

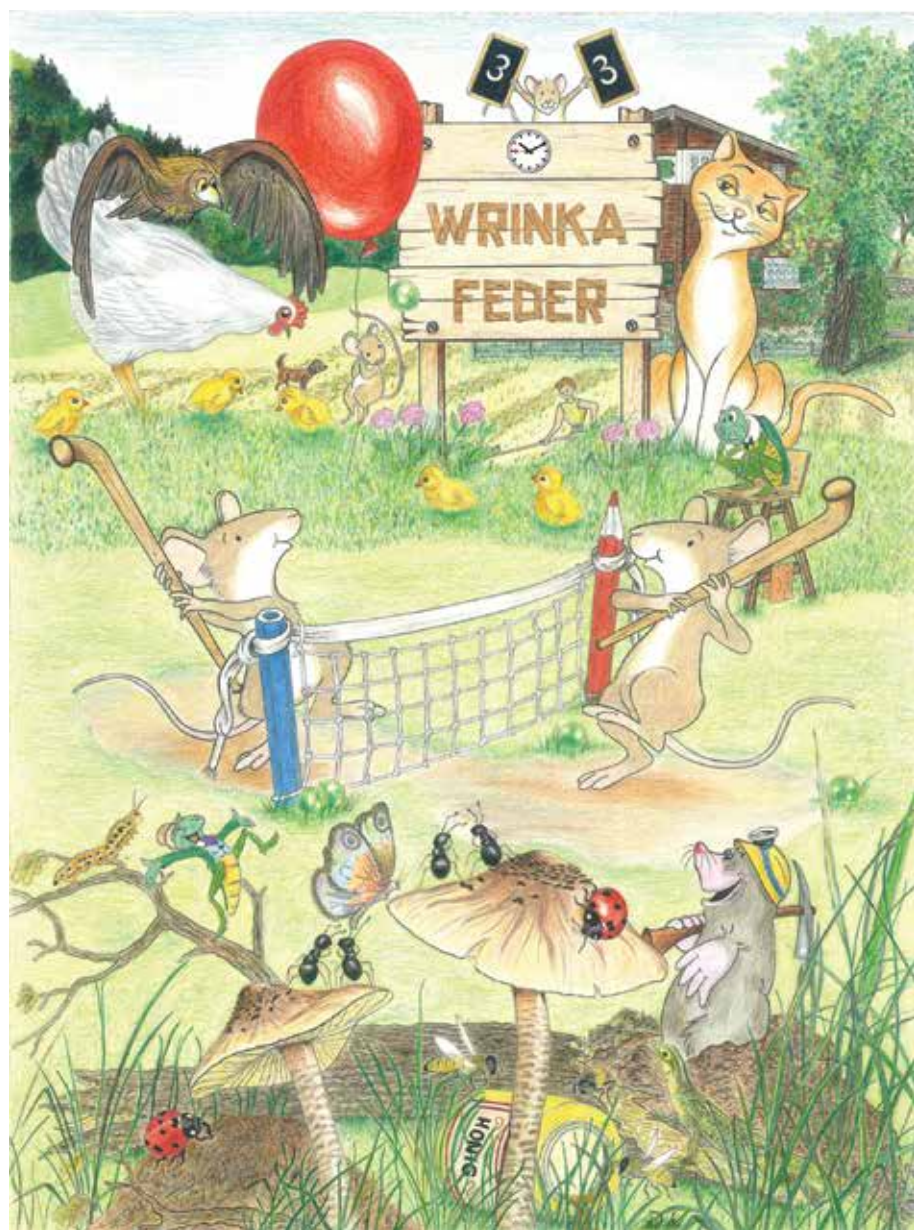
# s'Alphorn 134



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Franz Xaver Petter, detail from "A bouquet of flowers in a vase", 1845  
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## Message from the President

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

We are very proud to present you with your personal copy of the 134th edition of the s'Alphorn magazine. By going through the pages you will learn more about the Swiss Association of Hong Kong's past events, as well as read some interesting and insightful stories of Swiss living in Hong Kong.

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong provides many opportunities for you to make new friends, to mingle with families and to network with people, who may just have moved to Hong Kong or have been here for many, many years. Our events celebrate Swiss traditions coupled with great food and wine and in the past year we have had record participants for many events, e.g. Santa Claus or Raclette in the Park. If you are not a member yet, don't miss these opportunities and join the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (see page 66).

As a volunteer organisation, the Swiss Association is also looking for members who would like to get involved as part of the committee or in organising events with us. Please reach out to me or the committee members (see page 8) with your contribution.

In 2014 we introduced a new online tool for registering events and settling payments online. After solving some technical difficulties, late last year we extended the tool to also include the membership management. You can now pay your membership fee online and also update your personal information there. Please make use of this option and let us know if you need any assistance. Of course, it will still be possible to send your registrations, payments and membership updates in the traditional way.

We have also continued to make our website ([www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com)) more interesting and interactive. Please have a look and give us your feedback and let us know if you would like to contribute to our website.

Every year the Swiss Association organises over 70 events ranging from several large signature events to smaller exclusive events. This year's cover shows the variety of events the Swiss Association is organising with the passionate and enthusiastic help of so many volunteers. It is thanks to their contribution that the Swiss Association has remained so lively and active here in Hong Kong.

My goal is to continue making our Swiss Association a fun, interesting and interactive meeting place for all Swiss, Swiss at heart and their friends in Hong Kong. While embracing the new, we also value the traditions and the past. Organising events and fostering the relationship among the Swiss community in Hong Kong is both a pleasure and an honor. I'm looking forward to an exciting time serving as president.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow committee members, the continued excellent relationship and support from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and last but not least 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 all the best in the year ahead.

With my best wishes,  
Pietro Immordino  
President of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong



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## Committee 2016-2017



**Pietro  
Immordino**  
President



**Tobias  
Luedin**  
1st VP



**Simona  
Pinelli**  
Hon. Secretary



**Roland  
Jossi**  
Hon. Treasurer



**Verena  
Mooser**  
Events  
Coordinator



**Cordula  
Voegtle**  
Events  
Coordinator



**Ashley  
Lau**  
Events  
Coordinator



**Barbara  
Hemmi Verburg**  
Events  
Coordinator



**Michelle  
Char**  
s'Alphorn  
Editor



**Nicolas  
Köhl**  
Chief Technology  
Officer



**Tanja  
Lecher**  
Swiss School  
Committee



**Andres  
Flueckiger**  
Sponsorship  
Coordinator



**Benjamin  
Mueller-Rappard**  
Past  
President

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[benjamin.mueller-rappard@swiss-hk.com](mailto:benjamin.mueller-rappard@swiss-hk.com)

**info@swisshk.com**

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](mailto:info@swisshk.com) or visit our website at [www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com)





*Häppiness is a Kägi.*

## New Committee Members



### Barbara Hemmi Verburg

My family and I moved to Hong Kong only in August 2015, but my passion for Hong Kong and Asia has started long ago. When working for a Swiss bank in Zurich, I quickly moved from the domestic affairs to the then so called "Far East" department. My holidays I spent mostly traveling in Asia, every time discovering more of its fascinating and diverse history and culture.

Hong Kong has since long been on top of our list with places, where we could imagine to live in. After having spent 4 years in Singapore, which we also enjoyed with the then still smaller children, we are now very happy to have the chance to discover Hong Kong. We love the authenticity of the city, its energy and its fascinating mix of east and west.

When being new to the city last summer, we highly appreciated the SA events such as the Shek O Beach BBQ or the junk outing, which gave us the chance to make new friends among the Swiss community. To continue these traditions and to give newcomers and "old" Swiss in Hong Kong the chance to meet and greet, I am very motivated to join the committee and especially support the events team.

### Andres Flueckiger

I was born in Schaffhausen and grew up near the Rheinfall in the Zürcher Weinland. After my education as Mechanical Engineer I joined the Army and after that I traveled around Australia for a while.

