

瑞士通訊





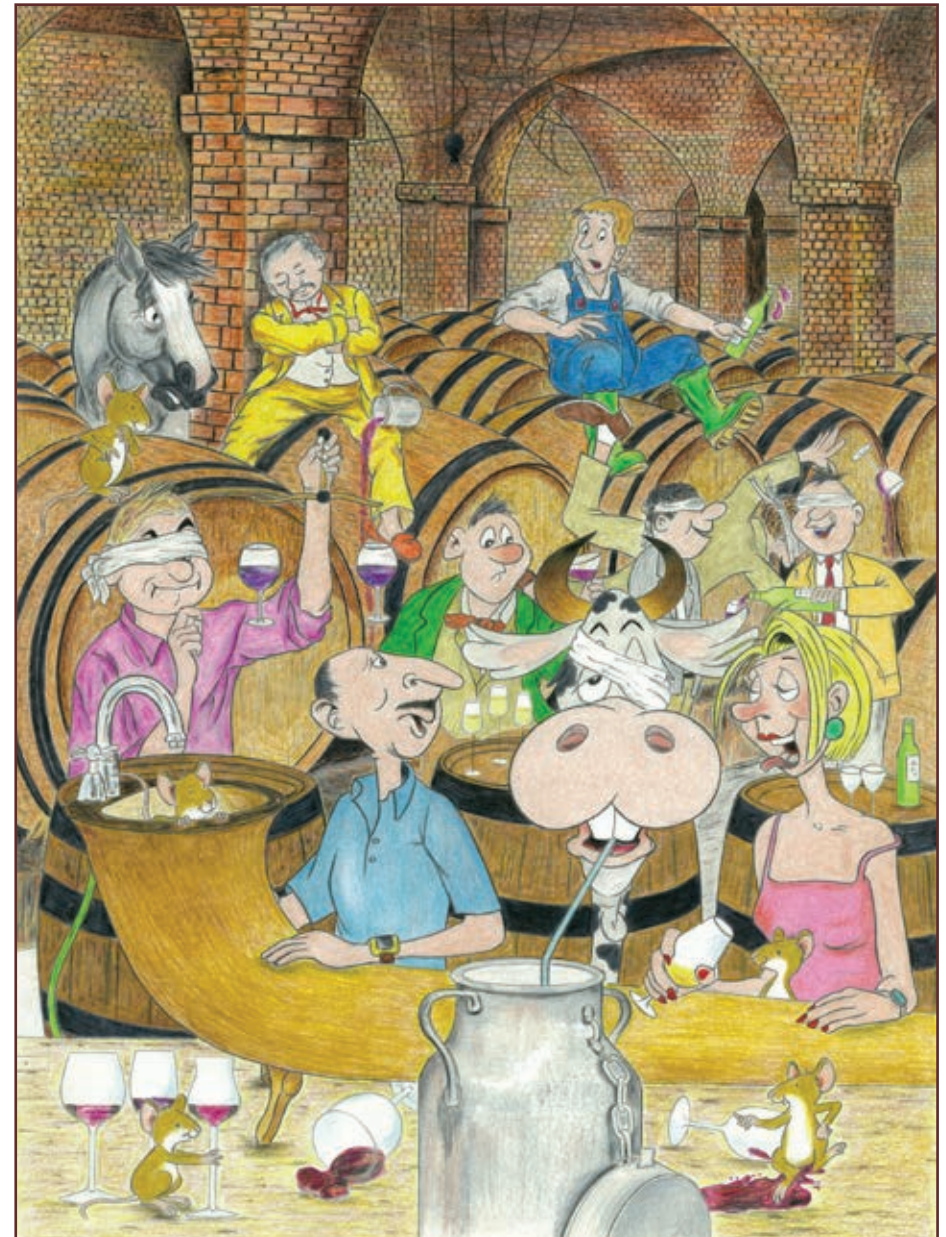
Drawing by Daniel Wettling

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++

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# Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of Switzerland,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you. Although the last few years have been challenging for everyone, I am glad that we have successfully managed to navigate through it. Apart from our monthly events, the association was able to offer a variety of new events for our members. This included cultural activities for children, allowing them to establish new friendships within the community.

The Swiss Association is a community filled with rich history, culture and traditions, founded on the 30th of June 1948 by a group of 13 Swiss compatriots at the Ciba (China) offices of the French Bank building in Hong Kong. Mr Walter Naef, the association's first president, laid the founding stone for a community that has stood the test of time. We have remained a close-knit family, welcoming people from all walks of life.

