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++ Drawing by Daniel Wettling

Street Art



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*Schoggi Meier -
Chocolates of authentic Swiss taste
made fresh daily in Hong Kong*




Swiss entrepreneur
Jurg Meier - Founder



Swiss chocolate master
Rene Frauenfelder - Company Manager



Swiss gourmand
Michael Emmenegger - Production Manager

Message from the President

Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

As I enter my first half-time as President, I am fortunate to be surrounded by a dynamic and essential group of people. From our dedicated committee members, to our loyal partners, to our generous sponsors, to our amazing predecessors, and to the supportive Consulate General: their enthusiasm and commitment to our mission both inspire me and give me the strength to look at what lies ahead with an optimistic mindset.

This past year has been unprecedented for all of us, and has caused us to experience many new things. Indisputably, it has been challenging. Over the last 15 months, the Swiss Association has adapted to ensure we can continue to provide a platform for our members to get together, even though many things went virtual. Without a doubt, we are entering a new era of online communication. Our 2020 Annual General Meeting went virtual almost overnight and yet we received a record number of signed proxies. This year's Annual General Meeting too was conducted through video conferencing. You all showed your support and participation for these necessary changes. Knowing that we are only as strong as the support we receive, I would like to, on behalf of the entire committee, thank all of you for your continuous trust through this difficult phase. I personally prefer to call this time 'a phase' because phases have an end and it describes a process of change; and changes are opportunities for improvement. Here we are, throughout this time of change we have continued to improve our offers to promote social gathering and networking. The activities we usually offer have partially gone online, with interesting speakers on topics which are informative, educational and entertaining. Luckily, in



San Wang, SAHK president for 2021/2022.

the past year, we have also been able to seize the smaller opportunities when the window for social gathering opened for a short time. We managed to organise some events for you to meet in person such as Hiking in Cheung Chau, the Foraging Excursion on Lantau, Bowling Night, Swiss Jass Evenings, Christmas Wreath Making Workshops, etc. However, we are not only active in front of the scene but also behind. The team and I have been helping Santa and Schmutzli prepare the Santa bags, packing and labelling the magazines for you, improving the website and more without losing our focus on what is most important: the people we care about.



This edition of s'Alphorn will give you insights into what we have done over the past year, and will also bring a few interesting personalities in our Swiss community closer to you.

You may have noticed that we have quite a number of new faces in our committee this year, and we are very proud to introduce them to you in this magazine. Every one of them is wholeheartedly committed, and has dedicated much of their private time to make this a better space for our community. The future remains bright with a great group of committee members. I couldn't thank each one of them enough for their contributions!

In closing, I want to remind all of the people who read this magazine that we remain a strong, vibrant organization that keeps the community together.

We hope to see you again soon—in person! Watch out for announcements on upcoming events and please do mark your calendar on 1 August 2021, our nation's birthday. Preparations are well underway and invitations will be sent to you in due course. However, the health of our community and the team is of utmost importance to us. We always comply with government regulations and would only go ahead with the in-person events if we are allowed to do so.

Happy reading!

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

San Wang
President 2021/2022



2019-2020 president Verena Mooser handed over the Cow Bell to our new president, San.



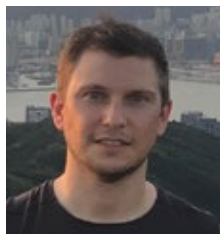
Committee 2020-2021



San Wang
President



Raffael Morger
1st Vice President



Patrick Koslowski
2nd Vice President
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Susanne Fanton
Hon. Secretary



Finn Krueger
Hon. Treasurer



Ashley Lau
Events Coordinator



Claude Scheidegger
Events Coordinator

JJ Wang
Events Coordinator

Ricardo Ferraz
s'Alphorn Editor



Joshua Spirgi
IT coordinator



**Rosalind
Keller-Liang**
Past president



About the Association

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 organizes a variety of activities, including webinars with guest speakers, month-

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

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

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New Committee Members



Raffael Morger

Hello, my name is Raffael Morger. Some of you may know me as the organizer of the monthly Swiss Jassen. Seven years ago a job opportunity in Credit Suisse brought me here and in the meantime Hong Kong has clearly become my second home.

Together with my wife we enjoy exploring the city of Hong Kong, but also its beautiful countryside for hiking or rock climbing adventures. I will continue to host the monthly Swiss jass, but happy to now also join the Swiss Association Committee.



JJ Wang Aebischer

Hi, my name is JJ. I am a Taiwan born Swiss with Thurgauer dialect, and addicted to potato chips covered in dark chocolate.

Ever since I can remember I always wanted to explore the world, learning about other cultures and meeting interesting, inspiring people. Till today, this passion and curiosity for the unknown still spice up my everyday life.

Hong Kong was the first destination when my husband and I started our thrilling journey in Asia more than a decade ago.

After many amazing, rewarding yet challenging years in

Singapore and Korea, it is exciting to be back and experiencing this dynamic, multifaceted and ever changing city in a different stage of life.

I love good food and enjoy sports. Being out in the nature is another important way for us to stay happy and healthy. These days we are discovering beautiful hiking trails with stunning skyline vista and breathtaking sea view in each and every corner of Hong Kong. Can't wait to make more great memories and go on new adventures.



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Patrick Koslowski



My name is Patrick, and I am 43 years old. I was born in Zurich and grew up not far from there in Kloten, where I was a pilot with Crossair. I moved to Hong Kong in mid-2000, when I joined Cathay Pacific as a pilot, where I have remained to this date.

On a typical week, I try to keep fit by running or hiking around Sai Kung. I cannot wait to spend Winters climbing or skiing in the mountains when personal travel becomes simpler again.

I have two incredible children, a daughter Leoni, 11 and a son James, 7. They both cannot survive without their daily dose of Aromat and love helping me make Zopf. I have two four-legged friends who also form part of my household: my dog Denali, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and a Persian cat called Timmy.

The downtime since Covid started allowed me to be involved with the Swiss Association, be part of a great team and meet new people from our Swiss community.

I look forward to meeting you all at our events and continue to extend my support to the Committee and the Swiss Association of Hong Kong.

Claude Scheidegger



I am Claude and I was born and raised in Burgdorf, close to Switzerland's capital Bern. Already from a young age, I developed a passion for hotels, which ultimately led me to study hospitality in the picturesque French-speaking part of the country. Later, I was recruited and relocated from the dreamy Swiss Alps to the bustling city of Hong Kong by a locally based hotel group. Given my background in the hospitality scene, I developed a deep appreciation for the fine things in life and now I must keep an eye out for exciting new brands and products everywhere, for my career in consumer products.

I love being outdoors and I even used to be a triathlete during my high school and college years. If you don't find me at the poolside, you might literally run into me on Victoria Peak or Instagram Pier in Kennedy Town!



Goodbyes

Andres Flueckiger Sponsorship Coordinator



Andres was in the Committee for his third time.

Denise Probst SSC President (2019-2020)

Sabrina Buehlmann SSC (2019-2020)



Denise (left), and Sabrina (right) during the GSIS graduation ceremony in 2019.

The SAHK thanks our Committee members who left in the past year

Reto Läderach Swiss Consulate Representative



Reto, during the 2019 Charity Luncheon.

