were no shops, no advertisements, no phone connections or electricity. When I left, re-entering took some adjusting.

The photographs I had taken won a prize in World Press Photo, Swiss Press Photo, Pictures of the Year, but the situation there has not changed. Only a few weeks ago an MSF hospital was bombed by the Sudanese Armed Forces. It is a constant reminder that my job is not done. I have to continue to document the forgotten stories and the people involved in them

5. Which picture has given you the most satisfaction and why?

I don't really work in single images but in a series of photographs. The series that really started my career and to this day continues to circulate in magazines and exhibitions was my first project in Africa covering the war between the Tutsi-supported rebel group and the mostly Hutu government forces in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

I felt for the first time that I was a witness documenting human rights abuses and the changing dynamics of a country in flux. I was making pictures that would capture history and prove that these actions and killings were happening.

Would history remember the village of Kiwanja in North Kivu, DRC whose inhabitants, old and young, were massacred if no pictures existed? When I get lost in my thoughts and my work, I think back to those moments and I remember why in the end we do this. It is to record history so we don't forget.

6. Which assignment was the most difficult and why?

I think one of the most intense assignments was covering the Egyptian Revolution for TIME in Cairo.

Right from the beginning it was very intense. There were tens of thousands of people around me and the dangers could come from any angle. The crowds could easily turn on you, the military could shoot you, the police took your cards and threatened you at gunpoint, or you could just disappear walking towards the wrong checkpoint. I always walked everywhere because the streets were closed for the most part. I worked with a number of other photographers and we tried to keep each other safe by constantly updating one another on which roads and checkpoints were safe and which weren't.

We really had to go back to the basics. The Egyptian government had cut all mobile phone lines and internet so we had no way of communicating so we had to set up meeting points and constantly keep an eye out for an exit point. We set up a safe house as the hotels were constantly being raided.

Slowly between midnight and 4am, we would all trickle back in, happy to have made it through another day. Our hosts, who are good friends of mine, always made sure we had a good breakfast as it was likely the only meal we would have the entire day. In our bags we had water, although never enough, and vinegar plus towels for when the teargas would start. I even had a makeshift helmet for when the rocks would start to be thrown. The difficulty was trying to send the photographs to TIME, because there was no internet. We found someone who still had internet because his line was connected to the stock-market and was kept on, he was kind enough to let us upload our work. That however ended some days later and we had to rely on friends who managed to sneak in Satellite devices.

7. As many say, "A picture is worth a thousand words", how many shoots do you normally take before you find the one that tells a story without any narratives?

Sometimes you can get a picture in the first few frames, sometimes you need to work at it and take several hundred as you move deeper and deeper into the story. I always take photographs right from the start, because you never know if that's all you're going to get. I try and connect with my subjects to the point where they start to trust me and welcome me into their lives and the lives of their families and friends

Depending what is happening during any particular day— if its covering street fighting after the Haitian earthquake, meeting families who have suffered from Malaria in Uganda, or a single portrait of a Yazidi woman who was released by ISIS— the amount of pictures can vary between a few dozen to over a thousand. On longer projects and stories I probably accumulate over 10 - 20 000 images out of which between 10 - 70 get used.

8. How often do you come back to Hong Kong and what do you missed most from here?

I try and come back twice a year if possible. I work a lot in Fukushima, so usually have a stopover in Hong Kong before heading out again. The most important part of coming to Hong Kong is to go home and see my mom. She lives in Ap Lei Chau and we have gone on many walks along the water overlooking Lamma. I also miss the ocean, the boats and ferries, going on hikes on islands, and meeting friends in the Foreign Correspondents Club.



Interview article by Michelle Char

Through the Lens of Dominic Nahr



Democratic Republic of the Congo
North Kivu, Rugari, 2008

Congolese military Soviet-made T55 tank after firing over forces loyal to renegade Laurent Nkunda in the mountains of Rugari, about 40 km(25 miles) north of the provincial capital of Goma, DR Congo.



Democratic Republic of the Congo
North Kivu, Kibumba, 2008

Over 25, 000 people carry their belongings as they flee one of the main refugee camps due to fighting on Monday, Oct. 27, 2008 near Kibumba in eastern Congo. Government soldiers were forced to retreat as they were being pushed closer to Goma by rebels of renegade Gen. Laurent Nkunda.



Somalia, Mogadishu, 2011

A girl stands next to temporary shelters set up by internally displaced people in Madina camp, after having fled to the capital in search of food and safety.



Sudan, Unity, 2012

An oil worker stands near where a bomb from SAF forces had hit, while SPLA and Oil workers watch from above.



Japan, Tokyo, 2011

Sachiko Masuyama (30) now in her new home in Shinonome housing for government workers. She discovered she was pregnant, two days before the quake and now hold her new born.



Japan, Okuma, 2014

Inside the Central Control Room for Reactor 1 and 2 which both had a meltdown and exploded after the earthquake and tsunami hit the east coast of Japan in 2011.