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2023, we take pride in looking back at how far we have come and what we have achieved together. The Swiss Association has established itself as a pillar of friendship, mutual support, and cooperation. Our community has grown, connecting Swiss compatriots and their families and promoting our culture and traditions.

We look forward to the future with optimism, knowing that the Swiss Association will continue to be a home away from home for all those who share our values and passion for Swiss culture.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the support of our loyal sponsors, who generously contribute to the association's activities. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of them.

I would like to acknowledge Ricardo Ferraz, who has served as the editor of this magazine for the past three years and has done an excellent job. He has now handed over the reins to Paul Hugentobler, who I am confident will continue the excellent work and deliver exceptional content in the coming years.

I must also acknowledge the commendable efforts of our committee members, who volunteer their time and energy to ensure that everything runs smoothly. The association is entirely run by volunteers, and it is their dedication and commitment that have made it possible for us to host such events and maintain a cohesive community of Swiss people in Hong Kong.



*Handover with our past president*



*SAHK president, Patrick Koslowski, with his late grandmother.*

It is also important to note that we work closely with the Consulate General of Switzerland and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. We have a solid working relationship with them and are always grateful for their help.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for being a part of the Swiss Association in Hong Kong. Your continued support and participation are essential in keeping our community alive and thriving. I look forward to connecting with all of you at our upcoming events, which promise to be exciting and engaging.

We would love for you to follow us on our social media channels! Doing so lets you stay up-to-date with all the exciting things happening within our community. Whether it's the latest

events, news, or a fun snapshot from our daily lives, we want to share it all with you! So please, take a moment to scan the QR code in this magazine and follow us on social media. We can't wait to connect and keep you in the loop!

Yours sincerely,

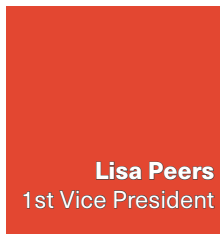
Patrick Koslowski  
President of the Swiss Association in Hong Kong



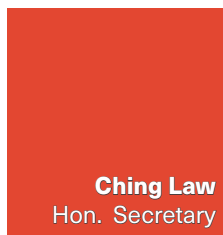
# Committee 2023-2024



**Patrick Koslowski**  
President



**Lisa Peers**  
1st Vice President



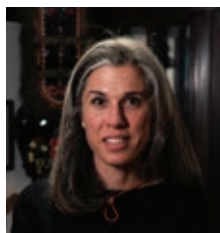
**Ching Law**  
Hon. Secretary



**Kailonde Pho**  
Events Coordinator



**Paul Hugentobler**  
s'Alphorn Editor



**Doris von  
Niederhausern  
Bertoli**  
School Committee



**Ashley Lau**  
Sponsorship  
Coordinator



**Roland Jossi**  
Hon. Treasurer



**Olga Paré**  
Events Coordinator



**Joanna Lau**  
Hon. Treasurer  
School Committee



**Joshua Spirgi**  
IT Coordinator



**Raffael Morger**  
Immediate  
Past President



**San Wang**  
Past President



## About the Association

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong is a warm and welcoming community dedicated to fostering connections and promoting Swiss culture in Hong Kong. With a diverse mix of members from all walks of life, our Association provides a platform for Swiss nationals and friends of Switzerland to come together, share their experiences, and celebrate our unique heritage.

Through various fun and engaging events, we aim to bring a taste of Switzerland to Hong Kong and keep our traditions alive. At the same

time, we are committed to giving back to the local community, supporting charitable causes and spreading awareness of the important work being done by other Swiss organizations in Hong Kong.

Whether you are a Swiss national living in Hong Kong or someone who appreciates our country's rich history and traditions, we would love to have you in our Association.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch and find out how to join the fun!

## Our contacts

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**raffael.morger@swiss-hk.com**  
**san.wang@swiss-hk.com**

# New Committee Members

## Olga Paré

I am an adopted Swiss. I arrived in Geneva in 2006 with my work – as fate has it, from Hong Kong – only to return here 15 years later as a Swiss citizen. I would not have believed this prediction at the time: 12 years required to secure it seemed a terribly long time and a French test – mission impossible (pronounced as mi.sjõ ẽ.po.sibl)!

I am grateful to Switzerland for welcoming me as an outsider and honoured to be a member of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong. It is a family-like community of great characters, diverse



backgrounds and tolerant views – little Switzerland in my favourite part of the world: merci vielmal!