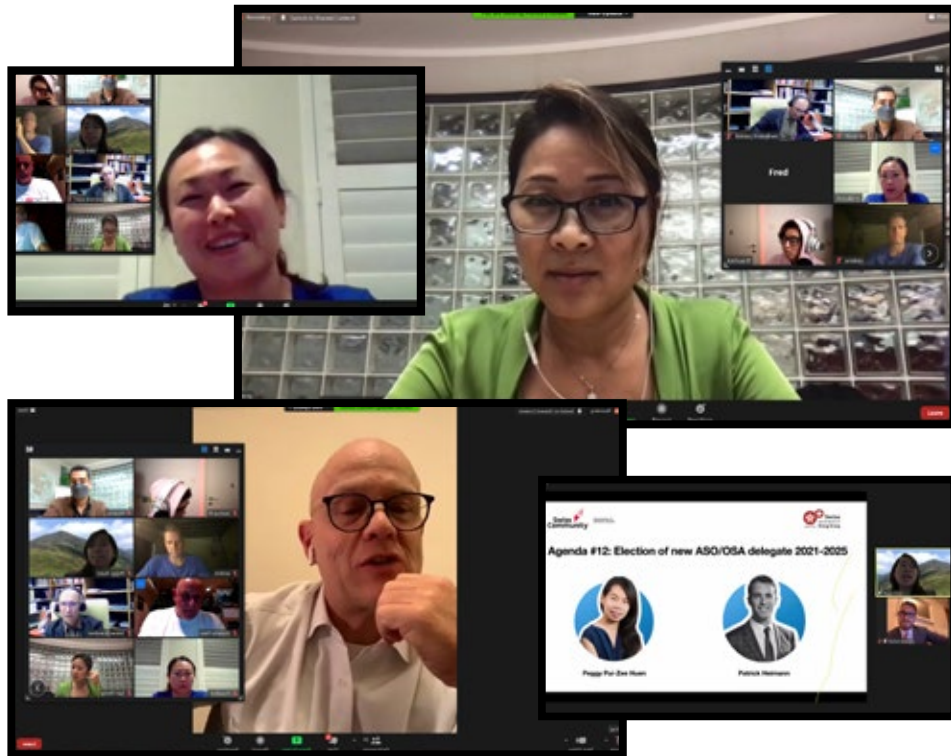
Wenbin Li Fuelleman SSC President (2020)



Wenbin (right), during the packing of the Christmas goody bags, December 2020.

73rd Annual General Meeting

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Our hope was to celebrate the 73rd SAHK Annual General Meeting with a memorable reunion of friends. But in 2021, for the second consecutive year, our annual conference had to be held remotely, over Zoom. However, if this format has its limitations, it also allows more people to join the meeting and may encourage new forms of participation.

The online format allowed

Rosalind Keller-Liang, the SAHK past president, to open the session from Sydney, Australia. She welcomed our members and thanked San Wang for stepping in as acting president in the summer of 2020. Rosalind then gave the floor to San, who conducted the rest of the annual meeting, including several votes during the night.

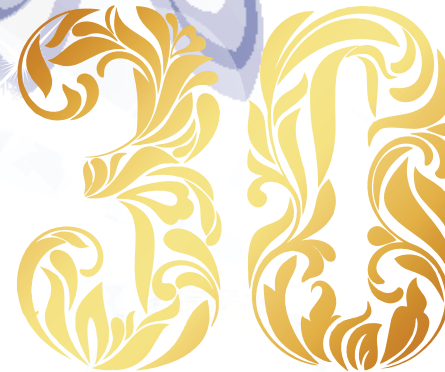
After the approval of our reports, Committee members and

other customary business, the AGM proceeded to the election of the new delegates for the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (ASO/OSA). Patrick Heimann had the majority of the 113 votes, that included 91 people who voted earlier by proxy. After the SAHK annual meeting, it was the time for the Swiss Benevolent Society to have their conference, conducted by its president, Tobias Brandner.



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Swiss Universities Alumni Chapters in Hong Kong



Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne

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>



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/>



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 Olaf Eichstaedt at olaf.eichstaedt@linova-consulting.com. To become a member, individuals simply need to register as ETH Zurich Alumni. The affiliation to the local chapter does not incur any additional costs.



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. This is a platform of equals where the convener does not understand his / her role to arrange programs for the alumni but instead welcomes alumni to suggest any form of event or discussion and helps in arranging such event if initiated and approached by members of our group. In other words, the initiative is with all of you and we welcome you!

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>



USI Università della Svizzera italiana has around 10'500 alumni, living and working in more than 100 different countries around the world.

To keep in touch with our alumni, USI created, in 2017, Alumni Chapters in different cities and today, there are 34 Chapters active in 4 continents.

Each Alumni Chapter engages USI Alumni as Points of Contact (PoC), acting as the local reference for all USI Alumni living and working in the same area, who want to get together, create a network and stay in touch with USI and with other USI graduates. PoC are alumni leaders committed to supporting their Alma Mater in connecting alumni with each other, by volunteering time, energy and talent.

Currently USI has two Chapters in China: one in the city of Hong Kong, led by the USI Alumnus Mr. Francesco Stadler (USI Degree: Bachelor in Economics in 2010): francesco.stadler@alumni.usi.ch and the second in the city of Beijing, led by the USI Alumna Ms. Meng Zhang (USI Degree: Master in Economics and International Politics in 2010).

More information about the USI Alumni Chapter China: <https://www.usi.ch/en/node/8247>, also on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8668012/>

To become a member or for more information contact USI Alumni: alumni@usi.ch



ASO/OSA Report 2020

By Tom Mueller



Lugano, in the Canton of Ticino, will host the 98th ASO/OSA congress during the 2021 summer.

Dear SAHK Members,

2020 has been an unprecedented year in many respects with the Covid-19 pandemic directly impacting the lives of each and everyone of us. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (ASO) was no exception and the ASO-Congress that was planned to take place in Lugano last August had to be cancelled and all meetings could only be held virtually.

As the situation around Covid-19 continues to be critical and many travel restrictions remain in force, also the meeting of The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) on 19th/20th March 2021 in Brunnen was cancelled. Hopefully, the 98th ASO-Congress from 20th to 22nd August 2021 in Lugano that is under the headline 'What are the challenges for our democracy?' will be able to take place.

Following below is a short recap and review of the ASO year 2020 and its most important events:

Campaign against the 'limitation initiative' of 27th September 2020

At the ASO video conference held on 10th July 2020, the CSA has voted to issue a NO parole and an official statement against the 'limitation initiative'. ASO has joined forces and worked closely with the contra campaign committee and other opposing organisations. The campaign has been actively supported by the Swiss Federal Council, members of the CSA and many Swiss Abroad.

The voting Swiss Abroad have clearly rejected the 'limitation initiative' on 27th September 2020 with 78% NO votes which is a 17% higher rejection rate than the Swiss domestic countrywomen/men (61% NO votes).



ASO Head office on Alpenstrasse 26, Bern.
© Organisation of the Swiss Abroad / Adrian Moser



A new website, a new logo, a new name

Another exciting and important project was the launching of the new ASO website on 1st January 2021. The new website – www.SwissCommunity.org – has integrated the previous websites: aso.ch; revue.ch and swisscommunity.org under one address and the new name SwissCommunity together with the new logo will now be used in all communication channels.

Survey 'Swiss Review' (Schweizer Revue / Revue Suisse)

2020 was also an important year for the future direction of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and its publication. In a survey among its readers, the 'Swiss Review' has evaluated the wishes and expectations towards ASO and the 'Swiss Review'. The results will be published in 2021. However, as a heads-up it can be said that the survey showed very good marks for the 'Swiss Review' but also clearly revealed the readers' expectation for more and better information on certain topics and that the 'Swiss Review' is not only a source of information for the Fifth Switzerland but also a medium to stay connected with the home country.

E-Voting: A Meeting with the Federal Council

Even though in Switzerland no electronic voting system is currently still active, the topic remains a priority on the ASO agenda. On 9th September 2020 an ASO delegation has met with Federal Council Mr. Ignazio Cassis to discuss the topic who reassured the willingness of the Federal Government and the Cantons are currently working together to revise the legal and technical principles for a new e-voting trial phase.