Back in Switzerland I started working for a small company in Zürich in the machine industry. In 2005 my company asked me if I wanted to move to Hong Kong and set up an office for them. It did not take me long to make a decision.



Shortly after, I moved with two suitcases to Hong Kong on a tourist visa. I was lucky to get very quickly in touch with a bunch of international people which are still my good friends. I love the variety and the opportunities in the city, like hiking, beaches and the nightlife.

After working for 9 years for the same company I decided to open my own business in Food & Beverages. I founded Epijoy Limited which is importing quality goods from Switzerland to Hong Kong and Macau.

I enjoy my life in this beautiful city and I am happy to be a member of the Swiss Association Committee.

# New Monthly Coffee Morning Organiser

## Lembit Lellep

Originally from Canada, over the past 15 years I have followed my wife to live in four different countries as a result of her employment with SwissRe. Nine of these years have been in Switzerland, the country we speak of as home.



London, England was our temporary home for three and a half years. Washington, D.C. was our base for 1 year. Now we have been in Hong Kong since August 2014. In 2003 our daughter was born in Zurich and since then she has been part of this moving around the world equation. She is currently in K8 at GSIS.

In Canada I owned a travel agency, looking after a wide range of travel arrangements for both individuals and for groups. The

special focus of my company, however, was organizing soft adventure programs world-wide, and creatively constructing complex multi-country flight itineraries.

A couple of years after moving to Switzerland I sold my travel company. Since then when people ask what I do, I say 'Ich bin Hausmann.' This has allowed me to enjoy involvement in a range of projects and activities wherever I happen to be living.

The SAHK coffee mornings are something I look forward to every month. With being asked to become the organizer of these coffee mornings I am delighted to be able to give something back.

## Thank you to Kesang Spirgi

Kesang Spirgi was our wonderful Monthly Coffee Morning Organiser for 2015/2016. The meeting venues varied between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island alternately. The group got bigger over time and it was nice to catch up with old friends and to meet new joiners over a cup of coffee or a sumptuous breakfast. Thanks to Kesang for her diligent efforts.

Lembit Lellep has kindly accepted our request to be our new Monthly Coffee Morning Organiser, replacing Kesang. Thank you to Lembit too and we hope to see you at the next Coffee Morning.



## Swiss Benevolent Society Committee



**Werner  
Heimgartner**  
President



**Silvan  
Colani**  
Hon. Treasurer



**Tobias  
Brandner**  
Vice President



**Renate  
Leung**  
Vice President



**Angelina  
Bussinger**  
Hon. Secretary

### Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

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.

Enquiry email : [werner.heimgartner@swiss-hk.com](mailto:werner.heimgartner@swiss-hk.com)



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## SAHK Activities Organisers



### JASSEN CLUB



**Thomas Burkhalter**  
Organiser since 2010



### DRAGON BOAT TEAM



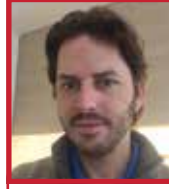
**Werner Heimgartner**  
Organiser since 1990



### MELCHTERLI CUP



**Tobias Murer**  
Organiser since 2010



### SEDAN CHAIR RACE



**Stephane Eroes**  
Organiser since 2015



### SWISS GOLF MAFIA



**Alex Hirt**  
Organiser since 2005



### MONTHLY EVENING GOLF



**Patrick Meyrat**  
Organiser since 2010

\* Monthly Golf has stopped since September 2015 as 9 Eagles at the Airport is no longer available.

### SAHK ACTIVITIES

A big thank you to all our SAHK activities organisers!

For details, please refer to:  
**[www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)**

## Other Swiss Associations in Hong Kong



**Peter Spirig**  
President

### Swiss Chamber of Commerce (SCCHK)

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

[www.swisschamhk.org](http://www.swisschamhk.org)      [admin@swisschamhk.org](mailto:admin@swisschamhk.org)



**Gabriel Mallet**  
Representative

### Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

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

[gabriel.mallet@abacare.com](mailto:gabriel.mallet@abacare.com)



**Alexandre Tunik**  
Hong Kong Representative

### Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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](http://www.aso.ch)      [tpf@transpacificfareast.com](mailto:tpf@transpacificfareast.com)



**Alexander Luedi**  
President

### Rifle Association

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

[www.srahk.com](http://www.srahk.com)      [alexluedi@netvigator.com](mailto:alexluedi@netvigator.com)



**Peter Klaus**  
Honorary President

### Swiss XI

Founded in 1977 to offer members of the Swiss community and beyond the opportunity to participate in local amateur football league games.

Jürg Niederberger is Vice President and Manager of XI. He is in charge since 2006. He is also the Swiss XI article contributor for S'Alphorn for the last three years.

[klausp@hotmail.com.hk](mailto:klausp@hotmail.com.hk)



**Jürg Niederberger**  
Vice President

## Welcome to our new members in 2015

Andreas & Ganimete Baud  
Gregory Bielot & Dawina Bielot-Fahrin  
Oliver Broch  
Michael Bucher  
Candiotti Margherita M. & Candiotti Antoine  
Mr & Mrs Delieutraz  
Simon Farah  
Andres Flueckiger  
Reto Greub  
Barbara Hemmi Verburg & Goris Verburg  
Peggy Huen  
Marco & Gisela Kamerling  
Brigitta Kammerlander  
Christina Keung  
Martin Knöpfli  
Muriel Kubrak  
Ashley Lau  
Lembit Lellep  
Joseph & Renate Leung  
Juliette Lim

Tobias & Jessie Luedin  
Torquil Macleod  
Roberto & Marina Martinoni  
Mylene & Thomas Meier  
Karen Yau & Donald Ng  
Murielle Quenzer  
Reto Renggli  
Thomas & Josephine Sasse  
Caroline Savioz & Brian Leung  
Frederic Schenk  
Michel & Catherine Solioz  
Thomas Thalmann & Elise Blandine Hourcade  
Isabelle & Francois Thouvenin  
Silvan Ulrich & Martina Wohlfart  
Fridolin Walch  
Lan Wang Simond  
Franziska Weber  
Thomas Paroubek & Sabine Wunderlin  
Weijia Gao & Daniel Wyss

## Goodbye to our resigned members in 2015

Sacha & Jennifer Bachmann  
Andreas Balemi  
Michael & Ping Balsiger  
Damian & Tim-Zi Bethke  
Yves & Doris Betz  
Alex Buerge  
Nicole Eichner  
Ulrich Bruno & Bianca Geissler  
Rudolf & Sisu Otto Gildemeister  
Karma Gochotshang  
Peter & Veronica Gyger-Monroi  
Matthias Weschke & Rita Haemmerli-Weschke  
Dennys Hess  
Thomas & Eveline Hollinger  
Caroline Huber  
Urs-Ulrich & Fang Ting Katzenstein  
Peter & Brigitte Klaus

Eric Landolt  
Marc Menard  
Christophe & Songa Morel  
Sven Moser  
Nicole Müller  
Iris Riesen  
Josef Risi & Jenna Marianne Risi-Bracher  
Simon Saputra & Elena Lui Cheung  
Michael & Paola Styger  
Eric Waldburger  
Mrs Claudia Walsche  
Rolf Walther  
Daniela Zuppa

## ASO CONGRESS IN GENEVA

**AUGUST 2015**

Alexandre Tunik

Last year congress took place in Geneva

The theme was “Civic Education – guaranty for a living democracy”. There were some movies displayed on how to interest teenagers to get involved and interested in politics. Statistics show that very few young people take part in votes and elections.

Other topics raised:

- \* Slow introduction of E-voting in various cantons due to security reasons. Disappointment for many delegates.
- \* The Federal election were a big topic of the agenda including the relations Switzerland/EU.
- \* The way Swiss banks and lately even Postfinance treat customers who move abroad or live already outside Switzerland.
- \* The President of the Council, Jacques-Simon Eggly stepped back after 8 years and the current vice president Remo Gysin from Basel was elected as the new president.

