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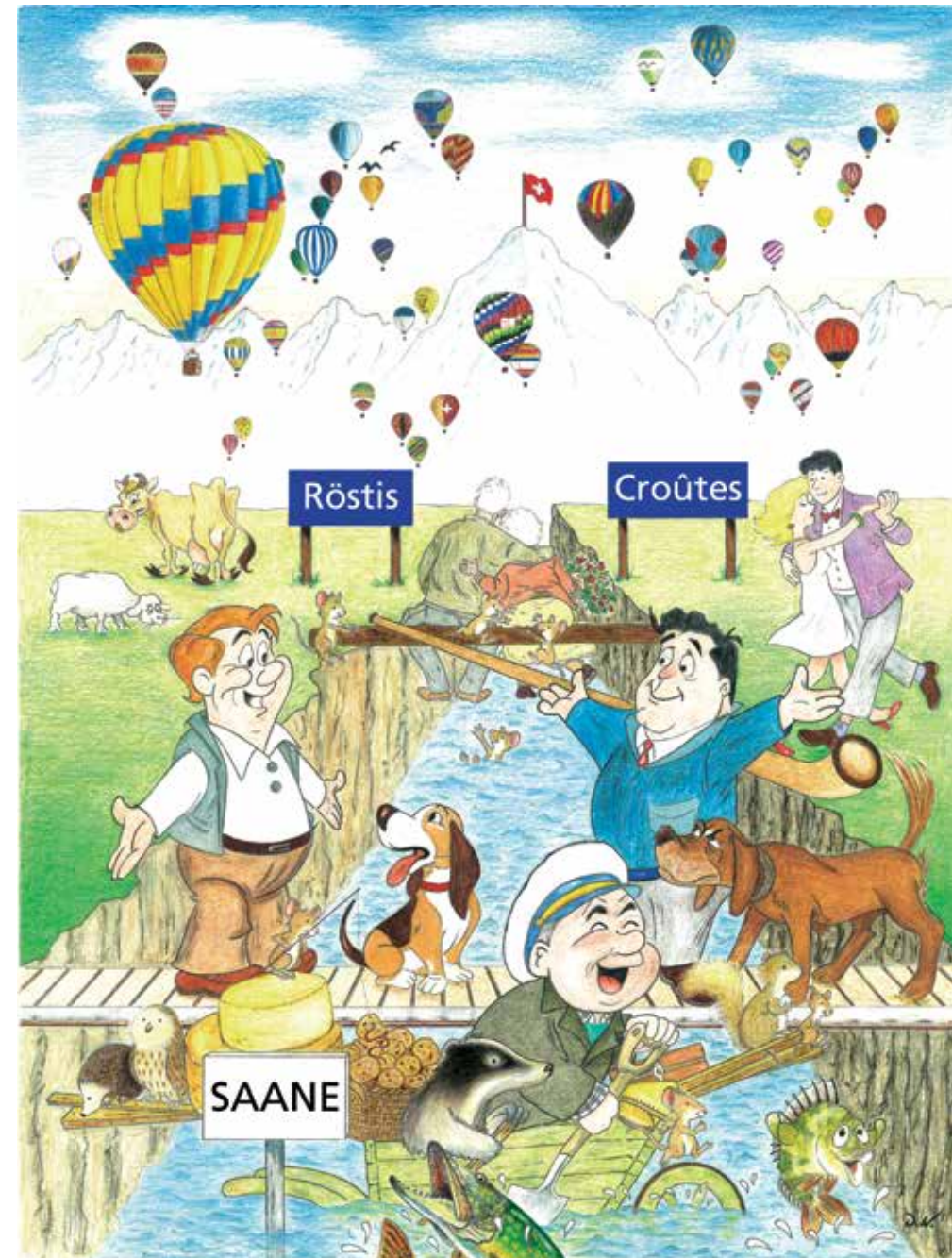
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Cover and Drawing by Daniel Wettling

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Message from the President

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

We are very proud and happy to present you with your personal copy of the 136th edition of the s'Alphorn magazine. What makes the Swiss Association of Hong Kong so unique and enjoyable is without a doubt the numerous and various events organized throughout the year, whether it is the traditional Raclette in the Park or Family BBQ with Santa Claus, the Dragon Boat or Sedan Chair races, a relaxing junk boat trip, the informal coffee mornings and, of course, our signature event, the celebration of the Swiss National Day. Please enjoy reading this magazine and reliving some of the most memorable happenings of the past year. You will hopefully also get inspired to attend more events in the future. The event coordinator team is working very hard to organize these opportunities to socialize among the Swiss and friends of Switzerland, and they will be looking forward to seeing many happy faces attending these events.

This year is a very special year for us, as the Swiss Association of Hong Kong is celebrating its 70th anniversary. What started on June 30, 1948 with thirty-one Swiss nationals attending the 1st Annual General Meeting at the office of Ciba (China) Ltd, has now grown into an organization of more than 400 members. As the number of members is rising, so is the work involved, and we are always looking for members who want to become more actively involved, be it as a committee member or future president, or helping out at individual events throughout the year. Please reach out to any of our committee members (see page 8) if you are interested in a more active role. We are also constantly improving our website (www.swiss-hk.com), so please check it out regularly for updates on events, blogs and pictures of past events and other useful information. Registration for events, updating membership details etc has never been easier, as (nearly) everything can be done online.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all parties that make it possible to offer more than 70 events a year to our members, especially to the committee members and event coordinator team. A very special thank you also goes to our generous sponsors, without your help we would not be able to continue the long tradition of publishing this s'Alphorn. I also look forward to the continuing co-operation and support from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong as well as the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

And I wish to say a very special thank you very much in advance to all the members and guests for your active participation and support in this special 70th anniversary year.

On behalf of the committee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong
Roland Jossi, President 2018/2019



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**Nicolaj
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Lecher**
Swiss School
Committee