A meeting with the director of Swiss Post on 24th November 2020 further emphasized the wish to continue the development of the Swiss Post's own system.

Maintaining Swiss banking services and fair conditions for Swiss Abroad

The ASO continues to lobby for the maintenance of similar banking conditions between Swiss citizens living in Switzerland and Swiss Abroad. It is with pleasure to announce that the partnership with Banque Cantonale de Genève (BCGE) could be renewed. As of today, BCGE is the only bank in Switzerland that is offering very similar conditions to Swiss Abroad (except in countries with an Embargo).

End of term for Tom

My 4 years term as ASO delegate have come to an end and I just would like to say that it has been an absolute privilege and fantastic experience to represent Hong Kong in the Council of The Swiss Abroad. Since my family and I plan to move back to Switzerland in the foreseeable future, I unfortunately will not be able to extend my commitment for another term. I would like to wish my successor best of luck and lots of fun in the new role. Wishing everybody a safe and healthy 2021!

Sincerely, Tom Mueller



Tom Mueller, ASO delegate 2017-2021.

New ASO delegates

The last SAHK Annual General Meeting elected a new ASO delegate for Hong Kong and his deputy. Below, you can start to know more about them and their plans for the ASO.

For the upcoming August 2021 - OSA ("Organization of the Swiss Abroad") Congress taking place in Lugano, Hong Kong SAR will have an OSA Delegate born and raised in Ticino. The recently elected Delegate, Mr. Patrick Heimann has well experienced the multiculturalism of our country during his early life. He joined Swiss military service with French-speaking compatriots and accomplished his University studies between Zurich and St. Gallen. Patrick decided to start his career in Hong Kong SAR, where he has been living since 2016. He currently works for Fidinam (Hong Kong) Limited, a Swiss Corporate and Tax Advisory Company, and also holds a seat at the Board of Directors at the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong SAR. Still, nowadays, he maintains strong emotional ties with Switzerland, flying back 3-4 times each year not only for business purposes but also to spend time with his family and old friends.



New ASO delegate, Mr. Patrick Heimann.

Two questions for Patrick Heimann

Patrick, as the new ASO Delegate for Hong Kong, could you explain the mission and objectives of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)?

The key role and responsibility of the OSA Delegate consist of preserving the connection between Switzerland and its citizens living abroad. The mission statements of OSA is structured around four main pillars:

Represent the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad. This is possible by having the locally elected Delegate join the OSA Annual Council in Switzerland.

Inform their compatriots abroad about important events and developments in Switzerland. Main information channels include the "Swiss Review Magazine", published by OSA six times a year, and its Newsletter.

Network with Swiss nationals abroad and with authorities, institutions and the public in Switzerland. To this end, Swiss associations and institutions abroad play a fundamental and strategic role.

Advise Swiss nationals about issues related to emigration, staying abroad and returning to Switzerland. Swiss nationals abroad are offered a wide range of services thanks to our partner organizations.

How do you intent to support the Swiss Community in Hong Kong SAR?

It is a great pleasure and honor to represent the Swiss Community in Hong Kong SAR. Every Swiss citizen abroad has a different path, experience and expectations. I believe it is very important to create a common ground and be able to collect and share our feedbacks and ideas during the yearly OSA Annual Congress.

I will bring my experience and network developed with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong to raise awareness and provide support in relation to the main concerns and issues Swiss compatriots face abroad. Key issues being compatibility of education, e-voting, ability to maintain Swiss banking facilities and access to Health Insurance.

Particularly during 2020, a year that will go down in history for the COVID Pandemic, we have all learned that Information and Communications Technology is our friend in helping us to remain informed, aware and connected with our home country.

As a long-term and proud Swiss Expat, I will do my best to represent the interests of the Swiss Community and support my compatriots in Hong Kong to receive support and insightful content throughout my mandate.

Ms. Peggy Pui-Zee Huen, deputy delegate



As a Swiss-born Chinese and French-Cantonese bilingual, Ms. Peggy Pui-Zee Huen can understand both languages and the subtle differences between both cultures. Admitted to the bar in Geneva and working in HongKong as a Registered foreign lawyer since 2015, she has developed a comprehensive understanding of both commercial and legal systems.

Peggy Huen client's include both western companies doing business in Asia in general and locals who have to deal with Swiss laws.

"The ASO/OSA is a bridge between Switzerland and the Swiss here in Hong Kong. With my professional experience and language skills, I felt very comfortable to cross this bridge, and maybe I can help my fellow citizens to do the same. I believe it is my turn to give back to the Swiss community in Hong Kong"

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is a business association with over 130 members. We work hand in hand with the Swiss Association and the Consulate to provide events and support to the Swiss business community in Hong Kong.

The Swiss Chamber has worked hard over the past year to adapt our offer to the ever-evolving environment we operate under, and keep helping our members connect with peers to expand their business opportunities, stay up to date with market trends with regular webinars led by experts, and represent the interests of the Swiss business community with public stakeholders.

Despite of the difficulties, we have been able to engage our members in several in-person events this year. Below we share some of the most popular ones:

Monthly Cocktail at Piquiq, amazing rooftop dining terrace with mesmerizing views from Victoria Harbor to the Peak where the Swiss Chamber welcomed over 80 guests to enjoy tasty cocktails and great company, surrounded by incredible views of the city.

The exclusive private tour of Philips Autumn Auction 2020 at JW Marriott has been another successful in-person event we could run in November. The guests participated to a private tour of Philips Hong Kong's Autumn Action, organized exclusively for the Swiss Chamber of Commerce. The specialists guided the guests through rising alternative assets – watches, jewelry and art – and offered insider advice on collecting and investing.

Christmas Lunch at Chesa, in December. We invited our members to celebrate the start of the festive season at an exclusive Christmas Lunch. Attendees could enjoy a sumptuous 3-course Swiss traditional lunch at Chesa in the iconic Peninsula Hotel, and had the opportunity



The Piquiq, during one of the Monthly Cocktails.

to meet and network with other professionals of the Swiss Business Community.

War Zone Simulation at the Red Cross Headquarter: The Swiss Chamber organized a unique and exclusive event experience at the Hong Kong Red Cross Humanitarian Education Center. The Red Cross has set up Asia's first simulation war zone, Warzone90, as an opportunity to observe and reflect upon our responses to some of the worst destructive forces of human conflict. The guests enjoyed a 90-minutes enriching educational experience and have been invited into a shared dialogue about new ideas & solutions.



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Members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce enjoy the Monthly Cocktail at the rooftop bar Piquiq.

Besides these in-person events, we organized regular webinars about education, technology, health-care, finance or lifestyle to help our members to hear relevant insights from experts in these areas. Here are a few that were very successful this year:

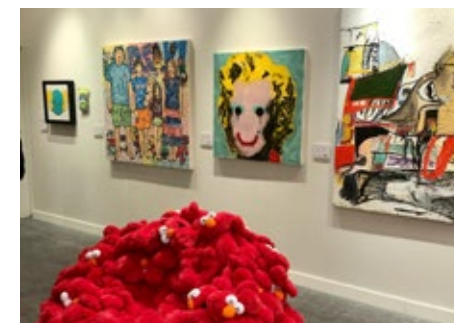
6 ways AI and IoT will change your business in the future In October the speakers gave us their view by addressing the following topics: how will technology companies and traditional businesses work together in the future and their partnerships with fashion brands, concept of a connected physical world where the Internet of things and big data unlocks new potential in future business models and operations.

Implication in the US Election result in Global Markets Under the leadership of three renowned investment specialists we ran a panel discussion about the impact of the US pres-

idential election results on global markets. They shared their views and analysis with the attendees and answered directly to questions they had on what to expect with the change of leadership in the White House.