Vice president will be Filippo Lombardi from Ticino ( the initiator of the new law regarding the Swiss living abroad)

- \* This year ASO will celebrate its 100th anniversary and the Congress will take place in Berne from 5th to 7th August, 2016.



**Alex Tunik as guest speaker during the Monthly Joint Luncheon organised by SAHK and SwissCham**

Issues I have raised at the ASO Congress as follows:

- \* I lost my passport while travelling in Europe and could not obtain a “temporary passport” at the Swiss Embassy in Paris because the printer was broken. It took me 3 hours at the Chilean embassy to have a temporary one issued.
- \* The issue of opening a bank account is discussed at every ASO meeting. In the case of Hong Kong, it is not a problem for a Swiss Citizen to open an account if he/she meets the minimum amount criterias set up by each bank
- \* It is not always easy for Swiss children relocating to Switzerland to enter either in the Primary/ Secondary school or at Swiss Universities. Each Canton has its own regulations in what refers to “entry exams” to local schools and each University has its own criteria in what refers to the minimum amount of points requested if the Student has an IB for example (32 points in the case of the HSG; 38 points in the case of ETH).



## Annual General Meeting

14th April, 2016  
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

The 68th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) followed by the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong (SBS) was held at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club on Thursday, 14th April, 2016.

The quorum of 49 members of the SAHK was met, hence the meeting was declared to commence.

Pietro Immordino, the acting president of the SAHK welcomed all guests and members for their participation.

The meeting agenda was as follows:

Approval of last year's SAHK minutes and year end accounts report read

The Swiss School report and accounts read

Approval of SBS minutes and their accounts read

Alex Tunik, our Hong Kong Representative of ASO gave an update of the ASO congress in Geneva.

Our outgoing president Benjamin Mueller-Rappard was in Switzerland but he gave his full support to the 2016/17 SAHK Committee. The audience gave a warm applause to the newly appointed president, Pietro Immordino, and the entire SAHK committee for their much appreciated efforts made last year.

We thank all who participated in the AGM meeting either in person or by proxy. The number of participants and proxies received was a record high. Thank you.



## University of Zurich UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong



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



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](mailto:tpf@transpacificfareast.com) or go to the website <https://hsgalumni.ch/de/chapters-clubs/uebersicht/>

## ETH Alumni Chapter Hong Kong



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

## 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>



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## Events of the year



### April 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Ladies Night

### May 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Evening Golf
- Historial Walk
- SwissCham Golf Tournament
- Operatta: The Land of Smiles

### June 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Evening Golf
- Ladies Night
- Dragonboat Race
- Night at the Races and Farewell Party for Consul General Rita Hammerli-Weschke



### July 2015

- Swiss Jass Evening

### August 2015

- Evening Golf
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Swiss National Day Celebration

### September 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Evening Golf
- Ladies Night
- Meet & Greet at Shek O

For upcoming SAHK events, please visit us at [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)



## Events of the year



### October 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Melchterli Cup 2015
- Junk Outing
- Historical Walk
- Opera - Tosca

### November 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Ladies Night
- INSIDE SERIES : Visit Creative Media, Apps Lab of City University
- Christmas Wreath Workshop

### December 2015

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Claus Jass Evening
- Xmas Charity Luncheon
- Family BBQ with Santa Claus



### January 2016

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- New Year Cocktail

### February 2016

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Monthly Coffee Morning
- Raclette in the Park

### March 2016

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- INSIDE SERIES : Metrojet
- Chocolate Factory Tour
- M+ Sigg Collection Tour

For more SAHK event photos, please visit us at [www.swiss-hk.com/blog](http://www.swiss-hk.com/blog)

## Consulate General of Switzerland



**Reto  
Renggli**  
Consul General



**Andreas  
Rufer**  
Deputy  
Consul General



**Sandra  
Chawla-Gantenbein**  
Consul



**Willy  
Zemp**  
Vice Consul



**Frank  
Eggmann**  
Head of Swiss  
Business Hub



**Wing Kai  
Chan**  
Trade Officer



**Richard  
Kurz**  
Assistant to the  
Consul General



**Eva  
Enzler-Kölliker**  
Consular Officer



**Melody Shu Kin  
So**  
Consular Officer



**Winnie  
Kan**  
Cultural Officer



**Senna  
Ma**  
Driver &  
Office Assistant

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## Letter from Consul General Reto Renggli



Dear Members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong,  
dear Swiss Citizens,  
dear Friends of Switzerland

It is my pleasure to introduce you to some new faces at the Consulate General in Hong Kong. I arrived last year after a four years assignment in Switzerland.

In January, my new Deputy Andreas Rufer arrived from Boston where he was working with Swissnex, the Swiss Science Consulate. Erwin Lüthi has left the Consulate and is preparing for his new assignment in Shanghai. You may already know Willy Zemp, the new Vice Consul, who arrived in July last year from South Africa. Another big change is the retirement of my personal assistant Anita Nahr by the end of March. Her successor, Richard Kurz, is already working at the Consulate General in order to ensure a smooth transition. Ms Melody Tsin Yee Shu Kin So started working in the Visa Section last October, replacing Ms May Siu. Furthermore, our Head of Chancery, Ms Sandra Chawla-Gantenbein, will take on her next assignment at the Swiss Consulate General in Munich this summer after having completed a tenure of four years here in Hong Kong. Her successor, Mr Reto Läderach, will be arriving from Addis Abeba.

I would like to thank all my colleagues who have left, for their dedication and contribution to the success of the Consulate General and welcome all the new arrivals.

While there is always a high fluctuation of the transferable staff within our Consulate some of our local colleagues have been with us for many years. Our Economic Commissioner Wing Kai Chan celebrates his 25th jubilee with the Consulate this year. He is an important asset to the Consulate and it is a pleasure to have him on board. All of us wish him all the best and many more good years to come.

I am looking forward to promote and represent the interests of our Country and to strengthen the relations between Hong Kong and Switzerland by supporting and encouraging economical, trade, technological, educational and cultural exchange. Furthermore the Consulate General is of course an important link between Swiss nationals in Hong Kong and Macau and the authorities at home in Switzerland. The Consular Section will follow an “open door policy” towards the Swiss community in order to maintain the high level of services we have always offered and I do encourage you to contact us any time.

It is furthermore a pleasure to introduce you to our new updated Event Newsletter which informs about Swiss-related events taking place in Hong Kong and Macao. If you haven't already signed up for this bi-monthly Newsletter you can do so by going to our webpage, where you'll find a link to register.

I'm looking forward to meeting the Swiss Community in Hong Kong during my term as Consul General on one of our events or on any other Sino-Swiss related gatherings.

Reto Renggli  
Consul General of Switzerland

### Pencils versus Ladles

Daniel Wettling, S'Alphorn Drawing Contributor



Born with pencils in his mouth, Daniel has been drawing funny pictures of anything that came to his mind from a tender age.

His parents ran a hairdressing saloon so he had to help out from a very young age. Often time, lots of colourful dyes were "available" in the shop, and so he started his first few masterpieces colouring the walls and storeroom of the shop. After several fruitless attempts to hide all the colourful mixtures and dyes, his parents finally bought him a large box of crayons and pencils – and that is how Daniel started his passion of drawing and painting! Now, a very few years later, he remains to be very passionate about his compositions and, apart from just simple illustrations, he also amuses his friends and colleagues with caricature drawings.

He always leaves his house with a sketch book and pencil in his briefcase. Once he sees something interesting, he will make a few drafts. At home, he will sit down and try to bring his ideas to life. Sometimes it does not work right away and more than one sketch is needed before the whole impression will be ready for the next step, the final layout.



As an avid runner who runs 80-100 kilometres a week, he also gets his inspiration during his trainings but without having a sketchbook in his hand! Daniel uses different pencils and tools to work on new ideas and techniques. The most time consuming stage of the drawing lies in colouring where details and themes emerge.