Historical Walk through the Western District

Erich Spirgi

A rather long but an interesting experience for our 16 participants on May 3rd in the Western District.

With knowledgeable and detailed explanations from our historian guide Jason Wordie, we could jump into the past times of Hong Kong. Sharpening our views and minds we could get a taste on how the Chinese traditionally traded in these markets and how the British built their famous brick and mortar buildings to protect their businesses. The British also attracted the locals into the churches by incorporating a mix of traditional Chinese design elements in their building's architecture.

While explaining on the roots and importance of the Tai Ping Shan Temple, a lot of questions on the participants' minds were answered as well.

After passing Hollywood Road we were told about the outbreak of the Tai Ping Shan plague in 1894. A few blocks away from Hollywood Road is the beautiful Museum of Medical Science and finally our walk ended at the Hong Kong University.

Some of us then went for a dinner after a very educational afternoon that gave us a glimpse of Hong Kong's historical past.



Meet and Greet at Shek-O Beach

Verena Mooser

A lovely blue sky and beautiful white beach for our Meet and Greet at Shek O Beach on 27th September.

Over forty people, including the Swiss Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and Consul Sandra Chawla-Gantenbein, got together to share a relaxing day and enjoy the warm water of the bay, the gentle breeze and the brightly shining sun.

Besides the sausages, meat and chicken for the grill, there was a delicious selection of food, generously brought by all the participants to share with each other. The children and toddlers enjoyed playing in the sand while the adults tasted the wine sponsored by the SAHK. All in all, a great memory for all present!

For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/blog

High-Speed Rail Station

Damian Bethke

The World's Largest Underground High-Speed Rail Station is one of the millennium projects in South East Asia and it was for this reason that the SAHK was keen to offer a presentation about this mega project to its members.

With Mr. Lukas Fivian, the Technical Director for Josef Gartner & Co., a company involved in the construction of the facades, the SAHK found a hands-on expert who led through the presentation with rare knowledge and expertise.

The participants seemingly enjoyed the presentation and used the rare occasion in the subsequent question & answer session to get more insights. Damian Bethke, member of the committee of the SAHK, thanked Lukas for his time - 'We were proud to have Lukas with us today and on behalf of the SAHK I thank him for this presentation.'



SUP Beach Day in Stanley

Evi Pfister

On a cloudy Sunday in June a small group gathered in Stanley to try out SUP(Stand Up Paddling). After sorting out the right size board for everyone and with some basic instructions, we headed out.

Luckily the sea was calm and therefore the waves did not cause much challenges. The beginners started with paddling on their knees first and then as they found their balances on the boards worked their way up to standing. We also had a few experienced paddlers and they gladly helped out with tips and made sure none of the kids got lost or paddled too far away from the crowd.

It was a fun morning and a great end to the activity with a nice lunch at one of the restaurants in Stanley.



Night at the Horse Races

Damian Bethke

Going with the theme of the Year of the Horse, the SAHK together with the SCC Guangzhou and the SCC Hong Kong invited for another edition of the Night at the Races at the legendary Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The Horse Race is since long an established event for the Swiss people in Hong Kong making it the second biggest event of the year after the Swiss National Day celebration.

‘Some people lost and some people won money but mostly it was just a fun night with friends’ found Kesang Spirgi who helped organised the event.

Marco Polo Fine Wines sponsored carefully selected Italian wines made from indigenous grapes (vermentino for white and cannonau for red) which paired very well with the food provided by the Jockey Club.

Tobias Heller, President of SAHK, thanked the guests for coming and concluded: ‘It was another great event and very likely we will do it again next year!’



Family Hike along the Aberdeen Reservoirs

START

- Public Garden across Police Museum on Coombe Road
- Aberdeen Upper Reservoir
- Aberdeen Nature Trail
- Lower Reservoir dam
- Aberdeen passing next to the Tin Hau Temple

END

For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/blog

SAHK Events

Bowling Night

Thomas Rechtsteiner

After warming up some old bones and a quick stretching, the four bowling lines at the Royal Yacht Club were taken over by a group of enthusiastic fun bowlers.

Snacks, hot dishes and the open bar helped to regain energy for many friendly competitions. Participants enjoyed the relaxing ambience in the private function room of the club and all agreed to join the next bowling night.



Monthly Coffee Morning



Ladies Night



For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/events

Swiss National Day Celebrations



Michelle Char

One could feel the Swiss vibe upon arrival at the event venue in the Hong Kong Jockey Club as it was beautifully decorated with the Swiss flags and colourful Swiss cantons flags. On each dining table, there was a floral showpiece made with velvet red roses contrasted with pure white roses in the Swiss flag design. And what a delightful surprise for participants to find Swiss National Day packaging chocolates and either a “Seilbahngondel” or “Alphütte” chocolate gift set as the table prize.

The event started off with welcoming remarks by Tobias Heller, President of Swiss Association of Hong Kong, followed by a speech from Rita Hämmerli-Weschke, our Consul General. An audio address for this special occasion by the President of the Swiss Confederation Didier Burkhalter was delivered subsequently. After that everyone joined in and sang the Swiss National Anthem with gusto.