How is the Swiss Education sector adapting to meet the Future of Work?

In this online panel discussion, we have explored this question with an expert panel representing 3 different perspectives in the sector: High School (Montreux International School, Oriental Education), Higher Education (Swiss Education Group), and Vocational Education (Global Swiss Learning). The seminar outlined the context of the Future of Work and then invited the panel to outline the impact of COVID on their organization, what lessons they have learned, what new gaps in the market they have identified, and what they have done to adapt their product or services in response to the changing environment.



SwissCham events included the Christmas lunch at Chesa (bottom left photo) and the private tour of Philips Autumn Auction. On the bottom right photo, the welcome for the Swiss staycation package.

How are SWISS and SWISS World-Cargo responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and their outlook In this webinar, we invited Mr. Christoph Meyer, General Manager Hong Kong, South China & Macau for Lufthansa Group and Mr. Kenny Leung, Head of Cargo, Hong Kong & Taiwan at Swiss WorldCargo. The representatives of SWISS shared their insights into how SWISS is navigating the challenges triggered by the pandemic, as well as their current business outlook.

We also launched new initiatives like the series of events "Invest in..." and "Self-Development and Career Growth".

"Invest in..." is a series of events where the Swiss Chamber opens the door to the rising class of alternative assets investments, which have been the privilege of exclusive collectors, billionaires, or aficionados.

"Self-Development and Career Growth" is a series of events aimed at providing you with important tools to enhance yourself professionally, understand how you are positioned within your industry, how to take your career to the next step, how to recover from a professional frustration, and take your professional life to the next level. Two events have been organized so far "Build up your Competencies for a Successful Career!" and Stepping up into a 'General Manager' and both have been very successful!

Also, together with the Swiss Association and the Swiss Consulate, we have supported our members with exclusive staycation packages from luxury hotels with a Swiss touch.



Other Swiss Associations

Swiss School Committee (SSC)

Established in 1978, the Swiss School Committee (SSC) is a committee of the SAHK with an additional reporting-line to the Swiss government. The SSC provides a platform supporting the educational needs for children in the Swiss community of Hong Kong, focusing on Swiss culture. More on the page 56 of this magazine.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Patrick Heimann, Hong Kong representative.
Peggy Huen, deputy Hong Kong representative.
OSA ensures the interests of Swiss citizens living outside of Switzerland are represented in Switzerland through the 140-strong Council of Swiss Abroad. The OSA also provides information about Switzerland and offers various services such as summer camps for children and young people, and information about emigrating or moving back to Switzerland.
www.SwissCommunity.org aso@swiss-hk.com

Swiss XI

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

Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Tobias Brandner, President. The SBS of Hong Kong was incorporated in September 1949 to assist Swiss nationals who encounter financial difficulties in Hong Kong. 30% of SAHK membership fee is contributed to the SBS fund.
tobias.brandner@swiss-hk.com

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK)

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

Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Patrick Heimann
The SCCHK Young Professionals organize regular social and networking events for the younger members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.
patrick.heimann@fidinam.com.hk

Swiss Rifle Association

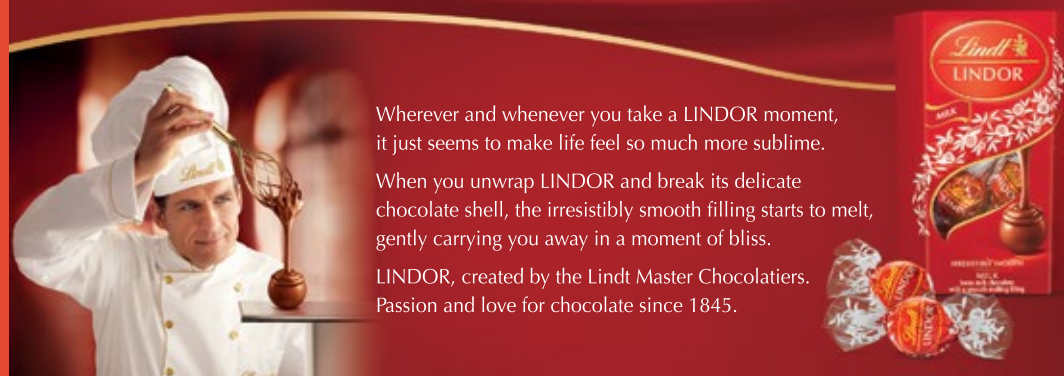
Alexander Luedi, President
Founded in 1982, the Swiss Rifle Association organizes shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shooting and Operation Mercury. More on page 46.
www.srahk.com
rifle_association@swiss-hk.com

Dragon Boat Team

Werner Heimgartner, Manager.
The Swiss Association's dragon boat team participates in the legendary Stanley Dragon Boat races, every year in June. It is open to members and non-members. Beginners are welcome. More on page 52.
[@swissdragonshk](https://www.facebook.com/swissdragonshk) on FB and IG



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Consul General



Katia Stampfli
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Thomas Fischer
Consul



Vanita Karpf
Consular Attaché



Winnie Kan
Cultural Officer



Richard Kurz
Assistant to the
Consul General



San Wang
Trade Officer



EvaENZler-Kölliker
Consular Officer



**Melody
Shu Kin So**
Consular Officer



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A few questions with Thomas Fischer

In August 2020 Mr. Thomas Fischer took over as Consul in Hong Kong. Between other responsibilities, he looks after the Swiss Community in this region. Below, our readers have a chance of know more about him.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I am originally from the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, but have been in the Consular Service for more than 30 years. My job has taken me to many places all over the world, the last one being Doha, Qatar, and I have arrived here in Hong Kong in August 2020. Missing the beautiful countryside of my home in the North East of Switzerland, I always enjoyed my new assignments in big cities, letting me experience the life of the locals.

In how many cities you have worked before Hong Kong? Do you have a favorite? Which was he most challenging?

Trying to remember all my assignments, I am counting 11 places (maybe I forgot one or two). My favorite being Helsinki, Finland, with beautiful countryside, spectacular Midnight Sun in the summer and the Aurora Borealis in the colder time of the year. In contrast, Cairo, Egypt, was quite the opposite of Helsinki, a huge and rapidly expanding city of around 20 plus million. A fascinating place, but four years in a very challenging environment.

How does Hong Kong compare to other places you have lived?

Arriving in Hong Kong, I realized that I have never been to a city which offers such a wide range of culture: restaurants, foods of all kinds, a very big and active Swiss community. It is a privilege to be here and it is certainly not a given to be "pampered" like this in other places of the world.

What is necessary to be a good Consul?

I have learned early on in my career in the Consular Service that flexibility and openness is crucial to succeed in the job. It also means not always being able to choose your favorite job assignments. And in my day-to-day work, I need a lot of different skills, not only the wide range of consular tasks such as passport and visa issues, but more practical duties such as being able to fix IT problems, HR duties, building management and many others.

Is there anything you need to bring from Switzerland when you are abroad?

I am not bringing back many things from holidays in Switzerland, especially now that I am here in Hong Kong where I can find so many Swiss delicacies. However, I always take a deep breath before I leave my hometown in the hills of the Appenzellerland and bring it with me to wherever I am stationed abroad.



Thomas at the Swiss Consulate in Hong Kong

Vanita Karpf

New Consular Attaché



Vanita discovering the beautiful panorama of Tai Tun Shan, Sai Kung, during a hike.

During the summer of 2020, the Swiss Consulate General in Hong Kong welcomed Vanita Karpf as its new Consular Attaché. This is Vanita's first assignment abroad for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The s'Alphorn asked her a few questions, so the Swiss Community in Hong Kong could know a little more about her.