**Pietro
Immordino**
SAHK 70th Anniversary
Chairman
IT Co-ordinator(interim)



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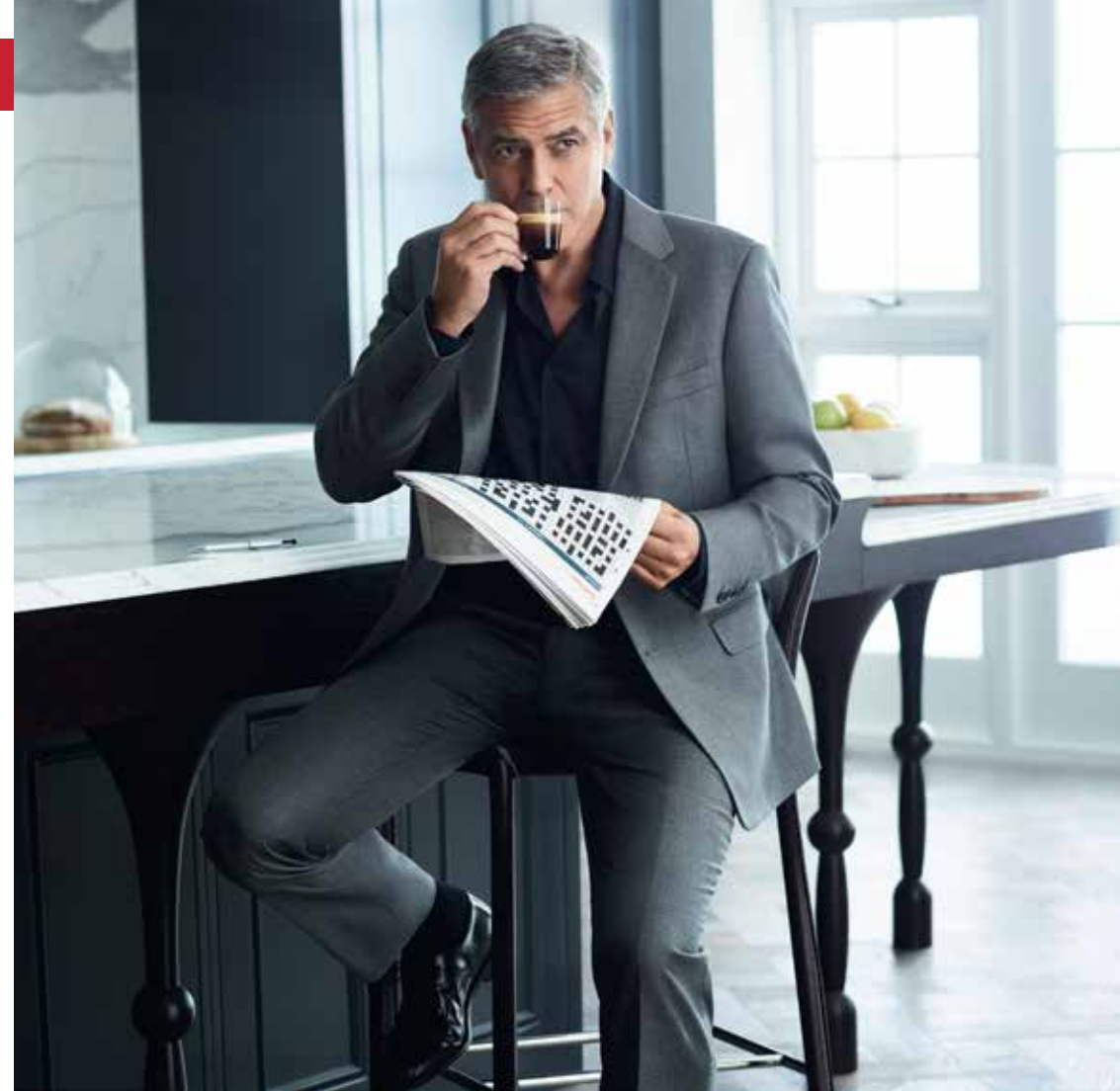
The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) serves as a focal point for the local Swiss community to socialize, foster friendships, conduct business networking, and meet and engage in activities of common interest.

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

Jazz evenings, 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 Swiss and Swiss related residents of Hong Kong. To find out more, email us at info@swiss-hk.com or visit our website at www.swiss-hk.com



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What else?



Nicolaj Kundert Jensen

I was born in Greenland to a Swiss mother and a Danish father, and subsequently grew up in Denmark.

Although I toured Switzerland as a child during school holidays, I first really got to know Switzerland by myself when I grew a bit older and moved there to complete my military service in Andermatt. Quite a unique and eye-opening experience for someone speaking only few words of German at the time, but I learned a great deal from it. Following stints in Madrid, Amsterdam and London, my family and I settled in Geneva, before eventually moving to Hong Kong in 2016.

I first visited Hong Kong in 2002, en route to visit my in laws in Shanghai for the first time, and have come to appreciate its unique history and intensity. Since moving here, my family and I have made a concerted effort to explore all the different corners of Hong Kong. We enjoy the diversity of a city with such a small footprint, the food, the mix of Asian and Western cultures, the convenience, the beaches, the mountains and of course all the different people who come here, all of which makes Hong Kong a fantastic place to live and work.

I am an Economist by training, and work in Business Development and M&A throughout the Asia region. I am married to Yi Zhou and together we have a 4 year old daughter, Isabelle.

I look forward to connecting with everyone and supporting the Swiss community in Hong Kong.

New Organiser



Raffael Morger
Jassen Club Organiser

About four years ago, my love to my future wife Lorraine as well as a job opportunity within Credit Suisse brought me to Hong Kong. We are having a wonderful time here, enjoying the city life and its country parks where we go hiking or paragliding.

I am looking forward to host the monthly Jassen and wish this event continues to be a fun evening open for jassen friends of all generations.



Simona Rusnak Schmid
Ladies Night Organiser

When did she arrive in Hong Kong?

She arrived in September 2016 with some of her family

What other activities keep her busy?

Tutoring Mathematics in the GSIS German Stream

What are her hobbies?

Wheelchair tennis, swimming, reading and listening to music

When and why did she volunteer for SAHK?

She is a new organiser and started in 2017. She enjoys meeting friends from the SAHK during the monthly Ladies Night.

Catherine Solioz
Coffee Morning Organiser

Organiser since 2017



DRAGON BOAT

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

Swiss Benevolent Society Committee



Tobias Brandner
President



Silvan Colani
Hon. Treasurer



Renate Leung
Vice President



Angelina Bussinger
Hon. Secretary



Werner Heimgartner
Vice President



Barbara Hemmi Verburg
Member

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 : tobias.brandner@swiss-hk.com



Other Swiss Associations



Gabriel Mallet
President

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (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 gabriel.mallet@swisschamhk.org



Thomas Müller
Hong Kong Representative

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

www.aso.ch

aso@swiss-hk.com



Alexander Luedi
President

Swiss Rifle Association

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

www.srahk.com

rifle_association@swiss-hk.com



Peter Klaus
Honorary President

Swiss XI

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

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

jniederberger@silverhornadvisors.com



Jürg Niederberger
Vice President



Annual General Meeting

The 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) followed by the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong (SBS) was held at the **Ladies Recreation Club** on **Thursday, 22nd March, 2018**.

The quorum of 52 members of the SAHK was met, hence the meeting was declared to commence.

Tobias Luedin, the outgoing president of the SAHK, welcomed Consul General Reto Renggli, all members and guests to the event.

The meeting agenda was as follows:

- Approval of last year's SAHK minutes, SAHK/SSC president reports and audited accounts as well as the election of the the new committee.
- The traditional Cow Bell Handover from **Tobias Luedin** to **Roland Jossi**, the newly elected president.
- **Pietro Immordino** spoke about the 70th Anniversary Celebration preparation and requested help from all members for ideas, sponsorship as well as media contacts
- **Thomas Müller**, Hong Kong Representative of ASO gave an update of the ASO congress
- Approval of SBS minutes and their accounts read

The audience gave a warm applause to the new president, **Roland Jossi**, and the SAHK committee for their much appreciated efforts made last year.

Roland Jossi, on behalf of SAHK Committee presented a Thank You Gift to **Tobias Luedin** for his dedication and hard work.

We thank all who participated in the AGM meeting either in person or by proxy.



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Recap of 95th ASO Congress in Basel

Thomas Müller

Hong Kong Representative

aso@swiss-hk.com



Dear SAHK Members,

From 18th to 20th August 2017 the Council and Congress of the Swiss Abroad took place in Basel and I would like to briefly report about the main topics discussed.

ASO Elections

The Council met for the first time after the elections and about 50% of the members are new. Also the Board and Committee had to be elected/re-elected for the next 4-year term (2017-2021) and these proceedings took up most of the morning and not without controversy as for the first time Germany has no representative in the Committee (France, Italy, UK, USA, Canada and Asia are on the Board). Two countries (Mexico and Australia) elected their representatives via E-voting.

E-Voting

At the time of the Congress, 8 Cantons provide the possibility to vote electronically. E-Voting remains an important point on the agenda of ASO with the ultimate goal that all Swiss living abroad will be able to vote electronically.