An irresistible spread of Swiss food and desserts were available on the buffet tables. The sight of Rösti, Raclette, Quiches, Sausages, Zürcher geschätztes, Rüeblitorte, Kirschtorte, etc. one could easily rekindle the love for Swiss delicacies.

There was a good mix of entertainment with Quizzes, Alphorn Challenge, Best Swiss Outfit Contest and the Raffle Tickets sales. Everything went smoothly as our charming MCs were great in encouraging the enthusiastic participants to go on stage for some actions and got everyone connected.

Even though far away from home, it was a warm and relaxing evening that engaged fellow Swiss and friends of Switzerland in celebration of The Swiss National Day. Remember to mark this date in your 2015 calendar and register early.

Our most heartfelt thanks to the following who have helped to make this a memorable event:

- Swiss Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and the staff from the Consulate General of Switzerland for supporting the event
- The Sponsors with their generous contributions
- Volunteers from the participants who helped at the event
- Everyone who bought the Raffle Tickets for donation to a Hong Kong based charitable organisation.
- Last but not least, the event team from Swiss Association of Hong Kong, Swiss Chamber of Hong Kong, Consulate General of Switzerland and Swiss International Air Lines who did a great job in organising and managing the logistics of the event.

For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/blog

Swiss National Day Celebrations



For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/events

Swiss National Day Celebrations



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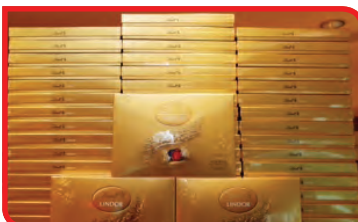
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Santa Claus is coming to town

Michelle Char

The country park was perfect for our outdoor event where children could have fun at the craft corner, run around, play some ball games or ride on their kick scooters.

The adults were busy with starting the fire in the BBQ pit and getting the picnic tables ready.

The magical moment happened when the chiming sound of the Christmas bell echoed in the fresh crisp air. Santa and Schmutzli had arrived with two big bags of goodies on their backs.

Once Santa and Schmutzli were ready on their chairs, all the children sat around them. Santa had a special message with praises and encouragement for each child. Schmutzli handed out the presents after Santa spoke. When the last present was given, Santa and Schmutzli left mysteriously just as when they arrived. Bye Santa! See you next year!



For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/blog

Chlaus Jass Evening

Pius Jean-Richard

For 2014 our Jass tournament was held at the Pacific Club every month and well attended with most of them fully booked out. New records were set and the revamped ranking system has proven to be a success.

This year the winner is Tobias Muster, winning the coveted cow bell with a solid performance throughout the year.

The temporary change of venue within the Pacific Club did not affect the enthusiasm of our players and all those who attended this year had a good time. The friendly service and the good food provided by the Pacific Club have contributed to making the Jass Event a highlight in the monthly routine of our players.

To crown a successful year the Chlaus Jass was held on December 15 and a record attendance of 29 players was reached. Some awesome prizes were presented to the winners of each round as well as a grand prize for the overall winner.

We are looking forward to building on this success in 2015 and all the dates have already been set. We warmly welcome you at next year's Jass Evenings.



NEW YEAR COCKTAIL 2015

Angelina Bussinger Lee

It was welcoming to be warmly greeted at the New Year Cocktail reception for the Swiss community held on 4th February, 2015 at The Backyard of the Langham Place Hotel, Mongkok.

There was a Swiss themed festive ambience with a Swiss touch of Raclette, small bites and Swiss wines served. Of course Swiss chocolate was abundant, thanks to the sponsors Kaegi and Lindt.

Peter Spirig, President of the SCC HK, took the floor and wished all a happy Year of the Goat/ Sheep. Followed by Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke who reminded eligible voters to use their right to vote from abroad and to actively participate in the political process, also in view of the upcoming parliamentary election in October 2015. She also announced personnel changes at the Swiss Consulate General for this summer including the transfer of Sacha Bachmann and herself.

Tobias Heller, President of the SAHK, had the honour of congratulating Mr Felix Bieger for having reached a grand 60 years as member of the SAHK.

Mr Bieger fondly remembered his SAHK highlight to be the well attended 700 year commemoration of the Federal Charter of Switzerland held at Shatin Racecourse in 1991. He thanked his then vice president and co-organiser Mr Fritz Sommerau for jointly creating a memorable and festive occasion. They even managed to have a bonfire!

On that note, wishing health and happiness to you and your families. Happy New Year!



For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/blog

SAHK Events



For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at www.swiss-hk.com/events

RACLETTE IN THE PARK

Stephanie Rowold

All the picnic tables were nicely prepared, wine and soft drinks were available, the big block of cheese melting to become hot and delicious layers, the cheese fondue in the pot, and the huge ham stored in an even larger piece of hollowed out bread – the feast could begin.

It was an absolutely fabulous time made even better by the lovely company of new and old friends, even the sun came and joined us for a bit.