Can you tell us a little about your background?

Born in Grenchen (Solothurn), I have lived in Geneva and Bern before leaving Switzerland. I first studied business and later on translation (French, English, German). After spending a few years in the hotel industry and cruising the seven seas, I have now docked at the Fragrant Harbour with the Swiss Ministry.

What attracted you to this career?

Although being far from home, I feel privileged to still be closely connected to Switzerland while discovering the world.

What is your favorite place here in Hong Kong?

Hong Kong is indeed a place of wonder and much to discover. Despite activities being limited due to COVID-19 since my arrival, I have had the chance to explore different hiking trails in the Sai Kung area and the outlying islands.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

As a rookie in this career, I find starting in the year 2020 was a challenge itself and having to adapt to the constant changes in different rules and regulations.

Is there anything you need to bring from Switzerland when you're abroad?

Having a sweet tooth, I make sure to always carry some Swiss Chocolate with me wherever I am.



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In the Spotlight: Helga Ann

The s'Alphorn puts the spotlight on Helga Ann, a Hong Kong resident and SAHK member since the early 60s. In the following pages, she remembers her story in Hong Kong, a city much different from the one we are used nowadays.

Text by Helga Ann.

I was born in Zurich in February 1941. My father was from Rapperswil and my mother was English so I was brought up bilingual, until we moved to Locarno when I was 4 years old and then my kindergarten and primary school education was in Italian. This became my "mother tongue" and I spoke both English and German with an Italian accent which was funny. I met my husband Rupert, a student from Hong Kong, in London in 1961 and I came to the British colony in 1963 when I was 22. My first personal impression of Hong Kong has to be about the welcome I received from the Chinese family that I was to become a part of, and how at ease they made me feel. My (future) father-in-law was one of the Ning Po entrepreneurs who brought the textile industry to Hong Kong in the forties and he spoke perfect English; so did mother.

The biggest hurdle I had to get used to was that I arrived here in the hottest May on record and slap bang in the middle of a drought so that running water was limited to 4 hours only every fourth day. I had to fill the bathtub and kitchen containers. My flat was on the ground floor so I had the advantage; residents from upper floors would come to me to fill their buckets as the water pressure was not reaching them. Luckily there were only three stories.

We married in December 1963 and lived on Prince Edward Road near Kai Tak Airport. In those days the planes used to come in very low over Kowloon Tong and we could hear them and see them from our balcony. The noise in



Helga Ann, with her daughter, Karin Ann.

Kowloon City was excruciating. By contrast, there was hardly any traffic on Prince Edward Road and it was so quiet that one could safely cross almost without looking.

We take for granted the comfort of our air-conditioned homes but in those days one was lucky to have one in the bedroom, otherwise relying on ceiling fans. What I longed for and missed most, apart from a temperate climate and the sound of the church bells of Zurich, was a good loaf of wholesome, tasty bread! The day the Peninsula opened its delicatessen with wonderful varieties of bread, sausages and aufschnitt was an absolute godsend for the Swiss community here.



Helga Ann surrounded by her family, including children and grandchildren.

I joined the Swiss Association in 1965 and I made friends with other Swiss girls at the Ladies' Lunches. Some I still meet when I'm in Switzerland; notably Ruth Hung von-Sieenthal whom many of you here will remember. The lunches were mostly held in the Hong Kong Club - a wonderful old colonial building in those days. Unfortunately it was demolished together with the central post office and the porticoed Gloucester Building. Crossing the harbour was always refreshing on the Star Ferry and then, if you had packages, you could hop on a rickshaw to Central; an iconic mode of transport until the early seventies. Wherever you went the ladies and young girls would always be in elegant cheongsams with high collars.

Hong Kong was very much a British Colony in those days and through my father-in-law, I got to meet several of the Brits in government. Most locals were pretty content and would have

invariably been working for the same company most of their lives. The man-in-the-street cared little about politics and no-one complained about London calling the shots.

The year I arrived in Hong Kong the Hilton Hotel and the Mandarin Oriental had just opened. During the sixties and seventies with Swiss and Chinese friends, we would enjoy boat outings and picnics and dancing in some of the clubs which were mostly in Kowloon: "The Scene" Discoteque in the Peninsula and "Bayside" in Chung King Mansions (yes, really!) where they had live bands. Our favourite dancing and dining venue was the Eagle's Nest atop the Hilton; we missed that very much when the hotel was demolished prematurely in 1995. There was no harbour tunnel in the early days and if we happened to miss the last Star Ferry, we would take a walla-walla back to Kowloon. The second day of my arrival in Hong Kong my fiancé took



A few Hong Kong landmarks that were demolished since 1963, when Helga first met them. The photos above were part of her 50th wedding anniversary album.

me by car for lunch at the Repulse Bay Hotel and showed me his old school, St. Stephens College in Stanley. We had to line up a long time in the heat at the Yau Ma Tei car ferry to get across the harbour but the drive on the South side reminded me of the winding roads round Lago Maggiore; so beautiful and peaceful.

Sadder times were during the riots in 1967 and the Cultural Revolution when many of our Chinese friends called it quits, sold their homes cheaply and went to live overseas. My eldest son was 2 years old at the time and I had a month-old baby, so we were pretty much housebound as it was risky for a Gweilo to be out. Home-made bombs were indiscriminately placed in the streets and there were a few cases when children found and played with them, and were killed. Very quickly the colonial government called out its troops to quell the rioters.

Other tragic memories are of the Vietnamese boat people who spent years waiting for asylum in camps like Sham Shui Po; and the mid-levels landslide in 1972 which killed many people living in high rise apartments. There are so many stories to tell, and I could talk about our Amahs (as indispensable as today's helpers), and about the noise through open windows of clattering Mahjong tiles, and Cantonese opera blaring from transistor radios. Cinemas were the main venue for entertainment - not everyone had TV - and they would accommodate hundreds of people.

As for Switzerland I'm glad to say we didn't really see many changes over the years. We still have a home in Zurich and Rupert and I have travelled back to Switzerland almost every year since I came here. In 1982 we participated in the Davos Symposium with other delegates representing Hong Kong. The years that really

shocked us was in the late eighties when there was a serious drug problem in the city with graffiti everywhere. We just couldn't believe it! Otherwise, holidays were glorious and we were often driving around the country with our children and grandchildren and for me it will always feel wonderful to be in Ticino when the camellias are in bloom. We have happy memories of Geneva too, especially my daughter's wedding in 1998 held in Chateau Bonmont when we celebrated with all our friends who came from various Cantons.

I have three children and 7 grandchildren and all of them have attended the same local Hong Kong schools, with two of them also joining GSIS for secondary school. Their Cantonese is fluent, yet around our dinner table a lot of the conversation will be in French and there will be some German and Italian too.



Repulse Bay in 1963, with the old hotel on the left.

As a family we enjoy our Chinese and Swiss heritage together. Hong Kong has been my home but Switzerland will be my final resting place.

Helga ANN-BAUMELER

In memory of Ruth Hung-von Siebenthal

By Helga Ann. May 31, 2021.

I have just heard with great sadness that Ruth Hung-von Siebenthal has passed away and I would like to say a few words of tribute to my dear old friend.

I met her in Hong Kong in 1974 when she was in her early twenties. Her first job was as housekeeper at the Hong Kong Hotel and it was a difficult and sad time for her as both her parents had died of cancer the previous year. She integrated very well in Hong Kong and went on to becoming F&B manager at the Furama Hotel and at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile; at some point also with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.

She was instrumental in the running of the Hotel Management Training school in Pokfulam and for 12 years she was a board member of GSIS.