Swiss Banking for Swiss living abroad

This is an on-going topic that the ASO continuously pursues through various political avenues, however, still without satisfactory results. On a positive note, it seems that several banks have re-evaluated their positions and are now again open to offer full banking services to Swiss living abroad. Without the intend to make any promotions, I would like to mention BCGE Banque Cantonal de Genève that entered a partnership with ASO and offers all banking services without any minimum capital requirements. Also, ZKB Zürcher Kantonalbank is again actively



acquiring customers in the Swiss community abroad (however, they have a minimum hurdle rate). Should any SHAK member wish to receive further information, I am happy to put them in touch with the representatives of these two banks.

AHV 2020

After an organised debate with contradictory views regarding the forthcoming popular vote about the retirement provision 2020, a majority of the Council was in favour of this reform.

The Congress (on Saturday, 19th August)

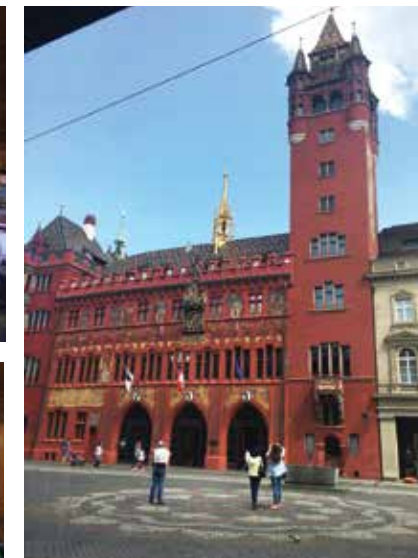
Highlights were the entertaining introductory speech by our Internal Minister, Mr. Alain Berset; a statistical analysis of how the Swiss living abroad vote compared to the voting results of their home canton and inspiring presentations by the Director of Switzerland Tourism and the President of SJAS (Foundation of Young Swiss Abroad – a foundation that financially supports Young Swiss to travel to SJAS Youth Camps) as both Organisations celebrated their 100th Year Anniversary in 2017.

ASO Agenda 2018

Following are some of the main ASO topics for this year

- Banking
- E-Voting: Opportunities and Risks
- Automatic Exchange of Information
- Representativeness of the ASO
- Promotion and stronger integration of Youth into ASO (i.e. cooperation with YPSA – Youth Parliament of Swiss Abroad)

The next ASO Congress will be take place in Visp from 10th to 12th August 2018.



All photos contributed by Thomas Müller

Alumni Chapters of Swiss Universities in Hong Kong

University of Zurich

UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong



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

University of St. Gallen (HSG)



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

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

ETH Alumni Chapter Hong Kong



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

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 2017

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Sevens Jass Evening
- Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Dance Amaze Workshop



May 2017

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



June 2017

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Coffee Morning
- Ladies Night
- Evening Junk Outing
- Switzerland meets HK
- Swiss Regional Studies
- Historical Walk (Central)



July 2017

- Swiss Jass Evening



August 2017

- Swiss Jass Evening
- Swiss National Day Celebration



September 2017

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

Events of the year



October 2017

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Ladies Night
- Melchterli Cup 2017
- Night at the Races
- Swiss Alumni Event 2017
- Sedan Chair Race 2017



November 2017

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Coffee Morning
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Ladies Night
- Visit to T Park
- Evening Junk Outing



December 2017

- Xmas Coffee Morning
- N Korea 20th Century Propaganda Posters guided tour
- Xmas Charity Luncheon
- Family BBQ with Santa Claus 2017
- Claus Jass Evening



January 2018

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



February 2018

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Ladies Night



March 2018

- Joint Monthly Luncheon
- Swiss Jass Evening
- Ladies Night
- Raclette in the Park
- 70th SAHK AGM & 46th SBS AGM



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Zürich meets Hong Kong A Festival of Two Cities

Article and photos contributed by

Andreas Rufer

Deputy Consul General of Switzerland in Hong Kong



Regardless of whether you went shopping at Times Square or K11, visited the Hong Kong Science Museum, went to the cinema or the theatre last October, it was almost impossible not to catch a glimpse of Zürich. The city of Zürich presented itself during the festival **Zürich meets Hong Kong – A Festival of Two Cities** in different venues across Hong Kong throughout the last 10 days of October 2017.

Zürich meets Hong Kong – A Festival of Two Cities was part of a global celebration series connecting Zürich with other cities in the world in a productive dialogue. The festival offered more than 30 events presenting the arts and culture, science and technology, business and education and food & lifestyle of Zürich and Hong Kong. The goal was to strengthen existing and to build new relationships between the two cities as well as providing a platform for exchange and innovation. The main presenters of the festival were the City of Zürich, the Canton of Zürich and Zürich Tourism, who worked closely together with their partners, the University of Zürich, ETH Zürich, Zürich University of the Arts and Zürich University of Applied Sciences. The Swiss Consulate General played the role of co-organizer and connector.



We organized a broad variety of events and wanted to have something for everyone, such as art exhibitions, concerts, performances, workshops, academic conferences and dialogues between city administrations.



The Festival Hub at Times Square in Causeway Bay presented the different events and Zürich to the broader public. The Festival was inaugurated by Mrs. Corine Mauch, Mayor of Zürich, Mrs. Carmen Walker Späh, State Councilor, Mr. Guglielmo Brentel, President of Zürich Tourism, as well as Consul General Reto Renggli and Ms. Michelle Lee, Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Hong Kong Administrative Region. Prior to the official opening, Zürich-based jazz/blues singer and songwriter Brandy Butler enchanted the audience with several dazzling songs from her repertoire.



One of the highlights of the festival was **Birdly** the full-body flight simulator that was presented by the Zürich University of the Arts at the Hong Kong Science Museum. For one week, the young and old alike could experience the feeling of flying like a bird. The creator of **Birdly**, Max Rheiner and his colleague from ETH Zürich, Robert Sumner, gave a talk about the fascinating topics of Augmented and Virtual Reality.

We also took this great opportunity to raise awareness of the **Swiss dual-track vocational and professional education**. In doing so, a half day conference took place at Credit Suisse. Speakers from Switzerland and the Hong Kong Vocational Training shared knowledge and expertise in this field of higher education. The Hong Kong government has observed the Swiss VPET system closely for the last few years and is trying to implement the key mechanism of this Swiss success.

In regards to this topic, not only did we have the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor of Winterthur and his team but the Hong Kong Government has already attended the biennial VPET congress in Winterthur twice.



Artists-in-Labs is an artistic research program initiated by the Zürich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Its aim is to link artists with scientists in order for both sides to explore their research from different perspectives. Artists go into residence in a scientific lab (e.g. CERN) and work together with a designated scientist. Hong Kong visual

artist Chi-Yung Wong is currently a participant of the program. Wong and Irene Hediger, the program manager from Zürich, presented the initiative and the work of the artist. Due to this artistic event, a future collaboration between ZHdK and the Kowloon West Cultural District has been established. We can definitely expect a wide variety of programs in the field of art and science in the near future.

On the bilateral side, we organized a conference on **Smart Cities** with the Hong Kong government. Both parties shared their experience and explored fields in which Zurich and Hong Kong can work closely together to make our already advanced cities more attractive and sustainable in the coming years.



Another noteworthy highlight was the **Gala Dinner**, which Mayor Mauch hosted at Sky 100, was attended by our special guest, the Honorable Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR. The dinner was a perfect platform to hold various in-depth discussions about the bilateral



relations between the two cities and as a result of this, Mayor Mauch invited Mrs. Carrie Lam to Zürich during her Switzerland trip in January 2018. We are thankful that due to the festival, a high-level dialogue between politicians from both cities took place.