It is nice to know that you can live in a great city like Hong Kong and still experience a true Swiss tradition in a lovely park with people who share your experiences from back home, all while enjoying one of the best Swiss meals ever.

A big 'Thank You' to the organizers and volunteers of the SAHK Events Team. They really brought Switzerland to the park.



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Studer Trust | Opening Ceremony of the Teacher Training Center

Tim-Zi Bethke

The Teacher Training Center in Myanmar is the first project of its kind by Studer Trust. While in the past, the focus of the Trust was more on creating hardware, school buildings and dormitory facilities, this training center's attention is on equipping teachers and school leaders with the knowledge, skills, and tools to provide a transformative quality of education for children studying in Studer Trust's affiliated schools.

The project consists of two parts:

- First, the actual school building which provides room for classes, a computer lab, a library, offices, sleeping quarters and sanitary facilities for 26 students and four teachers.
- Second, the training program consisting of salaries for staff, curriculum and teaching materials, library, scholarships and running costs.

In July 2014, after a construction period of 6 months, the two storey building started its operations with 26 trainees who successfully participated in a 10 weeks training course. The official opening celebration was held together with the graduation ceremony of the trainees on the 27th of September. The Studer Trust team, donors and representatives of the SAHK were present and witnessed a truly grand celebration.

With the planned three courses per year and numerous workshops the Teacher Training Center aims to reach out to the nearly 70 Studer Trust affiliated schools, around 500 teachers and over 16'000 students. Without a doubt, this program already has a strong impact on the lives of the students, teachers and communities in Myanmar and is anticipated to grow even more.

This would not have been possible without the generous support of the SAHK and its members. All the fundraising proceeds of the two Jass Evenings, Christmas Luncheon 2013 and the Swiss National Day Celebration 2013 were invested in the building of the Teacher Training Center. Thank you!

For more information please visit www.studertrust.org





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Joint Monthly Luncheons

Swiss Association & Swiss Chamber of Commerce Joint Monthly Luncheon Events at The Hong Kong Club April 2014 - March 2015

7th April 2014

Macao – People and Places, Past and Present



**Guest Speaker: Mr Jason WORDIE
Writer and Historian**

Mr Wordie's new book, a compelling, multi-layered social history of Macao, was written in reference to the people who made Macao what it is today. He explored thoroughly the small territory to unveil the physical and geographical places unknown to many.

9th June 2014

**Do's and Don't of Doing Business in Hong Kong
and Mainland China**

A Corruption Prevention Perspective



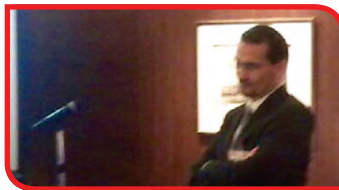
**Guest Speaker: Mr Lawrence CHUNG
Deputy Executive Director**

Hong Kong Ethics Development Centre, ICAC
Mr Chung spoke about the Hong Kong anti-corruption law and brought awareness to the participants on the Mainland China relevant legislations through case studies approach. Corruption risks in cross-boundary operations and the corresponding corruption preventive measures, skills in implementing ethical management and some practical do's and don'ts were discussed.

5th May 2014

Asia's ageing population

**Challenges and opportunities for healthcare
provision**



**Guest Speaker: Mr Roland BRUHIN
CEO Healthcare Distribution Commercialization
Zuellig Pharma Asia Pacific Ltd**

The 'Greying' of societies is challenging global healthcare systems especially in China. The opportunities for pharmaceutical companies which come with serious pressure on the sale prices were discussed. Unavoidable healthcare reforms and increasing density of regulations foreseeable.

1st September 2014

**Hong Kong's Changing Social and Political
Landscape**



**Guest Speaker: Mrs Anson CHAN
GMB, GCMG, CBE, JP Former Chief Secretary for
Administration HKSAR, Convenor of Hong Kong
2020**

Mrs Chan discussed HK's essential attributes and reflected on HK's prospects against a changing social and political landscape. In recent years, Mrs Chan has taken a prominent role in the campaign for full universal suffrage for election of HK's Chief Executive and all members of the Legislature.

Joint Monthly Luncheons

6th October 2014

Hong Kong City of Extremes

Dense Urban, Expansive Nature. Where next?



Guest Speaker: Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN

District Councillor representing the Pokfulam Constituency, CEO of Designing Hong Kong

Discussions over land supply strategy, the opening of our borders with the Mainland, and our new obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity which require the HK community and politicians to formulate a new vision for HK's future land uses. Some of the challenges ahead were highlighted.

3rd November 2014

Seven Years under Surveillance



Guest Speaker :Mr Tomas ETZLER

A Foreign Correspondent in China

CNN-Producer & Emmy-Award-Winner

Mr Etzler personally witnessed and reported on some of the biggest Chinese achievements since 2006, from the Olympics to a space exploration. Also documented serious warning signs such as unbalanced economy or Chinese assertiveness in territorial disputes with several of its neighbours. He shared his empiric experiences and observations.