And I will let the readers

guess where this photo comes from – and who the gentleman is. A small hint: the Paré surname comes from his family but he is not Swiss ;-)

## Lisa Peers Dermont

Biengi, jeu hai num Lisa Peers Dermont e sundel ualti carteivel la suletta Romontscha cheu a Hong Kong. I grew up in the beautiful mountains of the Grisons, where I spent most time outdoors. Whether skiing or hiking, I enjoyed the beauty of the most fantastic place in the world. Ultimately, the mountains got a bit tight as I grew, so I grabbed the opportunity to study Chinese Science at the University of Zurich and spend a few semesters abroad in China. I never really settled back, hence I was very

happy to move to Hong Kong in 2022, together with my husband, and continue our Asian journey. I picked up sailing as my outdoor activity, as the wind and waves remind me of Alpine pleasures.

I quickly reached out to the Swiss Association and started engaging myself organising events and supporting the committee. Meanwhile I have been elected as Vice President and am enjoying being part of the Swiss community and aspire to keep it thriving.



Switzerland. Naturally.

Enjoy with moderation



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# New Committee Members

## Doris v. N. Bertoli

Switzerland is my home country. I was born and raised in Zurich and had lots of fun during my childhood playing outdoors. I love the Swiss mountains with a passion.

Throughout my professional career I have worked for many years in Marketing for three large Swiss Banks and one famous Swiss Luxury Skin Care Company.

My life path has led me to Hong Kong, where I kept on working in the Marketing field. Despite having worked for so many years in the corporate world, my true passion lies in working with young children. Therefore, I have completed an Early Childhood Education Program, which allows me to work on projects that bring me lots of joy.

In my spare time I love spending time with my family, either relaxing at home or going to explore with them the beautiful nature of Hong Kong.



I'm happy to be part of the SAHK Committee and hope that the Swiss Children living in Hong Kong may get to know each other better and create long lasting friendships full of happy memories.

## Kailonde Pho

I am Kai, born and raised in the beautiful city of Geneva, Switzerland. I have decided to move to Hong Kong in 2018 to kick off a new journey in my life in one of the most exciting cities in the world where opportunities are countless.

I am fluent in French, English, and Cantonese and those language skills allow me to be very comfortable living in this concrete jungle. I am a social person, I am always looking for new challenges and ideas! By joining the SAHK, I hope I can give a hand at the events in the coming year and I can't wait to meet more "compatriots" in town!



## Paul Hugentobler

Born in New York, USA to a Swiss Father and Swedish Mother, I grew up in the US. Having a passion for cooking, I pursued a career in the hospitality industry. At 18, I did a Chef's Apprenticeship at Hotel des Bergues in Geneva and went on to study at the Hotel School in Lausanne.

Joining Hyatt International Hotels, I worked for 25 years in Food & Beverage and Hotel Management in many hotels and countries in the Far East. I continued my career for 10 years with InterContinental Hotels Group.



I have enjoyed the amazing cultures, people, food and languages in all of the countries that I have been so fortunate to work in over all these years. Now retired in Hong Kong, I enjoy time spent with my wife, going hiking on all the vast trails available in Hong Kong, eating delicious local Hong Kong specialties and raising our dog.

By joining the Swiss Association of Hong Kong Committee, I hope that I can contribute to its continued success in providing information and events for the Swiss Community and friends here in Hong Kong.



## Goodbyes departures from our Committee



**Claude Scheidegger**  
Events Coordinator

**Luisa Muenzenmaier**  
Events Coordinator  
School Committee

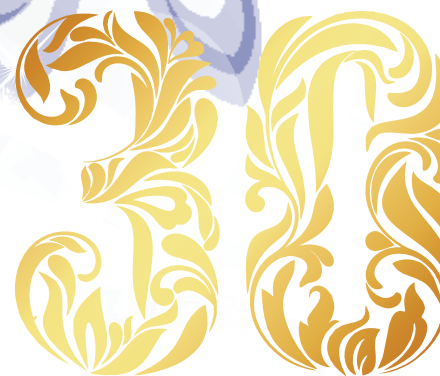
**JJ Wang**  
Events Coordinator

**Ricardo Balsani**  
s'Alphorn Editor



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# 75th Annual General Meeting



## By Raffael Morger

The 75th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong, followed by the 51st AGM of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong was held at the Ladies Recreation Club (LRC) on Friday 17th March 2023.

47 members attended the AGM at the LRC while apologies and proxies from 37 members were received. The quorum of 47 members was therefore comfortably met and the meeting declared to commence.

Raffael Morger, the outgoing president of the SAHK welcomed Consul General Rolf Frei, all members and guests to the event. He then lead through the agenda points, which were shared among the SAHK members before the AGM. All motions were unanimously approved. At last, the audience welcomed the new president, Patrick Koslowski.