The festival overall was a wonderful experience for all with great value for the Greater Zürich Area and the Swiss Consulate. Existing relationships were strengthened and new possibilities for future collaborations were found. Lastly, the Greater Zürich Area and thus Switzerland has gained greater visibility overall in Hong Kong. If you are curious to see the full lineup of events, you can still visit <http://www.zurichmeetshongkong.org>

The festival **Zürich meets Hong Kong** may be a thing of the past but you can

definitely expect exciting and upcoming public diplomacy programs in 2018. In mentioning a few, The European Film festival with the opening of the Swiss film **The Divine Order** (Die Göttliche Ordnung) starts on 1 March, followed by **Anna Karenina**, performed by the Zurich Opera, in the framework of the Hong Kong Arts Festival, a classical performance by the **Verbier Orchestra**, a fascinating photo exhibition by Walter Bosshard and many others. To stay tuned, please sign up to our newsletter and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.





Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce Country Briefing Series: Switzerland Invest Switzerland, November 6, 2017

Dear Reader,

Would there be a more important decision in a globalized world than choosing where to locate and develop your business to reach new markets? Usually, this decision is of utmost importance to local Hong Kong small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during their global 'expansion' phase.

Last year saw the birth of investment & location promotion services to Switzerland at the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) in Hong Kong. Although widely available in different hubs around the world, this new strategy was introduced as the potential for Hong Kong SMEs to relocate and set up HQ offices overseas continued to grow.

As part of its responsibility from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the cantons, the SBH in Hong Kong alongside Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) provides potential Hong Kong investors and SMEs with information about the particular strengths and operating conditions of Switzerland as a business location. The services for Hong Kong companies also include a thorough assessment of the potential of their projects before they are presented and submitted to the different cantons.

The SBH Hong Kong assists the various cantons with the relocation of Hong Kong companies, providing market trend analysis and full coordination of the activities of all the bodies involved in the promotion of Switzerland as a business location. Since commencement of this particular service, SBH Hong Kong has already assisted 3 local SME prospects with a further 2 in the pipeline.

When considering an overseas setup, a country's capacity for innovation is one of the main fueling factors of the eventual performance of your business. In this regards, Switzerland has been ranked the world's most innovative country for 7 consecutive years. There are numerous wonderful things that our country has to offer when it comes down to setting up a business. Through a series of different events and workshops in 2018, the SBH Hong Kong aims to create awareness of why Switzerland should be your next business location.

A business friendly climate, well developed infrastructure and political stability are also essential considerations and lends certainty to planning a new business location. Also, a high standard of living makes it much easier to recruit a talented and reliable workforce. Switzerland, as a unique business location, offers all this and more.

Some noteworthy trends and opportunities for local Hong Kong SME's that are considering investment to Switzerland in 2018 include cryptocurrency trading and the various fields of Fintech. The reason for this being that even as other countries around the world have banned bitcoin or are restricting the currently-booming cryptocurrency's effect on the economy through regulatory structures and restrictions, Switzerland has done the opposite and rolled out a luxurious red carpet. Last year saw Switzerland's bank regulator Finma approve a license for a Zurich based Falcon private bank to

establish a bitcoin asset management offering.

Switzerland's Zug region has also been dubbed globally as the 'Crypto-Valley' for its cryptocurrency-friendly regulations and booming Fintech innovation ecosystem. Our country is also marketing itself as a central point for initial coin offerings or ICOs as well as integrating cryptocurrencies into mainstream applications, for example, citizens in the municipality of Chiasso can now pay their taxes with bitcoin and passengers on the national rail system SBB can buy the digital currency from station kiosks.

Looking to set up your European HQ? Got any questions? Know a friend who is looking for investment opportunities abroad? Get in touch, always happy to help.



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Timeline Review - Milestones and Significant Events of the SAHK

1948

Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) founded by Mr. Walter Naef.

1949

Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) was incorporated.

1960

SAHK Cowbell donated by Swissair. From 1960 onwards, SAHK President's name of each year engraved on the Cowbell.



1964

First edition of s'Alphorn magazine published.

1970

The Swiss Golf Classic of Hong Kong, famous until today as "Melchterli Cup" had its "Premiere" in 1970. It was held at Shek O Golf and Country Club. 17 golfers participated and R. Gujer won the trophy. Four ladies participated and were placed within the top six.

1971

First open-air National Day celebration, with a view of the harbour and a huge bonfire, attended by 220 participants.

1972

First Crossbow contest between the Gurkha team of the Royal Hong Kong Signals on-site and the team of Swiss Signals Corps in Hasle Ruegsau in Switzerland was organised. It was operated and controlled via telex-satellite link. Also in 1972, SAHK & SBS split into 2 separate entities.

1974

First female editor for s'Alphorn Mrs. Annamarie Peyer.

1982

Swiss Rifle Club founded.

1985

First female President Mrs. Ruth von Siebenthal-Hung.

1991

Swiss Day Event on **22nd June 1991** in celebration of the 700th year anniversary of the Swiss Federal Charter of 1291. First mega Swiss event that took one year in preparation and attended by over 5,000 people at Sha Tin Racecourse. Credit to both Mr. Felix Bieger (SAHK President 1990/1991) and Mr. Fritz Sommerau (SAHK President 1991/1992) for making this event a big success.

2000

SAHK website officially launched on Jan 1st, 2000. Mr. Philipp Spielhofer, SAHK web master, created and launched www.swiss-hk.com

SAHK COWBELL - A Closer Look

The Swiss Cowbell was sponsored by Swissair and given to the Swiss Association of Hong Kong in 1960.

Starting 1960, the name of the SAHK president of each year has been engraved on the metallic plate attached to the Cowbell leather collar. It is presented to the new president during the AGM, to be kept with him/her for one year until the next AGM for the next elected president.

For the year 1960 & 1961 and year 1996 & 1997, the same president served for two years instead of one year.

With the help from Consul Reto Läderach, the names of the presidents from 1948 - 1960 have been retrieved from the archives in Bern. They are listed below as follows:

1948-1949 : Walter Naef (Ciba-China)

1949-1950: H. O. Mauerhofer (Siber Hegner)

1950-1952 : Max E. Gavin (U. Spalinger & Co)

1952-1953: Rudolf Zindel (Arnhold Trading Co Ltd.)

1953-1954: Erich Zulauf (U. Spalinger & Co)

1954-1955: Oskar Güttinger (Jardine Engineering Corp.)

1955-1956: Erich Zulauf (U. Spalinger & Co)

1956-1957: Erich Gilbert Brüstlein (Shira China Ltd)

1957-1958: Max Haefeli (Anker B. Henningsen)

1958-1959: Heinz B. Vischer (Swiss-Re-Advisors Ltd)

1959-1960: Paul Blattmann (Ciba China)

1960-1961: Fredy Bertschinger (Siber Hegner)



Fondest Memories of previous SAHK Presidents



Mr. Felix Bieger
SAHK President, Year 1990/1991

*My year of presidency was the year before **Switzerland's 700th anniversary** and Fritz Sommerau was the Vice President then.*

*Together with Fritz Sommerau, the planning of **Switzerland's 700th anniversary** celebration in June 1991 was the highlight of my year as SAHK President.*



Mr. Fritz Sommerau
SAHK President
Year 1991/1992

*The year we celebrated **Switzerland's 700th anniversary** was in the summer of 1991 and that was the year I was the President of the Swiss Association.*

I was very fortunate to have the goodwill and generosity of Gen. Guy Watkins, CEO of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club who permitted the use of the Sha Tin Racecourse facilities.

As it turned out we had a great day with an attendance of around 5,000 guests, young and old, and the support from many Swiss companies who brought along their local employees to enjoy a real taste of Switzerland was exemplary.