She had such a busy and eventful life and she was devoted to her children, Alexander, Bettina and Caroline. In 2001, together with Larry her husband, who is Chinese, they settled back in Saanenmoser. She became representative of the Swiss Abroad in Hong Kong and, in 2005, President of the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad.



Helga and Ruth (right) share the same birthday. Above, they celebrate together in 1993.

But she loved Asia and so she and Larry packed their bags again to give her expertise to the Hotel Training School in Manila for 4 years. Returning to Switzerland, she continued her seriously favourite pastime, horse riding, together with her children and three grandchildren.

In her last letter to me, she said "my heart is very attached to Hong Kong and will always be". May she rest in peace.

Monthly Jass

By Raffael Morger

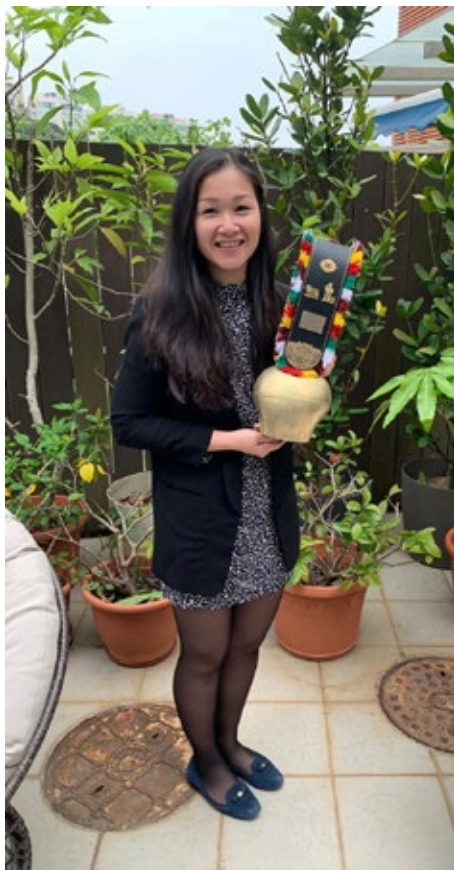
Similar to other social events, we had to cancel most of the Swiss Jass evenings due to the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately this also included our traditional Chlausjass, for which everything was organized and a number of attractive prizes were waiting for the players. Fortunately however, complying with some social distancing restrictions, the Pacific Club allowed us to play at least a few card game evenings in between the pandemic waves.

Despite fewer games, we have a fantastic new Jass Champion winning the coveted cow bell - Ching! After Angela and Stella the third Jass Queen in a row! Relatively new to the game, Ching played very consistently throughout the year and claimed victory ahead of the entire Seeholzer family (who claimed rank 2-5)!

Hopefully the situation will continue to improve and we can resume our monthly Jass gatherings on a monthly basis.

New this year: I am delighted to announce that the Swiss Jass evening is moving to the Swiss Chalet in TST starting this May. We will enjoy a special dinner offer put together by our honorary member Max. In between the Jass games, the players can choose from a set Menu with Appetizer or Soup, a selection of main course and dessert and free flow drinks. The top players will be awarded a bottle of wine. I would like to thank Pacific Club for their excellent service since 2012!

The Swiss Jass evening should remain a fun evening with delicious food and entertaining games, open for all generations and levels. All the dates have been announced on the Swiss Association Website and we warmly welcome you at this year's Jass Evenings.



Ching, the new holder of the Cow Bell trophy.



Discovering Cheung Chau

By San Wang



On a great day in November with clear blue sky, we met up at the central pier for a relaxed hike on the island of Cheung Chau.

This hike has a little something for everyone and is without doubt one of the most unique hikes I've done as it offers ferry rides, doable distance and mild elevation (not too far, not too short and definitely not too steep), some history- a truly undisturbed fishing village where seafood is drying everywhere, with a short detour to visit a cave, quietness (Cheung Chau is one of the few places with no public motor vehicles) and great food (fresh seafood, dim sum, etc).

For those who have never been to Cheung Chau, this hike was indeed a great chance to head out there with the

Swiss Association. However, it was equally fun for those who have been there before and just wanted to spend a great day outdoors with lots of laughter.

We have ended the hike with an optional seafood lunch along the promenade. It was a day full of fun, new sights and old memories. 🍴👍😊

Do join us next time!
San Wang





disCONNECT HK

Guided Art Tour / November 26, 2020

By JJ Wang

This interesting mixed-media exhibition was held in a historic 1950s tenement building in the heart of Causeway Bay. Walking up the narrow stairs to reach the venue was already an unique experience. All the art installations were distributed throughout few residential flats on three different floors. Nicole Schoeni, the curator of this exhibition herself led the tour and provided many insightful information. We learned a lot about how the artists respond to Covid-19 through their works as well as the challenging planning to the realisation of this exhibition during the pandemic. We are very impressed by the energy and dedication of Nicole and her team to realise this great project.



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

By Tanja Lecher

The weather was beautiful on that Sunday and our crafty group was gathered outside at the Sai Kung Community Centre. Western, Swiss and Chinese Christmas Music helped us to get into an early Christmas spirit. Under Yvonne's instructions everyone was able to create a beautiful, individual Advent wreath that lasted well beyond Christmas Day.



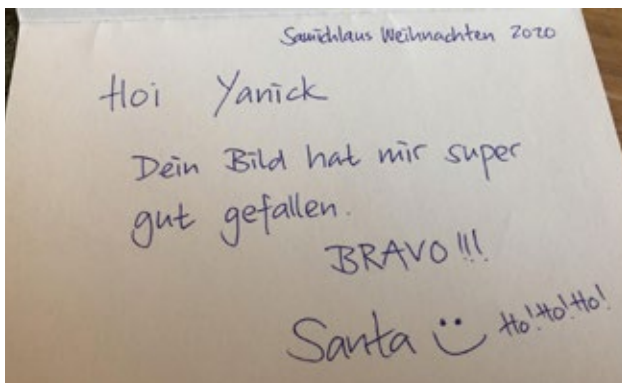
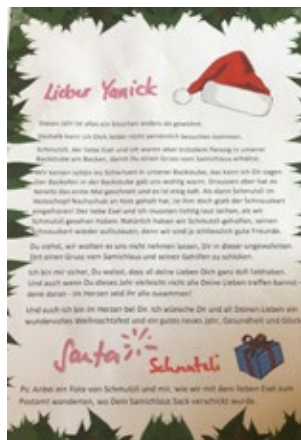
Santa's artwork contest

Congratulations, Yanick!

Your beautiful artwork warmed Santa's heart during the cold Christmas night in the North Pole.

Santa Claus is no different from us. Covid-19 also made him work from home last Christmas season. This is the reason he could not meet the Swiss children in Hong Kong during our traditional barbecue with Santa. Nevertheless, he did everything he could to bring gifts and joy to everybody.

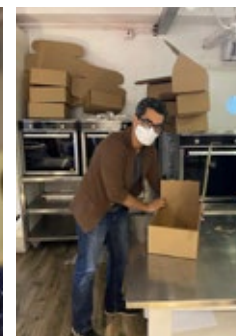
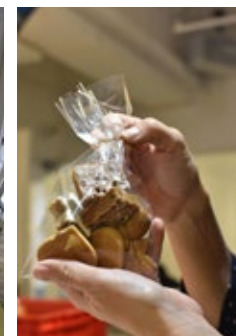
With the help of the SAHK, our children had the chance to send a nice letter to Santa, together with their best drawing of him using a mask. Santa loved all the artworks and rewarded the most unique one with a special goodie bag!



Packing the Christmas Goodie Bags

Even without leaving their home in the North Pole, Santa and his helpers prepared goodie bags with delicious treats such as Swiss cookies and the famous 'Grittibänz' for the children in Hong Kong.