For 20 years, he has been contributing special portrayals of a Swiss Alphorn in a humorous way to the Swiss Association and Swiss community at large. Apart from the Swiss Alphorn, his “iconic mouse” is always featured alongside the beautiful backdrop of Swiss scenery.

Daniel is also teaching young children the art of drawing and is always amazed on what creations the little people can put on paper. Much is written on how drawings can improve children’s intelligence. Daniel agrees that to a certain extent that children can benefit from being artistic in their early lives. But, he also believes that instead of placing children to any form of tests to indicate their intelligence, they should be given the freedom of drawing anything they like.

Every child has a different way of learning, therefore, he strongly suggests to purchase crayons and pencils for children at a very early stage in their lives so the walls and storerooms in their homes are not being coloured by dyes or any other forms of colorizations.

Swiss National Day Dinner Invitation Cards  
designed by Daniel Wettling  
(Left: Year 2013, right: Year 2014)



### Max Liechti and Swiss Chalet Restaurant Hannes Lanz



It is always a pleasure to visit the Swiss Chalet, established in 1989, for a wholesome lunch or dinner, as the quality and selections of the various menus are always outstanding and well selected. The bill at the end of the meal is very reasonable – probably one of the best deals in town.

Max Liechti, our Culinary Swiss Ambassador is well established in the Far East since 1975. He personally heads the kitchen to make sure that each plate leaving the stove is perfect in every respect, taste and presentation.

Max also just got the well-deserved plaque from Michelin (2016 Micheline Guide Recommended Restaurant). Max is the first and only one who got this recommendation as an operator/owner of an authentically run Swiss restaurant established outside of Switzerland.

This honor and pride can be shared by all of us of the Swiss community here in Hong Kong

***Swiss Chalet is located at 12-14 Hart Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui. Telephone: 2191 9197***

***MTR Direction: Alight at TST station, take the exit NP for TST East. Step on the electric walkway and exit at N1-3 after the 2nd section. Take the lift to the upper floor. Turn left, go straight for one minute to Hart Avenue, turn right and the sign of the Chalet Restaurant is in front of you.***

## 1) When and why did Max come to Hong Kong?

He had a job interview in Switzerland on 1st January 1975 and was offered the opportunity to work in Hong Kong.

One month later, he arrived in Hong Kong on 20th February 1975 and started his career with Hong Kong Hotel as a Junior Chef. He later worked in the Peninsula Hotel, Repulse Bay Hotel, all under the Peninsula Hotel Group.

## 2) When did Max join the Swiss Association?

Max joined the Swiss Association a few years after he arrived in HK

## 3) When did Max start his own restaurant, Swiss Chalet?

Max owned Swiss Chalet Restaurant in 1998.

Prior to that, Swiss Chalet started in the Royal Pacific Hotel at the China Hong Kong City in 1988 and was under another ownership.

Max was the Executive Chef and was involved with not only the food but the design of the authentic Swiss restaurant. After almost 10 years of success, the restaurant was forced to closure due to the Asian Financial Crisis.

As in life when one door closes, another opens. Max took the opportunity to start up his business and kept the restaurant name. It took about a year of preparation for his Swiss Chalet to be opened in Hart Avenue,

Tsimshastui. A number of the restaurant fittings and furniture were rescued from the hotel.

## 4) What were the challenges in the business in the beginning?

Being the owner of a restaurant, Max has the additional responsibilities of customer relationships and publicity for his business.

Lucky for him, he has a strong team of staff who has been with him for a long time. Max is very hands-on and under his management, Swiss Chalet has strong and loyal following. Swiss Chalet is listed as a Michelin recommended restaurant in 2016.

## 5) Which of the Swiss Association activities does he still participate and enjoy the most?

He participates in the Jass Club that meets monthly at the Pacific Club.

He used to be more active with the Rifle Club activities but less lately. However, he still prepares food for the Rifle Club events so everyone could enjoy some authentic Swiss food after some shooting.

## 6) How does Max relax himself?

In recent years Max finds spending time with his family most relaxing. He enjoys every moment with his family very much.

## 7) Which dish is the best seller in the restaurant?

Züri Gschnätzlets mit Rösschti followed by Fondue.



### Tobias Brandner Light in the Dark



Tobias Brandner is currently an Associate Professor at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, teaching history of Western Christianity, mission studies, and ecumenism.

An ordained pastor of the Swiss Reformed Church – at present with the Hong Kong Tsung Tsin Mission Church – he has over 20 years of experience as prison chaplain, from 1990 to 1996 in Switzerland and since 1998 in Hong Kong. He has recently published the book *Beyond the Walls of Separation. Christian Faith and Ministry in Prison* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade, 2014).

#### **1. What is the most common first question when people learn of your work in HK?**

Often people ask me: Why someone from Switzerland for this work? - Then, I usually tell them that when this ministry, the care for those in prison, developed in Hong Kong, not many local churches would pay attention to people in prison. Prison ministry was a marginal issue in the church. The churches mainly focused on serving their own members. That is the reason why Basel Mission (today Mission 21, Basel) decided to support this ministry with a co-worker. This support began already in the 80s, before I came to HK, with another co-worker. Basel Mission has a very long relationship with Hong Kong. For the past 169 years, people from Basel have continuously been in HK and served together with local Christians. My work is part of this long tradition.

Today, Christians in HK are much more caring for inmates. I still continue to serve in this ministry, but nowadays only part-time, as a volunteer, beside my main work at the Chinese University. I believe that people from outside Hong Kong can bring an added value to prison ministry, different from what local Christians do. That is a reason why I still continue my visits to people in prison – and also because the inmates have become my friends.

### **2. How do you open the hearts of the inmates and have them start talking to you?**

I reach them by simply being present: I regularly walk through all the workshops in prison, say hello to everyone. People know me and approach me when they have something. It is actually not too difficult because first, people are bored in prison, so they see me as a welcome interruption of their boredom (recently, a rather critical and cynical inmate said: “It is so boring here that I even speak to the chaplain!”); and secondly, they crave for human contact, for someone they can trust, somebody from outside their world. I have been part of prisons in HK, particularly Stanley Prison and Shek Pik Prison, for the past 18 years. In this period, many people met me and I established a good relationship to many of them.

### **3. “Money is the root of all evil”-what do you think of this quote in relation to crimes?**

Hong Kong is very obsessed with money. On the other side, money is a reality and it makes life easier. The problem in HK

is that wealth is extremely unequally distributed. The omnipresent display of fortune is an obvious temptation. Many people like to take a short-cut to get rich. Of course, many people also see that those who became rich have not chosen very moral ways. Many ways of accumulating wealth are immoral and not much better than criminal ways – only with the small difference that they are legal. Witnessing the glaring immorality of much of economic life, some poor and not so poor people choose to take the short-cut of illegality.

In fact, a very high percentage of crimes are related to money: drug crimes (and there are a lot of inmates in prison due to drug-related crimes), financial crimes, robberies, etc. Also some violent crimes are related to money - debt collection etc.

In this regard, yes, money appears as root of all evil. But of course, it is wrong. Money is simply a way to facilitate exchanges. The root of all evil is rather our obsession with status and money. Faith communities thus respond to crime by saying that change ultimately needs to happen in our hearts. This does not mean that structural and political changes are unnecessary, but the bottom line is to overcome our greed.







**4. “A person’s relationship with God can be a source of comfort in troubled times, as well as a foundation for self-esteem, feeling unconditionally valued, loved, and cared for.” When an inmate accepts God in his heart, is he more positive even behind bars?**

Yes, I would definitely say so. Imprisonment is a terrible experience of being rejected from the human community. It is a totally upsetting experience: it undermines people’s self-esteem and it has a very destructive impact on their relationships. In this regard, the basic Christian message that God loves each one unconditionally - that means, without prior condition of achievement from our side, without anything we have to do or fulfill first - is very powerfully speaking to people in prison. They understand what it means. And this message can set in motion changes - of a person, of a person’s self-understanding and self-esteem, and of a person’s relationships. This may cause a person to be more balanced and yes, more positive about life.