The different activity groups and alumni within the SAHK, from the Swiss Elevens to the Riffle Association and the Alumni of Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne, worked together as a team. Among all the generous company sponsors, SWISSAIR was the most outstanding in providing us with a Hot Air Balloon in addition to other wonderful prizes. The Hot Air Balloon was a historical first for Hong Kong.

Needless to say, the preparatory work for this mega event commenced a year in advance under the leadership of President Felix Bieger and I was fortunate to have his trust and support to be his VP.

We had an incredible year in 1991 with monthly activities connected to our roots as you can see from the program and s'Alphorn reports. Artist including folklore groups etc were invited to Hong Kong.

Fondest Memories of previous SAHK Presidents



We also had a formal Ballroom Dinner at the Regent Hotel, renowned as one of Hong Kong's most prestigious hotels at that time.

The most memorable moments for me was the excellent turnout and support from the Swiss community on our Swiss Day at the Sha Tin Racecourse, even with some adversity with the weather and the midsummer heat.

We had food stalls, quick service restaurants all operated by the EHL alumni and a fine dining restaurant. The best selling item on the menu was the grilled cervelat produced by the butcher at the HKJC. This item was sold in the following racing season and became the best seller. Lining them up the 1992/93 racing season's total production would have covered the full length of the road from Sha Tin Racecourse to Happy Valley Race course!



Mr. Stefan Herzog
SAHK President
Year 1999/2000

The website was officially launched on January 1st, 2000. This besides many other happy occasions was certainly my most memorable happening during my presidency. Having said that, credit for the launch of the website does not go to me but to my old friend in Switzerland, Philipp Spielhofer, who created and successfully launched it.

His own introduction in the "s'Alphorn 115" issued in Dec. 2000 could be found on the SAHK website.

Traditionally the SAHK had always a "Sports Coordinator" on its committee. During my presidency it was decided not to fill that position and to have it replaced with a Webmaster. We were lucky having Philipp Spielhofer, an extremely talented "Computer Freak" who took over the task and did a great job.



Mr. Philipp Spielhofer
SAHK Webmaster, 1999

Please visit www.swiss-hk.com/blog for more about Philipp Spielhofer

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) was founded in 1948, a few years after the war. The main objective of the association was to help the Swiss residents in Hong Kong in financial difficulties.

The SAHK is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers since it was established in 1948. Fast forward 69 years later and as the SAHK reaches its 70th year, we are thankful to all who have contributed and helped the SAHK arrive where it is today.

All past and current committee members and volunteers have supported the SAHK with their time, ideas and energy and not receiving any compensation. The only rewards being their gained experience and the yearly thank-you dinner.

The culture of helping the needy has always been a core value of the SAHK. 30% of the membership fees is donated to the Swiss Benevolent Society, which supports any Swiss in need of financial help.

The SAHK also cares about the local community and practices giving back to society. Each year the SAHK raises funds for donation to a different charity which helps the various disadvantaged groups in Hong Kong.

The 70th anniversary is a special milestone for the SAHK and we have already lined up some activities (see next page). Nonetheless, we still need your help to make this a memorable year. Please support the SAHK and reach out to us if you have any ideas for e.g. events, help to reach out to sponsors and/or media contacts. Thank you!



Pietro Immordino
SAHK 70th Anniversary Chairman

We need your help!
Your ideas, e.g. for events
Your contacts, e.g. to media outlets or sponsorships
Your active participation, e.g. celebration committee
Contact: sahk-70@swiss-hk.com

Planned Activities for the 70th Anniversary Celebration

Revised LOGO

The SAHK Logo was last changed in 1997 when Hong Kong became a Special Administration Region of China. For the 70th Anniversary Celebration we have updated our logo. We have added “since 1948” to highlight and be proud of the history of our Association. This change will remain. To help with the calculation of how old the SAHK has become, we have also added “70 years” on the top right-hand side of the logo. This line will be removed next year after the AGM.



70th ANNIVERSARY PINS for all members and guests

We also have produced 70th Anniversary Pins for all members and guests of our events. The first batch of pins was distributed to the AGM participants.



Planned Upcoming 70th Year Activities

- 1st August Swiss National Day incl. 70th Celebration at Conrad Hotel in Admiralty
- Photo Contest for the SAHK Website
- The 70 Year History of the SAHK

Look out for the event emails send to our members.

You are not a member yet?

Join us by going to <https://www.swiss-hk.com/join> or by completing the membership form on page 66.

Monthly Jass Evening



Jass Champion 2017 Leo Doerig
with Raffael Morger

Year 2017
Top 6 x

Name	Sum of Result	Count of Participation
1 Leo Doerig	18,417	6
2 Adrian Ort	18,084	6
3 Werner Schlossmacher	17,784	6
4 Raffael Morger	17,751	6
5 Erich Spirgi	17,644	6
6 Stella Seeholzer	17,478	6
7 Tobias Muster	17,417	6
8 Philippe Zurcher	17,401	6
9 Angela Koechli	17,303	6
10 Thomas Thalmann	17,231	6
11 Felix Bieger	17,110	6
12 Bruno von Siebenthal	17,093	6
13 Christian Seeholzer	16,918	6
14 Lukas Peyer	16,593	6
15 Ivo Kurath	16,570	6
16 Oliver Seeholzer	16,113	6
17 Peter Glaus	15,984	6
18 Thomas Burkhalter	14,553	5
19 Roland Seeholzer	14,365	5
20 Peter Frauchiger	14,130	5

Results from 21 - 65 are uploaded on the SAHK website,
www.swiss-hk.com, SAHK Blog



Chlaus Jasser Photo



Historical Walk
in Central



Night at the Race



Bowling Night



Christmas Coffee Morning

Evening Junk



North-Korea's Public Face

20th Century Propaganda Posters from the Zellweger Collection
guided tour at the Hong Kong University & Art Gallery Museum
Barbara Hemmi



About 25 members joined the private tour led by Katharina Zellweger, the Swiss owner of the propaganda poster collection. Katharina Zellweger, a North Korea scholar and Stanford fellow, was invited by the historic HKU Art Museum to show her collection. These state-commissioned posters promote 'correct' forms of social realism and document the socio-political and economic policies communicated from the leader to the North Koreans. With her exhibition Katharina Zellweger hopes to make a small contribution towards fostering a better understanding of a country which little is still known. She personally led the tour and the chance to ask further questions provided the participating members with a rare glimpse into North Korea.



Meet & Greet Family BBQ at Shek O Beach



Please visit www.swiss-hk.com/blog for more SAHK events photos

Swiss National Day Celebrations



Swiss National Day Celebrations



Swiss National Day Celebrations



42 Please visit www.swiss-hk.com/blog for more Swiss National Day dinner photos

Swiss National Day Celebrations



Please visit www.swiss-hk.com/blog for more Swiss National Day dinner photos

Christmas Charity Luncheon 2017



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 the Swiss Association of Hong Kong, Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Consulate General of Switzerland and Swiss International Air Lines
- * All who participated in the event

44 Please visit www.swiss-hk.com/blog for more Swiss National Day dinner photos



Please refer to pages 51 & 68, more about the speaker and the charity, The Samaritans.