Overall, 2022/2023 was a successful year despite the many pandemic restrictions in the first half of 2022. In short, the SAHK refreshed their website, held well over 40 events and activities and donated HKD 88'888.- to the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) charity!

Tobias Brandner then led through the AGM of the Swiss Benevolent Society, where all motions were approved.

The official part was followed by a delicious Swiss inspired dinner at the LRC!





# Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

By Peggy Huen

Local elected Delegate Hong Kong SAR for OSA



Above, Peggy Huen. On the left, Filippo Lombardi, President of OSA and Ignazio Cassis, President of Switzerland at the time, during 98th Congress of the Swiss Abroad 2022 in Lugano. © Organisation of the Swiss Abroad / Adrian Moser

Dear Swiss Compatriots,  
Liebe Schweizer Mitbürgerinnen und Mitbürger,  
Chers compatriotes suisses,  
Cari compatrioti svizzeri,

The year 2022 has been the year of the recovery back to the new normal, many aspects of the

Organisation's activities luckily returned to normal. The 98th Congress of the Swiss Abroad took place in person from 19th to 21st August 2022 in Lugano.

The Congress' theme was "What are the challenges for our democracy?" During the Congress, the future of democracy was at the center of the debates. The President of the Confederation Ignazio Cassis has recognized that the Swiss abroad play an important role in the development of democracy due to their outside view, and their contribution to Switzerland, learning also from other countries. As part of the Congress, he also met a delegation of young people from the Fifth Switzerland. Indeed, it was recognised that for

democracy to endure, it is necessary to involve young people, including those of the Swiss abroad. If young Swiss people want to participate in political life abroad, they must be treated with confidence. These were the two main conclusions of the Congress.

The next Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place from 18 to 20 August 2023 in St. Gallen and the next Congress' theme will be "the Swiss culture".

Do not hesitate to contact me in regards to any specific question about OSA and its mission, I will be more than happy to support you.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Huen  
OSA Delegate – Hong Kong SAR

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# Swiss Chamber of Commerce



The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is a business association with over 160 members representing the Swiss business community to both the Swiss and HKSAR governments.

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce has kept a high level of activity in 2022-2023, organizing more than 50 events, both in-person and online, which were well received by over 2,000 attendees. These numbers highlight the enthusiasm and dedication of our team and the positive response from the Swiss Business community.

This year Swiss Chamber of Commerce has celebrated its 40th anniversary. To capture the essence of Swiss Excellence in the past 40 years, Swiss Cham Hong Kong is proud to present the “40th Years Anniversary Chronicle” which showcases the success stories of over 40+ iconic Swiss brands.

To celebrate this special occasion, the “Swiss Business Excellence Night” was held successfully on 23rd February 2023 at the Conrad. In the

evening, we mark two important milestones: The 40th anniversary of the Swiss Chamber and the first edition of the Swiss–Hong Kong Business Awards, co-hosting with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong. This flagship event was well received by the 300 esteemed guests in the Swiss Business Community from Hong Kong, China and Switzerland.

It was an honour to have Dr. Bertrand Piccard, Swiss serial explorer, psychiatrist and environmentalist to deliver a keynote speech virtually over in Switzerland.

Sincere thanks to the participation of our esteemed speakers - Dr. Bernard Chan Pak-Li - Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and H.E. Mr. Jürg Burri - Ambassador of Switzerland to China, the guests had an interesting and insightful dinner and celebration.

Here are other notable examples of how the Swiss Chamber has engaged its members between 2022-2023:



Some highlights of the Swiss Business Excellence Night: on the first page, the Birthday cake. On the left, the big winners of the night. Below, some of Swissham board members.



**Digital Art - Forging the Future with Disruptive Technology and Ideas**

During the Art Basel week 2023, the Swiss Chamber collaborated with the Swiss Finance + Technology Association to organize a digital art panel at the Asia Society. Esteemed speakers include Alan Lau, Vice-Chairman of M+ Board and Chief Business Officer at Animoca Brand and Ryan Zurrer, Founder of Dialectic and Vine Ventures & Collector of Beppe's HUMAN ONE.

Apart from organizing events, SwissCham had meetings with various government bodies during 2022/23 to provide feedback on behalf of the Swiss Business Community in Hong Kong:



Right, on top: some of the panel participants. On the right, Ryan Zurrer takes the microphone.





On top, left side: SwissCham x InvestHK Breakfast Pulse Check. Top right and bottom left, the D-A-CH Networking Cocktail @ GSIS. Bottom right, meeting Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg.