**5. Do you have new suggestions to rehabilitate inmates and help them better reintegrate to society once they are released?**

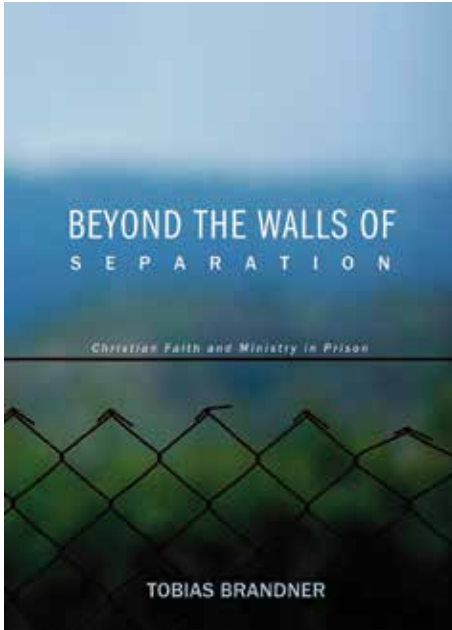
I am advocating some changes in rehabilitation and I talk to the Correctional

Services Department (CSD) and other people in this regard. I couldn’t say that I have been successful, but even without much visible success I believe that it is part of my responsibility to speak to all sides of the prison.

Changes I advocate are standard practice in many constituencies around the world, among them also in Switzerland, but not in Hong Kong. I would like to see improvements that would allow an inmate a more gradual transition to the life outside of prison.

At present, Hong Kong prisons grant no furlough at all (in contrast to Swiss prisons where it is mostly granted). This means that inmates are released after years of imprisonment without any chance to slowly adapt to the outside world. They cannot even go to a job interview before their release. Also for the families such a sudden reunion can be shocking, even though they may have waited many years for familial reunion.

I also advocate better visiting rules. At present, inmates can only meet their families a maximum of four times per month, each time 30 minutes, overall 2 hours. These visits are without physical contact, mostly through a glass screen. I



think it would be good for inmates to have a chance to meet their family longer and more privately. One should remember that the simple fact of incarceration is actually already a very strong punishment.

Thirdly, I advocate more resources for education and training. At present, the CSD puts most of their educational and training resources into young offenders' rehabilitation. Young offenders are surely worth to be particularly cared for. But the older ones should not be neglected. I also ask for improvements for inmates from abroad - many Africans and Latin Americans, but also from other places. They have many special needs. For instance, at present, they are only allowed once in two months to make a phone call back home for maximum 10 min. This is simply not enough.

### **6. What inspired you to write the book "Beyond the Separation of Walls"?**

When I started writing this book, I had been working in prisons for around 15 years, first in Switzerland, from 1990 to 1996 (part-time) and since 1998 in HK. I had experienced many fascinating encounters that deeply inspired me.

At the same time, as a theologian, many encounters have really challenged me to think more exactly about basic parts of our Christian faith. During my years as prison chaplain, I have worked together with many church volunteers. I had brought probably hundreds of people as occasional volunteer visitors to prison (and also brought them out again). And I wanted to give them more information about how to understand the world of prison, how to approach people in this special context, and how to present the Christian message in a way that is truly encouraging and liberating. A lot of Christians, particularly more evangelical ones, enter prison with a very clear intention of bringing inmates to the Christian faith. This is well meant but is sometimes too goal-oriented.

I tried to encourage them to understand that their simple visit alone is already a very powerful message. These and other things were what I had carried in my heart for some years and the writing process happened very naturally and quite easily. In short: the many encounters with inmates inspired me.

**7. If you were to write the next book, what would it be about?**

Well, at this moment, I am in the process of finishing a book on the history of Western Christianity for Chinese reader. This is a very different area and is a result of regularly teaching this subject at the Chinese University.

A topic that is a bit closer to my heart is the change of global Christianity in the past decades. People in the West often still think of Christianity as a Western religion. This is wrong. Christianity is nowadays a global faith community. It is a vibrant faith in many parts of the world and it develops in ways rather different to how we know church in the West. I have learnt a lot about Christianity in China and elsewhere, particularly in Southeast Asia. I could imagine writing more about something related to this change in global Christianity. Probably, it will be not so much a book but a smaller piece.

Prisoners and the whole world of the

prison are still closest to my heart, but at this moment, I still think I have said what I wanted to say in my earlier book.

**8. You learnt Cantonese within a short period of time and now you speak fluently. How do you encourage others who are interested to learn but intimidated by the seeming complexity?**

Probably I would tell people that no matter how much you learn it opens a huge window into another world and as such it is anytime worth it. Even if you only get a glimpse through this window, it is a fascinating world. I would also tell them that I experienced people in HK as tremendously appreciating and encouraging if one makes the effort to learn their language. Local people are very much aware how difficult Cantonese is. So they don't expect much. Speaking even a little bit is a form of telling them that you take their culture serious and you express an interest in them. Or simply speaking, you express appreciation for them and they receive it as such.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

Consulate General of Switzerland  
[www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong](http://www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong)

Swiss Government  
[www.admin.ch](http://www.admin.ch)

Schweizer Revue  
[www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch)

SwissInfo (International Service of the Swiss  
Broadcasting Corporation)  
[www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch)

Wir Auslandschweizer  
[www.wirauslandschweizer.ch](http://www.wirauslandschweizer.ch)

Hong Kong Government  
[www.gov.hk](http://www.gov.hk)

German Swiss International School in Hong Kong  
[www.gsis.edu.hk](http://www.gsis.edu.hk)

French International School in Hong Kong  
[www.fis.edu.hk](http://www.fis.edu.hk)

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### Night at the Races & Farewell Party for Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke



*For more about SAHK past events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/blog](http://www.swiss-hk.com/blog)*



### Night at the Races & Farewell Party for Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke



*For upcoming SAHK events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)*

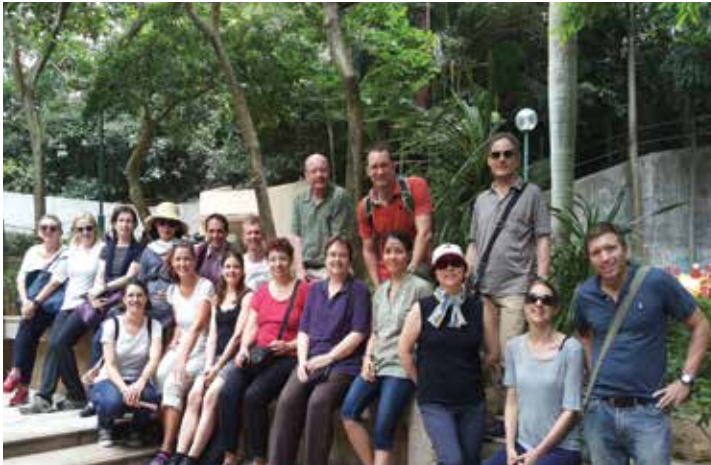
### Night at the Races & Farewell Party for Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke



*More than 100 participants attended as it was also the farewell party for Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke. After living in Hong Kong for 5 years, she will be dearly missed. Please refer to [www.swiss-hk.com/blog](http://www.swiss-hk.com/blog) for more about this event.*

### Historical Walks

Verena Mooser



#### WAN CHAI

Wan Chai means “Small Bay” in Cantonese, and for generations was also known as Ha Wan, or Lower Bay. This perennially interesting urban district began in pre-British times as a small Chinese settlement grouped around the location of the present Tai Wong Temple on Queen’s Road East. Modern Wanchai

began in the 1840s with the intention of creating a high-class residential and commercial centre. Major foreign firms owned substantial buildings, godowns and wharves facing the sea.