Yet, Santa could not bring them here. So, with the support of the chocolatier Schoggi Meier and the bakery Breadbox, the members of the SAHK gather together to help Santa finish the bags and deliver them to the children of Hong Kong.





Bowling night at the Ladies Recreation Club

+++

3rd wave, 4th wave, 5th wave... In the past year Covid-19 came and went several times, but the SAHK kept the ball rolling. Literally.

On the 8th of April, after the relaxation of social distance measures, our members could finally meet again on the bowling lanes of the Ladies Recreation Club (LRC). It was the first night event of 2021 and our guests could celebrate with

great food and drinks provided by the club.

It is true that the number of guests had to be limited, as well as the group divided in two, but that hardly diminished the excitement of meeting old friends, chit-chatting and enjoying a fun game of ball. For that night, the Swiss Association of Hong Kong thanks the LRC and, specially, its general manager, Kurt Walter.



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Family Foraging Tour Tai O / March 20, 2021

By JJ Wang

This very unique outdoor excursion took place on a beautiful spring day in a scenic, laid back corner of Hong Kong. Equipped with sun protection, water and good walking shoes, the group gathered at Tai O bus stop in the morning to meet our experienced guide Wanda. After the briefing and insightful introduction to foraging we started our walk by passing by the mangrove forest, planted over former salt pans that the village was famous for. Wanda distributed to everyone few cards showing an image and the Latin name of a plant. On the way each of us had to watch out for the plant on our card. It is astonishing how many edible plants are growing in Hong Kong which we don't notice. Every few meters someone made a discovery, the group stopped and Wanda told us about the properties, the use and many interesting stories related to each plant.



At noon time we picnicked at a pretty, pristine spot next to a hidden waterfall. While taking a rest Wanda took out few containers with more edible flowers, herbs and seeds she collected before the tour and taught us more about those fascinating edible plants. After the lunch break we continued to an organic farm in Yi O. There we could sample just harvested fruits and herbs, and enjoy tasting the strong flavour and freshness that is incomparable to store-bought products. Before leaving the farm we were allowed to pick some vegetables and herbs to bring back home. Time passed by so fast because we had so much fun learning and exploring. In order to spend more time in and around the farm we decided to stay a bit longer there and take the speed boat instead of walking back to Tai O.



After a very joyful day foraging in the nature, one of the tour participants who runs a private kitchen in Tai O spontaneously invited the group to have some cold drinks and BBQ at his place. On the way to his restaurant in the middle of the picturesque fishing village we crossed the waterway and passed by street vendors selling local delicacies such as dry fish and squids. The restaurant is located in one of the traditional houses with a charming terrace facing the water with view on the stilt houses. Everyone enjoyed the cozy atmosphere, nice food and great talks till long after the sun has set. We can't imagine a more perfect way to finish off our amazing foraging adventure.





Swiss Rifle Association: Ready - Watch and Shoot !

By Alexander Lüdi

Finally, after a long period of inactivity – remember, summer 2019 was not really the time for taking our rifles to the shooting range in Sheng Shui, and 2020 just wasn't made for it either, when at the end of February 2021 we were told that the shooting range can be used with a group not exceeding 20 people, our newly authorized arms instructors, and range officers immediately organized a long pending training day for members, followed by two Sundays of a tightly controlled shooting event. Given the limitations of people on the range, our hosts and owners of the range, the RHKR Sports Shooting Association stood gallantly back to give Swiss Rifle members priority access. Thus, all members were able to shoot the traditional Compulsory ("Obligatorische") and the Fieldshoot ("Feldschiesen") with the obligatory Bratwursts and Cervelats.



++ SAHK

As one of a few dozen Swiss Shooting Clubs abroad, which get the full support from the Swiss Government and the Swiss Sports Shooting Federation, we are facing increasing restrictions and regulations on the Swiss side – the new EU law says hello. Nevertheless, and in spite of recent announcements about the supply of rifles and

ammunition from Switzerland to Hong Kong, the committee is now working on scenarios to continue our activity. Eventually we shall organize a long pending young shooters course, open to all young Swiss, women and men, resident in Hong Kong and who have attained the age of 15. Stay tuned.



+++



Above, The 2021 Swiss XI team. Check out their new website at www.swiss-eleven.com

Swiss XI 1977 - the Genesis

By Jürg Niederberger

The season 2019/20 was called off in January 2020 due to political unrests, the season 2020/21 started late and then was interrupted for a few months and now is going again, all due to COVID. We might be able to finish the season, but who knows. On the football side, Swiss XI is doing well and is alive and kicking (after all we are a football team), while the indoor team "Swiss Select" is waiting for a new (but somehow unlikely) start of the current season.

That is why I want to delve a bit into the history of Swiss XI. Swiss XI was founded in 1977

... let me say that again ... in 1977. While I was already born, that seems like a very long time ago. 1977! West Germany was football World Champion, Boney M and ABBA dominated the music charts, Women's Suffrage was just introduced in Switzerland, and one of the Swiss Bundesrat was Mr Gnaegi, while the US had President Carter.

So, what exactly happened back in 1977 for a bunch of young guys to get together and to start calling themselves "Swiss XI".

Here in the words of Albert Hausammann, one of the founders of Swiss XI:



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"In my hometown Rapperswil ice hockey was the favourite sport but I never played it. My interest in football started in New York. The Swiss Ski Club of New York played in summer occasional games against the local Swissair team or against other Metropolitan Ski Clubs sometimes in Central Park or on Long Island. It was basically kicking a ball around, but it was fun. I came to Hong Kong in 1967 and it soon dawned on me that kicking a ball around on weekends would be fun. The Hilton hotel had a Chefs team and probably one of the first games took place in Aberdeen. Cocktails, canapes etc were already consumed before the start of the game; the result lost in my mind. The ad hoc team was called "Swiss Business Men". Thanks to some good connections I had with the British Forces we were invited to play against some of the officers teams followed by an invitation to a joint curry luncheon under the honour guard off the Gurkhas. Games took place on HK Island, Kowloon and New Territories as the militaries had excellent pitches near most their barracks. Almost at the same time a young and talented Swiss guy by the name of Peter Klaus who played with a well organised team, mostly consisting of Chinese players, showed up. So, it was natural when we met to think of a Swiss Team and so the "Swiss XI" was founded. Peter was a skilled soccer player and he continued to play a very important part until a few years ago. With my own "kicking around skills" I soon enjoyed the game from the sideline. The Swiss XI was also a founding member of the Yau Yee League which had the strong support of the HK Football Club and also the Hong Kong Football Association. Peter was instrumental in organising the team and keeping records of results, teams and reports on all events and away trips. This is what became and was called the Swiss XI Museum. This collection of documents, trophies and memorabilia was kept in my office in the Malaysia Building until some years ago when I closed down my office there. Jurg Niederberger took over the task of record keeper for the museum. The Swiss XI was from the start an international team with players from Holland, Belgium, Germany, France, England,



A classic Swiss XI formation. Albert Hausamann is the first, left to right, on the top line.



Peter Klaus, founding member of the Swiss XI.



The 1993 team before a match in the Philippines.

Italy and Japan, besides many local Chinese players. But the spirit of the team was also to give a chance to interested Swiss nationals to play in a well-recognised domestic amateur league. We also had the full support from the grandstand such as Sigi and Wayne Beer and many other. Your honorary president, Peter Klaus is now retired in Switzerland and Phuket and I for myself am still a resident of Hong Kong but often away in Switzerland. We look forward to watch some games in the near future when this virus Covid will have gone away. Three points on Sunday! Your honorary president, Albert"

So, that is how it all started. However, I wanted to know more and tracked down some previous members of Swiss XI and I am happy to publish some excerpts from my "interviews" with them:

P., Swiss XI member in the late 70s and 80s:

What was the most memorable event during your time with Swiss XI?