Family BBQ with Santa Chlaus 2017



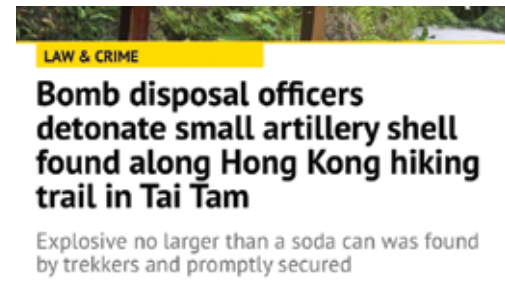
Family BBQ with Santa Chlaus 2017



New Year Cocktail 2018



Raclette in the Park 2018





Guest Speaker: Mr. Florian Trento
Group Executive Chef of The Peninsula Hotels

3rd April 2017

A Swiss and his journey as the gastronomic global champion for the Peninsula Hotel Group

Mr. Trento shared his insights on the current trends, the implemented hotel's initiatives since he took the helm, and an in-depth look into the Peninsula's history, outlets and the challenges



Guest Speaker: Mr. Patrick Fung
CEO, Clean Air Network

8th May 2017

Imagine an healthy and wealthy city - an air pollution perspective in Hong Kong

Clean Air Network, as the local voice for better air quality, addressed the issue by illustrating the causes, consequences and what the public, corporates and government should react.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Antoine Blondeau
Co-founder and Chairman of Sentient Technologies

5th June 2017

Artificial Intelligence is not a technology, it is the future. What is real, what is not, and where are we headed?

Mr. Blondeau discussed separate hype from reality, fact from fiction and extrapolate from current developments to what an AI-enabled future will look like.



Guest Speaker: Mrs. Kathryn Shih
President APAC of UBS

4th September 2017

Impacts and Opportunities for Banks with Fintech

As the regional leader of the world's largest wealth manager, Mrs. Shih spoke about the impact of fintech and opportunities for banks with fintech.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges
GBS JP, CEO, The Hong Kong Jockey Club

9th October 2017

The Hong Kong Jockey Club – a world class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society

Mr. Engelbrecht-Bresges shared the Club's journey to world class racing, its purpose of acting continuously for the betterment of our society, and the core values that drive its conservation of art in HK.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Derek Kwik
Managing Partner, Bravesoldier Ventures Capital

6th November 2017

500 trips to Shenzhen - Entrepreneur or Wantrepreneur

Mr. Kwik shared his experience of his highest highs and lowest lows from investing in entrepreneurs to building confidence in our youth by writing a children's book, to running across the Amazon jungle for the benefit of animal welfare while managing hamburger fee.



Guest Speaker: Mr. Martin Sabine
ex Chairman, The Samaritans

4th December 2017

The role of the Samaritans in combating suicide in Hong Kong

The Samaritans, originally founded in the UK, was established in Hong Kong in the 1970s. The Samaritans aims to alleviate human misery and loneliness as well as supporting the actively and potentially suicidal mainly through a confidential 24-hour hotline.

Please refer to pages 45 & 68 for more



Guest Speaker: Mr. Jean-Louis Nakamura
Chief Investment Officer, Asia Pacific and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, Lombard Odier Group.

8th January 2018

An update on our market views for 2018

Mr. Nakamura explained why he believes 2018 should be a broad continuation of 2017 with reasonable dynamic growth, contained inflation and still abundant liquidity, even as major central banks withdraw their monetary support and equity valuations seem stretched compared to historical levels.

Joint Monthly Luncheons



Guest Speaker: Mr. Raymond Lo
Fung Shui Master

5th February 2018
Fung Shui Predictions

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



Guest Speaker: Mr. Shane Read
Chief Information Security Officer, Nobel Group

5th March 2018
Cyber Security for everyone

Mr. Read demonstrated the basics of Operational Security in action and discussed cyber-attack against corporate networks and what companies must do to better defend themselves. Participants were reminded to avoid public networks for their personal financial transactions.



*Joint Monthly Luncheon Events at The Hong Kong Club
Organised by the Swiss Association & the Swiss Chamber of Commerce
April 2017-March 2018*

Joint Monthly Luncheons



Mr. Florian Trento



Mr. Patrick Fung



Mr. Antoine Blondeau



Mrs. Kathryn Shih



Mr. Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges



Mr. Derek Kwik



Mr. Jean-Louis Nakamura



Mr. Raymond Lo



Mr. Shane Read

SEDAN CHAIR RACE 2017

Stephane Eroes
sedan_chair@swiss-hk.com



On October 29th 2017, six mighty gladiators laced up their shoes and got ready to run the race of their lives... Ok, so it wasn't quite as dramatic. Let's try again!!!

On October 29th 2017, the Swiss Association team once again participated in the Sedan Chair Charities Fund annual race at the Mathilda International Hospital.

The theme this year was **Running Through the Ages** so we thought maybe we could present "Switzerland Trough The Ages".

With a chair decorated as a Time Machine and a running cast consisting of Heidi, Albert Einstein, Wilhelm Tell, a Red Cross nurse, a Swiss cow and of course the legendary Roger Federer, we raced through the 2km course handing out chocolates from Shoggi Meier tailor made to explain to the crowd who each character was and what they represented to Switzerland.

As it has become a tradition, the Swiss Association Team won the best dressed prize on that day. We would like to thank the generous individual donors as well as the Swiss Association for their contributions to the funds raised by our team. Also a big thank you to Reto Läderach from the Swiss Consulate for the support (and wine) at the finish line.

We hope more of you will join (it's a heavy chair when there is no-one to take a relay) for the 2018 edition! Please contact sedan_chair@swiss-hk.com and join the team.



Swiss XI - 40 Years – And Still Going Strong

Jürg Niederberger



Yes, unbelievable, the Hong Kong based football team has just turned 40!

Founded in 1977 by Peter Klaus and Albert Hausammann, then and still now, a football force in Hong Kong.

THE SQUAD

I have been involved with the Swiss XI since my arrival in Hong Kong back in 1999. Since then, the team changed from being a almost entirely non-Swiss team to a almost entirely Swiss team and now moving back to a almost entirely non-Swiss team.

The last transition started in 2010 when one Japanese player joined our trainings, then another one and another, and so on. Now, half of the squad is Japanese, a handful of Swiss, plus a few Canadians, Hong Kongers and Singaporeans. Let me tell you, it is a great mix which brings a lot of fun moments on and off the pitch.

THE BIGGEST GAME

In the last few S'Alphorn editions, we were able to announce a few more trophies and medals that are now proudly displayed in the Swiss XI museum.

In April 2017, we actually had one of the biggest games in the colourful Swiss XI history; we made it to the Yau Yee League Cup Final!

On the way to the final, we won 3-2 against lower division FOB, then 1-0 against first division Squadron, then the quarter-final gave us a sweet 1-0 win against Azzurri, while in the semi-final we beat second division KCC 3-1. There we were, in the Cup final, where we were facing Club Colts, the youth team of the Hong Kong Football Club. During the season we lost 0-2 and 0-4 against Club Colts, but this was not just another league game, it was the Cup final!

Everything was ready for the biggest game of them all, it was Swiss XI's 40th anniversary, the HKFC stadium was almost filled to full capacity, the pitch was perfect (as always with state-of-the-art astro turfs), we were ready to play the games of our lives. We got a bit of a shock in the warm-up when our top striker, Rene Bühlmann announced that his old injury flared up and that he won't be able to partake in this game.

As always for Swiss XI, it was of utmost importance to keep a clean sheet for the first 20 minutes or so. This worked out well and we got more and more into the game. The game was now open and both teams created chances. Then, about 25 minutes into the game, we were awarded a corner kick and without much to explain, Peter Bachmann, our oldest or better, most experienced player scored his 72nd goal for Swiss XI. Surely this was his most important one.

The game continued, then half time, then constant attacks by the Club Colt team. Not only were they much younger than us, no, they also had a full bench with lots of fresh legs. Louis, our Swiss XI

keeper started to cramp up and the game had to be interrupted a few times due to that. Eventually, all the defensive Swiss XI efforts got exhausted and we conceded the 1-1. There was about 7 more minutes to play in normal time. We were able to hold on to the 1-1 and made it to extra time. By now, both teams were slowing down the game and were just hoping for some lucky break. But to no avail, the extra time finished with no team able to score the winning goal.