Walking around Wan Chai there are many interesting reminders of Hong Kong’s past which historian Jason Wordie pointed out during this spring’s Historical Walk. Strolling around Hong Kong Park, the former site of the Victoria Barracks, the participants saw a WWI statue with a Brodie helmet dedicated to John Robert Osborn, a British WWII soldier, while learning about Hong Kong’s role in the war. They also learned some fascinating facts, like the reason why there are so many mango trees in the park: they were originally planted so the Indian troops stationed at the barracks would have something to remind them of home.

The walk took the group from along the upper parts of Wan Chai, passing Electric Street, so named because it was the site of the first power station in the city, all the way to the Pak Tai Temple and Cross Street. Stopping at various interesting spots, the participants learned about the development of Wan Chai from a Chinese hamlet to a high-class residential and commercial centre in the 19th Century and its present incarnation as an area of business, bars and night-clubs.



#### RESERVOIRS AND REDOUBTS

October saw an enthusiastic group of SAHK members hiking around the area surrounding Shing Mun Reservoir to visit the surviving tunnels and emplacements of what is commonly known as the “Gin Drinker’s Line”. The twelve-acre underground citadel formed the largest single entity in an extended defensive complex that extended right across the Kowloon hills from Gin Drinker’s Bay to Port Shelter.

During our walk not only did we learn about Hong Kong’s history and importance during WWII but we also enjoyed fantastic views over the surrounding countryside, and had an adventurous time following the tunnels built so many years ago. Both the adults and children who participated were thrilled by Mr Wordie’s descriptions and explanations, making it a Saturday afternoon to remember.



## Swiss National Day Celebrations



## Swiss National Day Celebrations



For upcoming SAHK events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)



## Swiss National Day Celebrations



*A memorable evening and our thanks to:*

- \* Swiss Consul General Reto Renggli and the staff of the Consulate General of Switzerland*
- \* Our Sponsors*
- \* Volunteers who helped at the event*
- \* Our Event Team from Swiss Association of Hong Kong, Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Consulate General of Switzerland and Swiss International Air Lines*
- \* All who participated in the event*

## INSIDE SERIES



**Metrojet Backstage**



**City University of Hong Kong  
School of Creative Media, AIMTech Centre and Apps Lab**



*For upcoming SAHK events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)*

### Christmas Wreath Workshop



*Participants with workshop trainer (centre)*



*Fresh flowers for the Christmas Wreath*



*A fun workshop sponsored by Parfumerie Tresor for SAHK members.*

*Parfumerie Tresor is a perfume boutique & currently has 18 perfume brands sold exclusively in Hong Kong.*

### Schoggi Meier Activities



*Gift set packing in December for Santa Claus BBQ Event at Tai Tam Park. Kids love them and adults too! Thanks to Schoggi Meier for sponsoring this event for many years.*



*Group photo after the Chocolate Factory Tour in March. We were so lucky to have the chocolate experts, Mr. Schoggi Meier and Rene to be our guides.*



*Schoggi Meier participates in the annual Conrad Fair.*



### Family BBQ with Santa Claus



For upcoming SAHK events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)

## Christmas Charity Lunch



*Thanks to all who participated in the event and supported the Raffle Tickets sales. All the funds collected was donated to Changing Young Lives Foundation. Special thanks to our sponsors too for their continuous support. Please refer to page54 for more about Changing Young Lives Foundation.*



### Chlaus Jass Evening



*For upcoming SAHK events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/events](http://www.swiss-hk.com/events)*

### New Year Cocktail 2016



*There was Amber rainstorm warning in the afternoon of the event. Cordis Hotel kindly upgraded our outdoor venue to an indoor restaurant. Such a blessing that the rain stopped before the start of the event in the evening.*

### New Year Cocktail 2016



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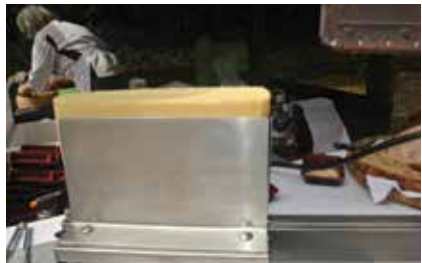
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### Raclette in the Park



*A very popular event with around 120 participants. Great weather on that day too! For more about SAHK past events, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com/blog](http://www.swiss-hk.com/blog)*

## SAHK Events

### Dragonboat Race



### Ladies Night



### M+ Sigg Collection Tour



### Swiss Golf Mafia-Dornbirn 2015



### Opera Night



*Thanks to Mr. Philip Eisenbeiss, Board Director of Opera Hong Kong, who arranged special offer opportunity for SAHK members. For more on past events, please refer to [swiss-hk.com/blog](http://swiss-hk.com/blog)*



## Monthly Joint Luncheons

### Swiss Association & Swiss Chamber of Commerce Joint Monthly Luncheon Events at The Hong Kong Club April 2015-March 2016



Guest Speaker: Prof. Bryan MERCURIO  
Professor and Vice Chancellor's Outstanding  
Fellow of the Faculty of Law at the Chinese  
University of HK

**13th April 2015**

#### **Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement: Summarizing the Potential Benefits to Traders**

Professor Mercurio provided a brief summary of some of the potential benefits to be made for Swiss traders from the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement.



Guest Speaker: (GS) Bernard JEANTY  
Defence Attaché of Switzerland to PRC – DPRK – ROK  
Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing

**4th May 2015**

#### **An introduction to the Security Policy of Switzerland**

Colonel (GS) Bernard Jeanty provided a briefing about the instruments of the Security Policy in Switzerland and elaborated on the role of a defence attaché.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Alex TUNIK  
Founder and CEO of Transpacific (Far East) Limited

**1st June 2015**

#### **25 years in Hong Kong:**

#### **A Swiss entrepreneur since his arrival in 1990**

Mr. Tunik talked about his entrepreneurship in Hong Kong, the challenges as well as the “good decisions” and “bad decisions” made in the course of his business.



Guest Speaker: Dr. Uli SIGG  
Leading Collector of contemporary Chinese Art

**2nd September 2015**

#### **The Route of the Sigg Collection: China - Switzerland - Hong Kong M+ Museum for Visual Arts**

Dr. Sigg talked about the collection and its migration from China to Switzerland and finally to Hong Kong. He shared his personal view on Chinese Contemporary Art production, its market and M+ as the final destination of a significant part of the Sigg Collection.

# Monthly Joint Luncheons

## Swiss Association & Swiss Chamber of Commerce Joint Monthly Luncheon Events at The Hong Kong Club April 2015-March 2016



Guest Speaker: Mr. François CURIEL  
Chairman of Christie's Asia Pacific

**5th October 2015**  
**View from the Rostrum**

Mr. Curiel shared his insider's view of the evolution of the Asian art market, including the opening of museums, the development of art fairs, the arrival in Asia of international art galleries, and the growth of the Chinese market.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Peter WOO, GBM, GBS, JP  
Chairman of Wheelock Holdings Pte Ltd

**2nd November 2015**  
**Grooming future generations of good citizens in HK**

Mr. Woo shared his vision for Business-in-Community with a focus on its flagship education programme Project WeCan designed to offer care, opportunities and exposure for secondary school students who are disadvantaged in learning.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Patrick ODIER  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd in Geneva. Also Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association since September 2009

**23rd November 2015**  
**Swiss Banking – solving the past and looking ahead : Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities**

Mr. Odier gave an overview of some recent and future developments of the Swiss financial centre. He shared two of the success stories regarding the adaptation to the new international standard of automatic exchange of information and the development of a Swiss Renminbi hub. Challenges such as digitalisation of banking and market access were addressed too.



Guest Speaker: Mrs. Karen LUNG  
Executive Director of Changing Young Lifes Foundation

**7th December 2015**  
**Christmas Charity Lunch**

Mrs Lung, executive director of the Changing Young Lifes Foundation shared with us the services CYLF is offering to young people in Hong Kong as well as some success stories.