25th November 2014

The Swiss Financial Centre: Challenges and

opportunities in a new world of international tax cooperation



Guest Speaker : Mr Patrick ODIER

Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association

Mr Odier discussed the Swiss financial centre and its challenges and opportunities in a tax compliant world. Special emphasis on the asset-management and Renminbi initiatives of the Swiss Bankers Association mentioned.

1st December 2014

Christmas Charity Lunch

Sailability Hong Kong (SAHK choice of Charitable Organisation for 2014)



Guest Speakers :

Mr Mike RAWBONE

Founder and Chair of Sailability HK

Mrs Kay RAWBONE

Founder and Committee Member Sailability HK

Mr FOO Yuen Wai

Sailability Sailor and Winner of a Bronze Medal at the Asian Para Games 2014

Mr Albert LAM

Sailability Sailor in the Asian Para Games 2014

Organisation offers the opportunity to those with any type of disability to experience sailing.

Joint Monthly Luncheons

5th January 2015

Global Outlook 2015: A Diverging World



Guest Speaker : Mr Dominic SCHNIDER
Head of Commodities & APAC Forex at UBS Chief Investment Office, Wealth Management

Mr Schnider shared his opinions of the 2015 financial markets in view of the uneven GDP growth, different economic policies and rekindled geopolitical tensions. The contrasting levels of competitiveness within the Eurozone, gaps between reform agendas in emerging markets which ultimately is expected to translate into diverging performance of financial assets in 2015.

2nd February 2015

Feng Shui Predictions for 2015 / Year of the Goat



Guest Speaker : Mr Raymond LO
Feng Shui Master

Mr Lo made interesting "predictions" in the Year of the Goat based on Feng Shui elements.

2nd March 2015

Life in North Korea : Firsthand insights on North Koreans and expatriates working there



Guest Speaker : Ms Katharina ZELLWEGER
Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University
Focused on life in North Korea for ordinary North Koreans and for expatriates working there, including a number of facts and figures about the country.

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Sino Restaurant

Sports



DRAGON BOAT RACE

June 2nd 2014

Stanley

Swiss Dragons – Keep it up !



SEDAN CHAIR RACE

October 26th 2014

The Matilda International Hospital

Won “Spirit of the Event” award in
“Travel Around the World” Fun Challenge



44th MELCHTERLI CUP 2014

Tobias Murer

The traditional golf-tournament for Swiss and Swiss related golf players was this year advanced by a month to early October, which turned out to be a lucky move since Hong Kong showed its sunniest side to the 24 players. And as always in the past 43 years since the trophy in the form of a “Melchterli” (a wooded bucket used in the past by Swiss farmers to transport milk, see picture) was for the first time presented to the winner, the Shek-O Golf and Country Club proved to be the perfect venue and host for not only the players, but also the many spouses and friends who joined later in the afternoon for the cocktail and dinner reception.

While many familiar names and former winners were noticed on the registration list, some of them flying in from neighbouring countries the very same morning in a (unsuccessful) attempt to defend their past titles, the organization committee was especially pleased to welcome not only new challengers but also a few ladies who played their first golf tournament ever which perfectly mirrors the spirit of the Melchterli Cup – namely to spend an afternoon and evening at a superb venue amongst friends and Swiss related golf fans.

Judging from the stories at the dinner, many players must have exhibited strong golf skills and were just beaten by unlucky putts, overexcitement after pin-high approaches or the traditional glass(es) of Swiss liquor Appenzeller at the halfway house. Gregor Konrad (handicap 13) turned out to be the strongest on that day and his name will be engraved to the many names on the trophy. Special thanks to Peter Klaus whose patronage allows that the cup is continuously being played in Shek-O.

The organization committee is already looking forward to the 45th Melchterli Cup 2015 later this autumn.



HONG KONG HOME COMING

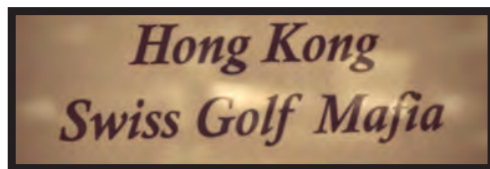
Fritz Sommerau (Article)

Rolf Hess (Photos)

Try to Google “**Swiss Golf Mafia**” and what do you get? (i) Russian Mafia whistle blower...has been helping Swiss investigate Russian money-laundering. (ii) News roundup: banks’ money, mafia guns, Alpine golf, revenge... Everything else except for what our organisation is.

Our organisation, **Swiss Golf Mafia**, which comprises friendly and like-minded Swiss golfing executives, has its roots in Hong Kong. In the early eighties the first Swiss golfers André Gerber, Toni Weder, Urs Aeby and Walter Boller started the Swiss Golfing Tours.

Then in 1986 on the hallowed grounds of the then brand new Discovery Bay Golf Course, the early members of this illustrious assembly included Alex Hirt, Hardy Diethelm, Peter Gautschi, Andre Gerber, Urs Aeby, just to name a few. And besides a bit a wager and layers dice at the 19th hole, the piece of resistance, the master trophy was a ten kilo brass duck sponsored by Hardy Diethelm, thereafter referred to as Coup Hardy.