It all had to be decided in a penalty shoot-out. We were reasonable confident, as we practiced penalties during training. However, training is training and the Cup final is something else. Not sure if it was the nervousness of the players or the tired legs, but in short, Swiss XI failed to score any of the first three penalties, while Club Colts scored all of them. And with that, it was all over, the amazing Cup Trophy was not coming our way. This was the second time in the Swiss XI history that the Cup final was lost in a penalty shoot-out.

Looking back, it was an amazing experience, a great team spirit all supported by the best fans (thank you all for your support). We were close, we gave it all, we are proud. Cup Finalist 2016/17 – Swiss XI.

THE FUTURE

What do I know about the future? What I know is that Swiss XI needs new players. **Swiss**, Germans, Japanese, whoever, it doesn't matter, the more the merrier. So, if you know anybody, in particular anybody who just arrived in Hong Kong, please send them Swiss XI's way. We train every Wednesday, play in the Hong Kong indoor league every Tuesday and have 22 league games every Sunday between September and April. Hopp Swiss.





Swiss XI - Still Going Strong! Hurray!

Now Also for Young Shooters

Alexander Luedi, President of Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong



The Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong has for over thirty years upheld the tradition of providing an opportunity for Swiss Army Service Men to fulfil their annual shooting obligation, also while on a posting abroad.

Twice a year, some 50 members are invited to participate in shooting competitions, including a program that mirrors the "Obligatorische", using a Sport Shooting modified Swiss Army rifle STGW90 on a shooting range near Sheng Shui.

As an officially recognized section of the Swiss Sport Shooting Federation, who has recently lowered the minimum age for young shooters or "Jungschützen", the Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong is now offering a Young Shooters Course for young Swiss men and women, who have reached the age of 15.

During the past 24 months this opportunity was taken up by some 10 young Swiss women and men.

For interested parties, please contact Swiss Rifle Association, rifle_association@swiss-hk.com





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of the Swiss
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SWISS STUDENT GRADUATES 2017



FIS IB Graduates 2017 with
Reto Läderach, Consul
(left): Axel Adler, Pauline
Artaux, Thomas Adler

GSIS IB Graduate 2017,
Rachel Ann (middle) with
Reto Läderach, Consul
(right) and Tanja Lecher,
Swiss School Committee
(left)



Swiss Regional Studies Workshops

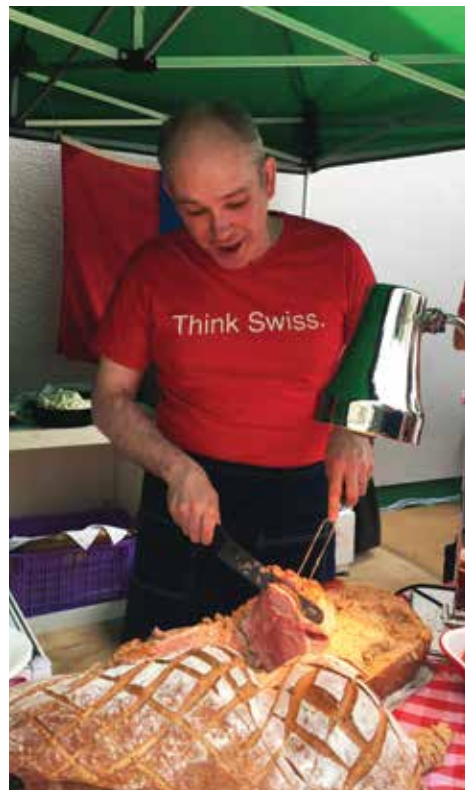
Over 60 students from 6 to 16 years old, participated at the first edition of “Schweizer Landeskunde/Swiss National studies” workshops. The Swiss teachers Priska Erni, Erica Dell’Orto, Flavian Züger, Florent Tailamée and the Swiss School Committee organized various workshops like arts and crafts, history, geography, traditional Swiss songs for beginners and how to play “Jass”. Very popular was René Frauenfelder’s workshop, where the kids could make their own chocolate pralines. Inge and Stefan Herzog catered a traditional Swiss lunch buffet and parents had coffee and pastries while waiting and watching the final activity of the day - an Interactive Quiz about Switzerland with many Swiss prizes to win. The event was very well received among the Swiss Community and besides being very educational it was great fun!



Raclette Booth GSIS Bazaar 2017

At the 2017 GSIS Xmas Bazaar, the weather was perfect and the atmosphere at Inge and Stefan Herzog's Raclette Booth was excellent. Of course everybody worked hard preparing and selling 170kg of raclette cheese and 50kg of ham and potato salad, but as always, it was a fun day among Swiss friends.

This year, the Swiss community raised almost HK\$ 50,000 for GSIS' Parents Community Committee.



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. She is the Deputy Head of GSIS Primary Department. Together with the Swiss School Committee, she took over more responsibilities and officially promoted 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.



Florent Taïlamée, Primary Teacher at French International School

Florent joined the French International School in January 2017 at Jardine's Lookout Campus. He is a French teacher in the bilingual section (CE1). He holds bimonthly meeting for the Swiss French Children at FIS.



Stephanie Rowold, Kindergarten Teacher at German Swiss International School

Stefanie is originally from Bern and has been living in Hong Kong since January 2011. Before starting as a full-time teacher at GSIS Kindergarten at Pok Fu Lam Campus, she was a substitute teacher for many years.



Swiss International Airlines, Migros Hong Kong Ltd., DKSH, Schoggi Meier, Consulate of Switzerland in Hong Kong.

Thank you all for the generous anonymous contributions as well!

STRONG TIES – GSIS GIVES EXPAT KIDS SOME ROOTS

Article and photos contributed by GSIS



When families move overseas, maintaining their own cultural traditions is just as important as getting to know new cultures. After all, tradition reinforces values such as a good education, integrity, and personal responsibility. Whether it is a wedding, a harvest festival, or a religious holiday, these traditional celebrations are woven tightly into our overall cultural identity.

German Swiss International School – Upholding Swiss Culture in Hong Kong for almost 50 years

Since its founding in 1969 by German and Swiss families, the German Swiss International School has guided its students towards becoming responsible, critical-thinking and self-assured citizens. Fostering an open-minded and engaged world-view, GSIS values diversity and instills cultural traditions at the same time.

Swiss Culture Club

Once a week, Ms Erica Dell'Orto, a Swiss native and with GSIS for over 30 years, teaches students with a Swiss background everything they need to know about Switzerland and Swiss culture. In Swiss German of course!

This school year, the Alps were the center of attention and the students learned about the alpine ascent and alpine cheeses. In preparation for the Winter Olympics, the teachers used Globi* books to introduce winter sports to the students and together they made the breakneck downhill from the Lauberhorn and watched the women's team curling.

The old tradition of the Unspunnenfest in Interlaken and its traditional costumes were explored in great detail, accompanied by the beautiful sound of the Alphorn. The Jungfrauoch and its railway provided the theme to learn about a high alpine research station, the Ice Palace, as well as the fauna and flora in the Alps.

At Christmas, the Samichlaus and the Schmutzli paid a visit and the children also got to know about the three big institutions that have shaped Switzerland a lot - the Rega, the SBB and the Post Office. On top of the cognitive learning, the students in the Swiss Culture Club also do handicrafts. Through

this creative approach learning with the head, hand and heart - which are fundamentals of the Swiss schooling system - the students enjoyed learning new things.

What cannot be missed when getting into Swiss culture and traditions is eating and drinking. The students had great fun together grilling Cervelat, roasting rösti and indulged in a fondue and raclette.