# Monthly Joint Luncheons

## Swiss Association & Swiss Chamber of Commerce Joint Monthly Luncheon Events at The Hong Kong Club April 2015-March 2016



Guest Speaker: Mr. Mark MATTHEWS  
Head of Research Asia for Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd.

**4th January 2016**

### **Financial Markets Global Outlook 2016**

2016 is expected by Bank Julius Baer experts to be a year of marked cyclical divergence between the developed and emerging markets, producing moderate global growth. Mr. Matthews explored and debated the outlook of the financial markets for 2016



Guest Speaker: Mr. Raymond LO  
Fung Shui Master

**1st February 2016**

### **Fung Shui Predictions for 2016**

Mr. Lo made interesting predictions for the Year of the Monkey.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Tobias BRANDNER  
Associate Professor, Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**7th March 2016**

### **Life behind bars**

Mr. Brandner shared about the inside of a world that is generally not accessible to the public. He focused on the life realities of those in prison, about who they are and how they live.

With Kind Support of



**Thanks to Gübelin for supporting our Joint Luncheon Sessions**

## Monthly Joint Luncheons



*Thanks to all our guest speakers who shared interesting topics and participated in discussions during our luncheon sessions.*

*A special gift was presented to Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke during June Luncheon to thank her for her support before she left Hong Kong.*

### Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYLF)

Mary Cheung

CYLF Fundraising Manager

Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYLF) is dedicated to serve underprivileged children and young people in Hong Kong and the Mainland. We provide FREE educational and developmental programmes to support the youngsters to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to realize their full potential and lead happy and productive lives.

Located at Shek Kip Mei of the Sham Shui Po area, we offer all-rounded programmes and services including:

Pay It Forward: Year-round multi-intelligence workshops and experiential activities

Slam Dunk Challenge: Basketball training and tournament, with social service and career skill training

Art to Heart: Expressive arts programme to enhance psychological wellbeing via visual arts, movement, music, dramatic play etc.

Brain Box: Sensory-motor and cognitive training for children with learning difficulties

Kiddies Land: Pre-school learning and development for toddlers

Smart Mom: Skills training and parenting counselling for mothers

With our Mainland Projects, we improve the quality of schooling and living conditions for youngsters at Qinghai, Gansu and Guangxi.

In December 2015, CYLF was grateful to be invited to SAHK's X'mas Luncheon at Hong Kong Club to introduce our services and receive the generous donation of HK\$80,000. As all our services are FREE and we receive NO government subvention, donations from SAHK helped us to change many young lives for the better.



***CYLF is SAHK & SwissCham choice of charitable organisation for 2015. Please refer to page44 for Christmas Charity Luncheon organised jointly by SAHK and SwissCham.***





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## 45th MELCHTERLI CUP 2015

### Tobias Murer

Every year in late autumn, Swiss and Swiss-related golf players are invited to ShekO in order to measure their golf skills on one of the exclusive membership courses of Hong Kong, the ShekO Golf & Country Club. And while probably not every reader recalls the 6th of October 2015 by heart, it was actually one of the rainiest day in Hong Kong in 2015 with heavy squally showers, strong winds and thunderstorms, especially in Central. But once again Hong Kong proved to have many microclimates and the ShekO sky and golf course presented themselves from its best possible side and offered some breathtaking scenery. The organization committee was in any case delighted to give the “go-ahead” to the many worried enquiries of the 22 players before they all made their way to the south side of Hong Kong for tee-off at 1pm.

And while the trophy of the tournament in the form of a “Melchterli” (a wooden bucket used in the past by Swiss mountain farmers to transport milk) seems to gain in prestige

every year, the spirit of the tournament remains unchanged - namely to spend a day and evening amongst friends of Switzerland, while having the opportunity to play on a great golf venue. The 2015 event - which is already the 45th times this Cup is being played in ShekO - certainly lived up to this spirit and the committee is especially pleased that many golfers joined their first golf tournament ever.

Over 30 players, spouses and guests at the dinner applauded not only the lady golfers or the winner of the longest drive and closest to the pin, but especially Luciano Tattoni as the winner of this year's tournament scoring the highest number of stableford points despite starting with a low handicap of 9.

The organization committee is already looking to the Melchterli Cup 2016.



### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

#### Alexander Luedi, President

Did you know?

\* Swiss army trained men and women can still shoot in Hong Kong with a for civilian used adapted version of the SIG 550 (Stgw 90). And can have their annual compulsory shooting program done and certified by the Swiss Rifle Association

\* Shoot live rounds on a 50 shooting range in Sheng Shui, using standard GP 90 ammunition imported from Switzerland

\* That in 2015 our members scored among the best in the Swiss Abroad Shooting competition, and the annual medal distributed among over 30 Swiss shooting clubs globally features Hong Kong, and was designed by one of our members

\* That Swiss airlines is no longer able to transport our bi-annual order for 6,000 rounds of ammunition, because they overfly a country that does not give such permission, and we now get it by Emirates?

\* To join the approximate 50 members costs only HKD 1,000 allowing to participate in our two shooting competitions per year

\* Have Bratwurst and Cervelats overlooking Shenzhen from the shooting range

**If this all sounds interesting to you, do not hesitate to look us up under SRAHK on Facebook, or approach any existing member for information how to join!**



### SWISS QUALITY THAT JUST KEEPS RUNNING

#### SWISS XI

Juerg Niederberger



#### HISTORY TOUR

Swiss XI was founded 39 years ago! Yes, the beginning of Swiss XI was as early as 1977, pre-email, pre-mobile phones, pre-team organization apps, pre-internet, pre-astro-turf. It is difficult to imagine how it was possible to organize a team without all these convenient “modern” tools.

Wow, so many things have changed since 1977, okay I was already born and past the kindergarten, but still, that is a long time ago. Swiss XI has gone and grown up over the years. It became an established football team that plays in the Yau Yee League (“YYL”) in the 1st (out of four) divisions for the last eight years. While the emphasis was (and still is) on Swiss players coming together and kick some ball around, an equally important part was (and still is) the social side of people from very different backgrounds coming together and just enjoying some beers after a good win (or enjoying some GAT (Going-Away-Tours) to Osaka (2014), Ho Chi Minh (2013), Bali (2011) to mention just a few).

Swiss XI is today a multicultural team with a strong Swiss core, a growing Japanese contingent, a few local players as well as Canadians, Germans, and a few more nations. Over the years, Swiss XI has had different successes, playing and winning the different divisions (but unfortunately not yet the ultimate one, the 1st division championship), then making it to the Cup Final (but also not yet quite winning it).

However, Swiss XI did win a few trophies along the way. Some trophies for the post-season YYL 6-a-side tournaments were won over the years. One of the other highlights of the Swiss XI history must have been joining the 5-a-side Hong Kong qualifier tournament for the 5-a-side World Championship in Dubai ... and yes, Swiss XI won that Hong Kong qualifier and went on an all-expense trip to Dubai to play the World Championship in 2014. What an experience. The three games against Spain, Nigeria and UAE resulted in two points, which was unfortunately not enough for going through to the next round.



## RECORDS

As always, Swiss XI is a team of change, players come and go, but the team has some core players that just keep running. The "records" mentioned in the S'Alphorn 132 (2014) continue to be pushed higher; there is Rene Bühlmann who continues to add more goals to his Swiss XI record of 128 goals in 170 games, there is Peter Bachmann who continues to push up the age record of "oldest Swiss XI goal scorer" with his 47 years of age, there is Marco Klaus who will soon have played 200 games for Swiss XI and there is Jürg Niederberger who is currently at 238 games played for Swiss XI.

## CURRENT SEASON

I make a bold statement now, if we have all our players available every Sunday, then I bet we would have been in the running to take home the League Championship. However, Swiss XI being Swiss XI, we have more bankers than teachers and therefore, business trips or fancy

holidays are more a fact than an exception.