With time some of our founding members escaped into retirement in Switzerland or other places abroad. The weekly events became an annual one week event. For many years, these annually events were played on selected golf courses in Switzerland.

The modus operandi being golf for the boys only in a selected region, with lodging for all in the same hotel, with coach on stand-by so that no one ever should be tempted to use his car in an imbibed condition. Golf was played from Monday to Friday, with Wednesday an optional day so that the more senior golfers had time to recuperate. Reason being it was not just golf on the menu, but also visits to vineyards, wine cellars, distilleries, some fine dinning and cigars sessions, nibbles and bites, and storytelling thereafter well into the night.

To recall an occasion, a decade ago when we stayed in a SPA hotel in Valais, where the bar would close at 11 PM. I volunteered to be the late night bar man and we would take stock the next morning and add the damage to the master bill!

In more recent years, the secret membership has been extended to include non-Swiss provided the players are of good standing, understand Swiss fellowship and humour and have had some Hong Kong connection. The choice of the annual golf location has been extended beyond the Swiss borders into the southern part of Germany, Burgundy and even to South Africa.

All told, now it is time for a Home Coming. The idea of a “Back to the Roots” annual golfing event in 2014 was incubated in summer 2012 by Guido Cherubini and the late Peter Gautschi.

Planning at this end commenced in full swing after Chinese New Year 2014 and with no objection to the draft program it was smooth sailing.

I had the pleasure of taking care of the entire week arrangements from airport transfer, accommodation, breakfast, afternoon teas, golf bookings, coach transfers, wine and dine and a night at the races. Organising this was not entirely a “one man band” effort, thank God, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Peter Klaus and Andre Gerber for their golfing and dinning coordination efforts at the Shek O and Fan Ling golf clubs respectively. Thanks to Roland Seeholzer for being the Honorary Treasurer and his charming spouse Stella for taking care of the ladies program. A big thank you to the various participating players and one in absentia that have generously sponsored cocktails, wine and dine and even hosted dinner.

Oh yeah, and lest I forget, for the first time in the

Swiss Golf Mafia's history and on a one off basis, this being Hong Kong, ladies had been permitted to join. Not for golf, of course and for dinners only on alternative evenings, so that jokes and storytelling still could be featured on the agenda.

As the saying goes, pictures speak a thousand words...I have been assured repeatedly that all had a great time on the golf course and beyond. Some of our fellow golfers arrived well ahead of the weekend and others stayed behind a couple of extra days to soak up and enjoy the excitement, the spark and hospitality of Hong Kong. I am confident that it will take not three, not two, not even one decade before we hear the cry for an encore!

The 2015 Golfing week will be held in Austria (Exchange rates!) from 7th till 11th in September.

Further informations from Alex Hirt at
alexhirt.ch@gmail.com

PHOTO JOURNAL OF “HOME COMING” ANNUAL GOLF EVENT

MONDAY – Kau Sai South Course



TUESDAY – Shek O Golf & Country Club



WEDNESDAY – Kau Sai Chau East Course



THURSDAY – Discovery Bay Golf Course / COUP HARDY



FRIDAY – Fan Ling Old Course



FRIDAY – Roundup Dinner at Fan Ling



MONTHLY GOLF AT NINE EAGLES GOLF CLUB



Every third Thursday monthly, the SAHK organizes a round of golf at the Nine Eagles Golf Club at the airport. It is quite a special experience to play this course with seven Par 3 holes and two Par 4 holes, not only because some of the holes are rather tricky, but also because we play at night.

While the course may not be suitable for absolute beginners, it is great fun for players of all other levels of experience. Some great shots have been hit and various birdies have been achieved since this event was launched two years ago, however, a hole-in-one is still the missing highlight so far.

We meet around 7pm and play for about two hours. The course is rarely crowded and, after the round, we usually have a quick bite and drink at the club house. It is a nice way to chat and bond over the game in a very relaxed atmosphere. So, if you would like to meet other like-minded golf enthusiasts, come out and join us for a round! **Contact Patrick Meyrat at golf@swiss-hk.com**

PROCEDURE, PRACTICE, PRECISION

Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong

Alexander Luedi



In 2014, our 50 members enjoyed the following four great shooting opportunities:

1. 2013 Operation Mercury (Postponed from 2013 - a training day for members that have not had Swiss army training on our rifles)
2. "Obligatorische" (regular program in Spring)
3. "Feldschiessen" (regular program in Spring)
4. 2014 Operation Mercury (November)



This we did together with our friends from the RHKR Sport Shooting Association, who regularly invite us to compete with them on their shooting range in Sheng Shui.

We are sponsored by the Swiss Army, and we are a section of the Swiss Shooting Federation SSV. Active Swiss service men with Hong Kong residency can shoot their annual compulsory shooting program with us, and we can certify it in their service record. We also participate in an annual global shooting competition among Swiss Living Abroad. For good results, nice medals are awarded.