"Oh, clearly the founding of the Yau Yee League in Albert's flat on Conduit Road. The meeting almost did not happen, some invitees went to Caine Road instead, some thought the meeting was a week later. You know, organising a bunch of football madman is not easy, in particular back in the pre-email / pre-mobile phone time. Anyway, somehow all the necessary people turned up and the meeting was finally on ... at 9pm"



Visit the SAHK website and read all the interviews! <https://www.swiss-hk.com>



Wayne Beer, always there on the grandstand.

YAU YEE SOCCER LEAGUE 1977/78	
MEMORANDUM OF MEETING	
PLACE	31, Conduit Road 10/42
TIME	Wednesday 13th July 1977 - 9:00 p.m.
PURPOSE	See attachment
SEASON	Beginning of October 1977 until March 1978. Total about 20 games plus Cup and Shield.
RULES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Home Teams will be responsible for booking and paying for the hire of pitches. 2) All clubs will pay a subscription fee of \$100 to the league to cover the cost of trophies medals etc. 3) League matches will be of 80 mins. duration, Cup games 90 minutes. 4) Registration of players will not be required. However, clubs will generally only be allowed to field players not registered with the HKFA. 5) Referees will be responsible for reporting any cautions or sending-offs to the league committee who will request the relevant team captain to take disciplinary action against the offending players. 6) Any club who wishes to cancel or postpone an arranged match, must do so prior to 72 hours before kick-off. Failure to do so will result in the opposing club being awarded the match with two goals and two points. 7) Clubs will be allowed to play a maximum of two substitutes during a match. 8) Clubs will endeavour to provide one linesman for all matches.
OFFICERS	Team Managers : Peter KLAUS Cashier : Hans-Jurg DOVE (HK\$50.00 to be paid to cashier every player before beginning of season) Equipment : Gottfried RAESEN Social : Marius FORSTER : Andre BARTHCKE : Roland MACEK (half-time drinks and after-match gathering) PR : Alex HIRT : Philippe ROCHAT (information Alpha, design of flag (Wagel) etc.) League Representative : Albert HAUSAMANN

Founding document of the Yau Yee League.

Swiss Dragons 2020

"Stuck ashore and dry"

By Joshua Spirgi



Werner Heimgartner, the Swiss Dragons team manager, during the last "Warm-up Race Day".

2020 was the first time that the race in June has been cancelled since I joined the team in 2014. After having quite a successful race day in 2019 we were all excited for the new season to start with our first training in March of 2020, little did we know that this will be the only training for a while.

After cancelling the next two training sessions due to a close covid contact from our team manager Werner Heimgartner and general concerns that the situation would not improve before May we decided to withdraw from race day participation and end the season early.

Although this was sad news for the whole team it was the obvious and sensible decision,

and both the warm-up and actual race day were cancelled sometime later by the Stanley Dragon Boat Association.

For a couple of years now we have had off-season training to keep the team in shape and for possible new members to join us and try out dragon boating. With the situation in Hong Kong seemingly more in control, we all got excited at the prospect of some possible offseason sessions and finally, in late 2020, we ended up organising three days with a limited number of paddlers on the boat that were a much-needed release for the whole team. Even the new Consul general, Rolf Frei, joined in the fun!



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Swiss Dragons 2021

"Back into the water"

(continued)



The Swiss Dragons training in Stanley. The Dragon Boat team is back in the water.

With the latest wave being under control in early 2021 and the Stanley Dragon Boat Association allowing boats of up to 18 paddlers we immediately started organising our new team and had our first training of the year on April 3rd. At first, we could just book training sessions but later in April, the June 14 race day was confirmed as well. This was great news for all of us and we were even more motivated to set ourselves up better than the years before. Along with new exercises in training we worked on everyone's technique and looked at how we can improve the line-ups in the boat to get the best out of everyone.

We are super excited to be back out on the water, and the atmosphere in training and for the casual drinks thereafter is always fantastic!

Come say hi to our team every Saturday after 11 in Stanley at our partner restaurant Spiaggia and we hope to see you support us in Stanley on June 14 for the pre-race and October 10 for the actual race!

To strengthen the Swiss sports community, we have started a collaboration with the Swiss Eleven, the Swiss football team in Hong Kong, to create a new coordinated logo and are working on a website (www.swiss-dragons.com) as well as being more active on social media (@swissdragonshk on FB and IG).

The team will also receive customised bags and masks with our new logo. All this would not be possible without the help and new collaboration with the Swiss Eleven as well as our sponsors, Blue Concept Asia, Hatari Express, and HkBreadbox.



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Swiss School Committee (SSC)

SSC Survey October 2020

With the support of SAHK and the Swiss Consulate, SSC has conducted a survey in order to gain a better view on the Swiss families in Hong Kong and their children's Swiss educational needs. The survey received 86 responses in total which represents 20% response rate from the recipients. Main findings from the survey include the following:

- + Over 50% of the families responded have lived in HK more than 10 years
 - + 82% families would like to send their child to go study in Switzerland in future
 - + Over half are interested in having workshop for Swiss cultural studies and Swiss traditional activities
 - + 80% participants responded that they are interested in learning events organized by SSC.
- Many parents brought good ideas to SSC as how to bring the Swiss kids together through interests centered activities.

Swiss teachers at the GSIS



Priska Erni
Head of German Primary
Department - GSIS



Rafael Mariaca
Music Teacher - GSIS



Isabelle Vögelin
Primary Teacher - GSIS

Webinar on Swiss Universities

The 2020 SSC survey found out that many parents are interested in knowing how to prepare their children to enroll in Swiss universities after attending an education system other than the Swiss Matura.

Following this request, on 18 January the SSC hosted a webinar with Ms. Barbara Sulzer Smith, Managing Director at educationsuisse. With experience both in the private and academic sector, Ms. Sulzer gave practical advice for expats parents who want to give their children the option to study at Swiss Universities.

37 Swiss parents were present at the webinar and the positive feedback from the attendees is an incentive for the SSC to organize more similar events in the future.

New Swiss teachers in Hong Kong !

Géraldine and Patrice Fournier, both primary teachers at the French school since the beginning of the school year 2020. Originally from the Valais, music lovers and adventurers at heart, they arrived in Hong Kong with their two kids. For the moment, everyone is enjoying the way of life in this beautiful part of the world.



Are you not a member yet?

Join the Swiss Association !



The annual single membership fee is HK\$ 250 and family membership fee is HK\$ 450.

Membership is for a calendar year (i.e. 1 Jan to 31 Dec).

Single membership fee is only applicable to single/widowed/divorced persons.

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 eighteen (18) years of age. Children under eighteen (18) years of age fall under their parent's membership and must reside in Hong Kong.

Use the QR code or visit <https://www.swiss-hk.com/join>

About the s'Alphorn

I hope you have enjoyed the 2021 edition of the s'Alphorn. This annual magazine summarizes the SAHK events during the year and also brings information of interest for the Swiss Community in Hong Kong. With the support of the Swiss Consulate, the printed version of the s'Alphorn is sent to every Swiss resident in Hong Kong and Macau.

For this 139th edition, I have to thank my colleagues at the SAHK Committee, the Swiss Consulate, other Swiss organizations in Hong Kong, as well as our SAHK members. All of them sent us texts, photos and information that allowed me to prepare this magazine.

Ricardo Ferraz
Editor - s'Alphorn
2021-2022



Above, the packing and posting of the 138th edition of the s'Alphorn, at the Swiss Consulate, made by SAHK volunteers.



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OYSTER PERPETUAL 41



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