Therefore, we have to change the team squad weekly, which makes any kind of routine plays rather difficult. We finished last season in sixth spot while we are currently in seventh spot. However, the big highlight will be our Cup semi-final which we reached by beating German All-Stars (currently first in the league) and then (HKFC) Club Wanderers (currently second) with nice 3-1 and 3-0 wins. Support us, keep your fingers crossed so that we make it to the Cup Final.

To finish off, special thanks goes to all people involved in running the team, among a few, there are Marco Klaus and David Hanzl. A bigger thanks goes to our sponsors "UBS", "Swiss Sure" and "Ziggy's Fine Food", without them we would play naked (and nobody wants that).

THANKS TO ALL.

## 2ND SWISSCHAM OPEN 2015 GOLF TOURNAMENT



## Swiss School Committee



### **Tanja Lecher, President (as of January 1st, 2016)**

Tanja has been living in Hong Kong with her family since 2013 and joined the Swiss School Committee (SSC) in spring 2014. Her daughter is studying at German Swiss International School (GSIS). Among other duties she is responsible for the liaison with GSIS. For any inquiries she can be reached at [tanja.ssc.hk@gmail.com](mailto:tanja.ssc.hk@gmail.com).



### **Doris Spirig, Vice-President**

Doris has been living in Hong Kong since 2009 and joined the SSC in 2010. She has 3 young children, of which 2 are GSIS students. Doris is responsible for the liaison between the SSC and GSIS. Please feel free to contact her at [doris.spirig@gmail.com](mailto:doris.spirig@gmail.com) for any inquiries.



### **René Herrmann, Member**

Rene has been living in Hong Kong for over 17 years and a SSC member since 2008. His children Nadine and David were for six years students at GSIS and now finishing their secondary education at the Discovery College in Discovery Bay. As a former SSC president he is supporting the team in all matters until his resignation by the end of this school year. For any SSC related inquiry, please contact [rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com](mailto:rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com)



### **Marc Hediger, Member**

Marc has been living in Hong Kong with his family for over 15 years. His daughter is studying at French International School (FIS). Marc joined the SSC in summer 2015 and is responsible for the liaison between the SSC and FIS. For any inquiry about FIS, he can be reached at [marchediger@yahoo.com](mailto:marchediger@yahoo.com)



### **Veronika Schoeb Mezzanotte, Member**

Veronika has been living in Hong Kong with her family since 2011. Her son Lorenzo is a FIS student. Veronika joined the SSC in Summer 2014 and is responsible for the liaison with the FIS. For any inquiry about FIS, she can be reached at [vschoeb@yahoo.com](mailto:vschoeb@yahoo.com)



### **Bettina Blank, Member**

Bettina has been living in Hong Kong with her family since 2009. Her two daughters are both GSIS students. Bettina joined the SSC end of 2014 and is responsible for fundraising and related projects. She can be reached at [bettinablank@yahoo.com](mailto:bettinablank@yahoo.com)



### **Sandra Chawla-Gantenbein, Representative of the Swiss General Consulate**

Sandra has been Head of Chancery of the Swiss Consulate General in Hong Kong since August 2012. She is our link to the Swiss Government, assists us with the subsidy claims for the Swiss teachers and attends the meetings of the SSC regularly. Her two children attend GSIS. For any inquiries you can contact her by email: [csd@eda.admin.ch](mailto:csd@eda.admin.ch)

## Swiss School Committee

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.

The members of the SSC Hong Kong are in constant contact with Swiss teachers at the schools, school boards and parents' committees in order to provide the most possible amount of "Swissness"

at both, FIS and GSIS. The SSC is as well overseeing the privilege of priority admittance at either the French and French bilingual stream at FIS and the German stream at GSIS.

If you have any questions, comments or if you need help or advice regarding admittance, school choice, compatibility between Swiss and International curriculums, you can contact one of the members of the Swiss School Committee at any time.



*GSIS Abitur Graduates, photo taken on 23 March, 2015*

*(from left to right)*

*Cedric Gröbsch*

*Clara Wiest*

*James Lüthi*

*Renée Villiger*

*Julia Weschke*

### SSC Event: Raclette booth at GSIS Bazaar 2015

**Tanya Lecher**

As in previous years, Inge and Stefan Herzog's Raclette booth at GSIS's famous Christmas bazaar was the winner of "most popular attraction of the event"! Prominently located on the rooftop of GSIS new middle building, nobody went by without getting his or her cheese-fix.

The team of 27 volunteers was dressed up in Swiss national colors and sold over 200kg of cheese on 7 Raclette ovens. The queues were long, but it was worth the wait!



## SSC Events



### Meet & Greet Family Beach Event Shek'O Beach

**Tanja Lecher**

The traditional and very popular SAHK event was held again at Shek'O beach. Over 140 participants joined and we had to rent additional BBQ's to accommodate everybody.



In addition to great fun, delicious food and drinks, the SSC organized a raffle to raise funds for the French International School's Mobile IT-Lab.

Thanks to very generous contributions of attractive prizes by a large number of sponsors; the event was a huge success: The SSC was able to hand over a check over HK\$31,000



From left: Reto Renggli, Swiss Consul General, Christian Souldard, Proviseur, Lycée Français International



From left: Marc Hediger and Veronika Schoeb Mezzanotte, members and FIS liaison between FIS and SSC, Reto Renggli, Swiss Consul General, Christian Souldard, Proviseur, Lycée Français International, Rebecca IP, Executive Director, Arnaud de Surville, President of the Executive Committee FIS





## Swiss School Teachers



**Priska Erni, Deputy Head of German Primary at German Swiss International School**

Priska arrived in Hong Kong in August 2013 to work as primary teacher at GSIS Campus in Wan Chai. Soposition of Deputy Head of GSIS Primary Department. Together with the Swiss School Committee she's bringing on she took over more responsibilities and was officially promoted to the more Swiss culture and "Swissness" to GSIS students



**Flavian Züger, Head of History, History and English Teacher at German Swiss International School**

Flavian joined the German Swiss International School in August 2014 at the Peak Campus. He teaches History in bilingual classes and English in the German Secondary Department. Aside from that, he is Class Teacher of class K09A. As Head of History he is responsible for the support of the Head of Department, to ensure good professional practice and to maintain high standards of teaching and learning.



**Erika Dell'Orto, Head of Art, Art Teacher, "Deutsch als Fremdsprache, DaF" Teacher and Religion Teacher at German Swiss International School**

Erika has been teaching at GSIS since 1981. She has many responsibilities and is working in both the English and German stream. During the subject "Schweizer Landeskunde", which is taking up two weekly lessons, students are learning all about Swiss geography, national sports, instruments, political structure and culture.



**Murielle Quenzer, Primary Teacher at French International School**

Murielle joined the French International School in September 2014 at the newly inaugurated Hung Hom site. For one year she was responsible for a class of CE1 (Primary 3) in the French section. In September 2015 she joined the Jardine's Lookout Campus as a French teacher in the bilingual section (CE1). She holds bi-monthly meeting for the Swiss French children at FIS.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS OF THE SWISS SCHOOL COMMITTEE**



**Swiss International Airlines, Migros Hong Kong Ltd, EpiJoy, King Ludwig, HK Breadbox, Island Shangri-La, The Mira Hong Kong, Lanson Place, Kaegi, Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong.**

**Thank you all for the generous anonymous contributions as well!!**

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# **GSIS CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**

For more information about GSIS and the Campus Development, please contact the GSIS Development Office via email at [development@gsis.edu.hk](mailto:development@gsis.edu.hk).



[www.gsis.edu.hk](http://www.gsis.edu.hk)

# Membership Form

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mobile Nr. (one number only) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mandatory

**OR**

**APPLY ONLINE : [www.swiss-hk.com/join](http://www.swiss-hk.com/join)**

## Membership Fees

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

HK\$ 250.00 for individuals

HK\$ 450.00 for couples

I / We would be interested to  
participate in committee work  
help organizing events, e.g. Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Claus, etc.

## Payment

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

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Hong Kong

Website: [www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com)

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