We are obliged to follow strict rules imposed on us as a private club by the Hong Kong Police Force. Membership is primarily open for Swiss Army trained Hong Kong residents. In special cases we can accept other members if they can provide proof of other formal rifle training, produce recent shooting records, are sponsored by two active members, and attend our bi-annual training day. For more information please look us up on Facebook under SRAHK.



MORE TROPIES NEW ADVENTURES

SWISS XI

Juerg Niederberger



Over the last few years, Swiss XI has clearly established itself as one of the top amateur football teams in Hong Kong by always finishing in the top four of the first division of the Yau Yee League over the last three years. For the season 2013/14, we finished fourth after 11 wins, 5 draws and 6 losses. However, the season highlight was winning the post-season Yau Yee League 6-a-side tournament for the first time ever in the 36th year of Swiss XI existence. Another trophy for the Swiss XI museum.

Even more of a highlight was the fact that a "manager's selection" out of Swiss XI participated in the qualifying tournament for the first ever "Football Fives – World Championship". Yes, you read correctly, that is a World Championship where 32 teams from all over the world participate for the title of World Champion. And guess what, we won the Hong Kong qualifying tournament (in the final through penalty shoot-out). An all-expense paid trip to Dubai to the World Championship was the reward. Off we went to Dubai and all were very excited but also nervous. The group draw put us in a group with Spain, the host UAE and Nigeria. What were we, from Hong Kong, able to achieve against them? Our opening game against Spain was a disappointing event as we lost 2-4, against the host we were leading 2-0 but the game ended 2-2. And then the last game against Nigeria ended in a goalless 0-0 draw. Unfortunately, that meant that we did not advance to the next round. Despite this appointment, the entire Dubai adventure was a great experience for all involved Swiss XI players.

The season 2014/15 is currently in full swing and Swiss XI continues to build on its reputation as one of the best amateur team in town. We are currently in sixth position following 8 wins, 3 draws and 5 losses while there are six more games to go which should result in us moving further up the ranking.

As every season, there is a core team of players, but the rest of the team is a constant coming and going, in typical Hong Kong style. Therefore, if you know somebody or if you fancy some football action yourself, let me know and join our regular Wednesday night training. Looking forward meeting some new players. Hopp Schwiiz.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR 'SAILABILITY HONG KONG'?

Mike Rawbone

Fresh from the Asian Para Games in Incheon, South Korea (October 2014) where we gained a Bronze medal in the 2.4mR class, our horizons have lifted towards greater things!

FOO Yuen Wai

Bronze medal winner in the 2.4mR class



If we are honest, this was a better than expected performance but we are delighted to say that as a result, we have since been invited to participate in the IFDS Worlds in Melbourne, Australia during November 2015. Apart from the anticipated greater level of international competition, this race series is a qualifier for the Brazil Paralympics in 2016.

As part of our current training program we are also looking at entering 2 of our boats into the Open World Championships in Finland during August 2015. This will largely be dependent upon funding but at this stage, this remains an objective given that it will involve both able bodied and disabled sailors.

To gain more experience in race tactics, our sailors have been training with the Hong Kong Dragon team based at the RHKYC (Shelter Cove) and they will take part in the Dragon championships here in HK during January. Additionally, we have been fortunate to gain UK interest and we have Julian Pearson (one of the 2.4mR national team instructors) heading to HK in June and September to assist us improve our tactics.

All in all, a busy year when you consider we mix all this with 3 days a week race training at HHYC. We owe a great deal to many organisations for supporting us. This includes the Swiss Association of Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber to whom we offer our thanks again. We will do our very best to ensure you are all proud of us.



Sailability Hong Kong is SAHK choice of Charitable Organisation for 2014

SWISS SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2014

Tanja Lecher

Established in 1978, the Swiss School Committee (SSC) is a sub-committee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) with a reporting-line to the Swiss government and the SAHK. The SSC provides a platform to support the educational needs of the Swiss community.

We know how important school is for the intellectual, social and emotional well-being of your children, particularly as you have chosen a global lifestyle and move around the globe. If the kids are happy, well integrated, challenged but also sheltered in their daily school environment, the whole “living-abroad-adventure” becomes a great experience for the whole family.

One of the essential requirements to guarantee a smooth school life for our children is a mother-tongue curriculum. Making friends and getting to know your way around in a new country is much easier if you can communicate in your mother tongue. Not having any disruption in the school system your child was enrolled for the past years or will be enrolled again, once back in Switzerland, is very important.

In Hong Kong, two schools offer the solution to these needs: GSIS (German Swiss International School) and FIS (French International School). Education in Hong Kong’s international schooling system is in high demand and places are limited. The Swiss government supports the Swiss educational options at GSIS and FIS.

The SSC is overseeing the privilege of priority admittance at either GSIS (German stream) or FIS (French and French bilingual stream), for Swiss children. This priority status is a significant advantage, as waitlists at International Schools in Hong Kong reach an alarming extent.