Music – an intrinsic part of cultural heritage

GSIS students experienced a great three days with “East meets West” in Spring 2016, an association of artists which toured through Asia to spread Swiss culture and traditions.

Sonja Rösli (Dance), Dr Eidgenoss Urs (Schwyzerörgeli) and Walter Sigrist (Superhorn / Alphorn) greeted the students with a concert using traditional Swiss music and instruments. After the concert, the classes visited the artists to explore and play one of these instruments during a lesson.

The workshop focus was on the students making Swiss folk music and dancing to it. All children learned how to use wooden spoons, accompanied by a Schwyzerörgeli. The students had most fun when they tried out the Alphorn. Almost all succeeded in pressing a sound out of the long wooden tube.

For more information on GSIS, please refer to the website www.gsis.edu.hk. If you are interested in having your child attend the German Swiss International School, please contact our admissions office by e-mail admissionprimary@gsis.edu.hk. Swiss nationals enjoy a priority waitlist ranking.

Congratulations on your 70th anniversary! The German Swiss International School wishes the Swiss Association of Hong Kong many more years of success and innovations.



All photos in this article are copyrighted to German Swiss International School

64 *Globi is a Swiss cartoon character occasionally referred to as Switzerland's Mickey Mouse. He is pictured as an anthropomorphic blue parrot with a yellow beak wearing a black beret and a pair of red and black checkered trousers.

Swiss Association Membership Application Form

Please write in BLOCK LETTERS

Applicant

Surname, First name, Nationality: _____

Spouse/Partner

Surname, First name, Nationality: _____

Mailing Address

Floor, Appt. No., Building Name _____

Street Name and No. _____

District _____

Telephone No. (one number only) _____

Mobile No. (one number only) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Mandatory

OR

APPLY ONLINE : www.swiss-hk.com/join (SAHK Website www.swiss-hk.com)

Membership Fees (30% of the fee will be contributed to Swiss Benevolent Society
Subscription period 1 year from January 1st to December 31st)

Choose one:

- ☐ HKD 250.00 for individuals ☐ HKD 450.00 for couples ☐ FREE Short Term Swiss Exchange Student*
(* less than 12 months)

I / We would be interested to

- ☐ participate in committee 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:

Swiss Association of Hong Kong OR Email the form to info@swiss-hk.com and
GPO Box 9873, Central, deposit/transfer to SAHK bank account
Hong Kong HSBC 500-443254-001

Date _____ Signature _____

Membership of the Swiss Association is open to all Swiss nationals and persons with a close relation to Switzerland residing in Hong Kong. Members must be 18 years of age. Children under 18 years of age fall under their parents' membership.

DEUTSCH-SCHWEIZERISCHE INTERNATIONALE SCHULE

GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Wir arbeiten zusammen...



Wir tauschen uns aus...



Wir lernen voneinander...



Wir bieten erstklassige Bildung...



...in einer freundlichen, kreativen, lebendigen Gemeinschaft.

www.gsis.edu.hk



The Samaritans: We are always here to listen

Article and photos contributed by The Samaritans

The Samaritans is an independent, non-profit, non-religious organization established in 1974. Our 24-hour multilingual hotline and befriending emails are entirely operated by a group of trained volunteers, who are absolutely compassionate and committed. In the fiscal year of 2016-2017, we received 34,048 phone calls and 691 emails, averaging 90 calls and 2 emails a day. Every day we give our undivided attention empathising with each one of our callers in complete confidence.

Preventing suicide and promoting mental wellbeing is our mission and responsibility. Apart from providing emotional support via our hotline and befriending email, over the years, we have developed a variety of services that target within specific community groups, which include Young Samaritans Peer Support Programme (YSPSP), Supporting The Aged Responsibly Programme (STAR) and People bereaved by Suicide Support Group (PBS).

We also endeavor to reach out to a wider community with the aim to enhance mental health literacy, reduce stigmatizing attitudes and promote help-seeking behaviours. In 2017, we delivered 44 talks and workshops to different organizations and companies in Hong Kong. On the 5th of December, we accepted the invitation



Students from the Young Samaritans Peer Support Programme (YSPSP) take part in an outdoor training camp and six training workshops to strengthen their listening and communication skills so as to support their peers with understanding and empathy.

from the Swiss Association and Swiss Chamber of Commerce to give a presentation about our work and suicide awareness at their Christmas Charity Luncheon. Mr. Martin Sabine, who is one of our long-serving volunteers and was our former Chairman of the Board, attended the event on behalf of the Samaritans. We are truly grateful that the Swiss Association and Swiss Chamber of Commerce chose us to be the beneficiary and donated a generous gift of HKD\$80,000.

Building on over 40 years of experience in suicide prevention in Hong Kong, we will continue to devote our best effort to support each individual who feels emotionally distressed. WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO LISTEN.

Hotline: 2896 0000
Befriending Email: jo@samaritans.org.hk
Website: www.samaritans.org.hk



The Samaritans delivered a three-hour training workshop to the staff from the Hong Kong Housing Authority

Studer Trust

Article and photo contributed by Studer Trust

Studer Trust, also known as Margaretha Studer Charitable Trust, was established in 2002 by founder Peter Gautschi. Having had some experiences with established charities, he decided to set up his own to serve the poor and find the best ways to maximize the value of every dollar spent. He realized that in order to do this, donations have to be isolated from the actual operating costs giving donors the confidence and transparency that is absent in many charitable organizations.

Today, Project Management Limited, fully financed privately by Mr. Gautschi, has been formed solely for the purpose of running Studer Trust and to absorb all operation costs. This guarantees that 100% of all donations received will reach the needy.

Together with the help of the Women's Federation and the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office in China and Monastic Institutions in Myanmar, Studer Trust has built nearly 150 schools and other community based projects since 2002. Studer Trust is a charity that follows conscientiously its maxim "Respect the spirit of helping" and is independent of any governmental, political and religious organizations or affiliations.

Interview Thomas Burkhalter
by Alena Zueger

1) Why should an interested donor choose Studer Trust?

100 % PLEDGE

We respect the spirit in which you have chosen to support us. Therefore 100% of your donation is used for the project for which it was intended.

FOLLOW-UP

We don't just build schools and hope everything goes well. We work with our community to guarantee their success.

WE ARE A GENUINE TEAM

Founders, trustees, staff, donors, beneficiaries and volunteers. We all work together as a team.

GENDER EQUALITY

The Studer Trust team lives gender equality every day.

Our Objectives are to provide education facilities and equipment, emergency relief and other community based development projects. We operate within Myanmar and the Philippines.

2) Who do you count as your Supporters ?

We are a small family and friends charity, where personal contact is most important. We deeply appreciate each and every donation from individuals to further our mission to alleviate poverty in Asia. Being such a small organization, we hope our donors understand that we do not have the resources to deliver expensive in-depth studies. However, donors can rest assured that sufficient financial information will be provided in a timely manner. We appreciate and need the trust of donors and feel that our record should be ample proof of our sincerity and devotion. Your gift to Studer Trust is tax deductible in Hong Kong and helps to strengthen and to expand our support of a variety of charity projects around Asia, particularly to give children access to education.

3) Where do you see Studer Trust in the future?

We have moved our activities in Myanmar to the minority areas where there is a great need. Furthermore, we are experimenting to enlarge our footprint in the overall sustainability aspects within the educational focus. Another goal is to strengthening our Philippines team to spread to the current initiatives country wide. If we are stable enough we might be looking at expanding to a third country with our activities.

Get involved and visit our website www.studertrust.org or contact us for more information at info@studertrust.org to make a change together.





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