In order to assure the Swiss’ priority status at these schools, the Swiss government together with SSC’s funds raised from Swiss companies and individuals



GSIS Graduates German Stream (from left to right): Doris Spirig, Vice-President SSC, Graduates Joshua Spirig, Patrick Herzog, Xavier Leung, Chante Brown and Denise Koller, Rita Hämmerli-Weschke, Consul General of the Swiss Consulate



GSIS English Stream Graduate Tim Forrer with his proud parents Kazuyo and Tom Forrer on the right and René Herrmann, President of the SSC on Tim’s left

in Hong Kong, sponsor teachers or other specific projects at both GSIS and FIS according to their needs.

We encourage active participation from the Swiss community to ensure the priority-status for Swiss children for many more years to come.

René Herrmann

President of the Swiss School Committee

Email: rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com



GSIS RACLETTE 2014

RACLETTE BOOTH – GSIS BAZAAR 2014

Doris Spirig

With a big “Thank You” to Inge and Stefan Herzog, the Swiss community who visited the GSIS bazaar on the 29th of November 2014 was able to enjoy once again a true Swiss raclette.

The big booth on the rooftop of the GSIS new middle building was decorated with lovely traditional Swiss Edelweiss tablecloths, raclette ovens and a big flag from canton Valais at the back. The volunteers dressed in either a traditional “Sennechueteli” or in Swiss T-shirts completed the picture of a little bit of Switzerland in the middle of Hong Kong.

Judging on the queues waiting patiently at the raclette ovens, the booth was a big success similar to previous years.



PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF LEARNERS

Petra Loho

Building on a history of over 45 years of excellence in teaching and student achievement, the German Swiss International School in Hong Kong recently finished the most extensive phase yet of its Campus Development Plan.

It involved the construction of numerous key facilities in the Middle Building at the Peak campus. Ready for the school year 2014-15, these new facilities include an indoor swimming pool, a senior library, a black-box drama studio, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a school shop and IT classrooms. In addition, the 400-seat auditorium has been refurbished and upgraded and classrooms have been modernised to enable the very best in teaching and learning.

The final phase of the Campus Development Plan is scheduled to begin in summer 2015. It will see the Upper Building transformed into a permanent home for the school's Primary students. Works will be completed for the school year 2016-17.

It will be within these modern classrooms, libraries, studios, laboratories and gymnasiums that teachers can develop the special skills and aptitudes of every student as they move through their education. In doing so, GSIS will ensure that students leave school as confident and well-rounded individuals with a love of learning that will stay with them for life.



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The Swiss School Committee wishes to thank its 2014 sponsors for their continuous support. Hopes are high that previous sponsors will renew their valuable donations in 2015. 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 Herrmann at rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com

***Thank You for all the GENEROUS ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS
and SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES***



PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF LEARNERS

THE GSIS CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN



For more information on the GSIS Campus Development Plan,
please contact the GSIS Development Office via email at
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DIE AKTUELLEN “VORSORGE ZAHLEN” DER SCHWEIZ:
DAS III-SÄULEN KONZEPT

Schlüsselzahlen per 01.01.2015)

I. Säule	A H V / I V Alters-, Hinterbliebenen- und Invaliden-Versicherung	
	Ab dem 1. Januar 2015, gelten die folgenden Leistungen gemäss der “Renten-Skala 44” (volle AHV/IV Rente):	
	Alters- oder Invaliden-Rente:	
	Minimal Einzel	CHF 1.175
	Maximal Einzel	CHF 2.350
	Minimal Ehepaar	CHF 1.762
	Maximal Ehepaar	CHF 3.525
	IV-Rentenstufen:	
	IV-Grad mind. 1/4-Rente; ½- Rente; Dreiviertelrente; respektive die Vollrente	
	Hinterbliebenen-Rente:	
	Minimal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 940
	Maximal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 1.880
	Die Mindest-Prämie pro Jahr beläuft sich auf CHF 480 (oder mit Ehegatte ohne Barlohn CHF 960) und die Beitragssätze für Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitgeber, betragen zusammen ca 10,3 % des Lohns (AHV/IV/EO; mit AHV/IV/EO/ALV = 13.5%).	
	Auslandschweizer zahlen 9,8 % des Lohnes.	
	Zusätzlich werden 3% Verwaltungskosten belastet.	
	Mindestbeitrag fuer Nichterwerbstätige CHF 914 bis max CHF 24.000 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)	
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	minus Koordinations-Abzug (= maximale AHV-Rente, minus 3.510)	CHF 24.675
	Obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohnanteil	CHF 59.925
	[Minimaler koordinierter (versicherter) Lohn: CHF 3.525	
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A V I G	Arbeitslosenversicherungs- und Insolvenzentschädigungs-Gesetz /Aenderung per 1.4.2011 Versicherter Lohn: kein Minimum / Maximum CHF 126.000 respektive 315.000 Lohnbestandteile bis CHF 126.000 = 2.20 Lohnprozent Lohnbestandteile ueber CHF 126.000 bis zu maximal = 1 Lohnprozent CHF 315.000 (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	
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