**D-A-CH Networking Cocktail @ GSIS**, Swiss Chamber launched the first DACH event with Austrian Chamber and German Chamber at the German-Swiss International School. The event was well received by over 80 participants. The Swiss Chamber look forward to a stronger collaboration in the DACH Business Community.

**SwissCham x InvestHK Breakfast Pulse Check**, Swiss Chamber and key Swiss companies were invited by InvestHK for a breakfast meeting to discuss their challenges and success stories and offer them a platform to share and discuss future plans with other decision-makers from the Swiss community in Hong Kong.

#### **Meeting with Assistant State Secretary H.E Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg**

On March 9th 2023, Swiss Chamber was delighted to have a breakfast meeting with The Head of Asia Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bern, Switzerland. Assistant State Secretary H.E Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg together with the Swiss Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong. We look forward to stronger collaborations between the Swiss government and Swiss business community in the future!



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you make of it.





# Swiss Universities

## Alumni Chapters in 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. The Hong Kong UZH Alumni chapter has existed since March 2012.

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, convener of the UZH Alumni and Friends Hong Kong at [tobias.brandner@alumni.uzh.ch](mailto:tobias.brandner@alumni.uzh.ch) or go to the below website where you will find the link to register your membership & join the UZH Alumni HK: <http://www.alumni.uzh.ch/wer-wir-sind/international/hongkong.html>

The HSG Alumni has over 33,000 members, being one of the most important alumni associations in Europe. Our Alumni allows you to stay in touch with your student friends, make new contacts and benefit from over 350 events per year organized in St. Gallen, online and by the 192 communities located in Switzerland and around the world.

The Hong Kong chapter was founded in the early 2000s to bring together fellow graduates wanting to reconnect with friends and build their professional network in the city. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to preside and develop our club. Despite the hardships of the past 3 years, our community has managed to remain active organizing 2 to 3 events per year held at the Hong Kong Country Club.

Prior to COVID, our flagship bi-yearly event was the "Asia Weekend" hosted in alternately between Hong Kong and Singapore. These events were self-funded through corporate sponsorships and have always been memorable, managing to gather over 100+ fellow Alumni from all over Asia. With restrictions now eased in the APAC region, we hope to re-start the initiative in the years to come. As we look at the future of our chapter, please feel free to reach out to join us! We are always looking to connect young graduates from HSG starting their careers with senior Alumni present in Hong Kong for more than 30 years.

For more information, please contact Alexandre Tunik, President of the HSG Alumni Club Hong Kong at [tpf@transpacificfareast.com](mailto:tpf@transpacificfareast.com) or go to the website <https://hsgalumni.ch/de/chapters-clubs/uebersicht/>

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 three 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](mailto:francesco.stadler@alumni.usi.ch), 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), and the third one in the city of Shanghai led by the USI Alumna Alice Comi, Associate Professor at the University of Tongji in Shanghai (USI Degrees: PhD in Communication, 2012).

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](mailto:alumni@usi.ch)

EHL Hospitality Business School (founded in 1893 as Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne) has a reputation as the world's leading institution in hospitality management. This legacy of excellence comes from the dedication and ambition of our alumni who are the strongest and most active professional hospitality network of all the hospitality management schools worldwide.

EHL has 25,000+ alumni worldwide in 150 countries on 5 continents and 72 alumni chapters (known as "Stamms") with more than 350 events and gatherings every year. The Hong Kong Alumni Chapter of EHL was the founded on the 26th of July 1964 and it was the first Stamm in Asia, the first outside of Europe and USA. With over 200 active members in the Hong Kong Stamm, and constant rotation of interns working in HK, the Hong Kong Alumni Chapter meets bimonthly 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: <https://connect.ehl.edu/en/>



## Goodbye Consul General Rolf Frei

Dear Swiss Citizens  
Dear friends of Switzerland

With great sadness, it is time for me to say goodbye and “sail” on. After completing my tour of duty, I depart from Hong Kong in August and assume my new appointment at headquarters in Berne.

My 4 years tenure of service undoubtedly coincided with Hong Kong’s historic moments. Whenever I told my interlocutors that I started working in Hong Kong in September 2019, the inevitable reaction was: “oh no, you were here during a difficult time with social unrests and Covid”. Of course, it was a challenging time and only during the last few months could I experience the “normal” Hong Kong. Nevertheless, I could enjoy so many wonderful encounters, experiences and activities. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for making my stay in Hong Kong such a fruitful and memorable one. A special thanks goes to the current and past committee members of the Swiss Association and Swisscham for the excellent co-



operation and friendship. We were able to successfully carry out several events together.

My successor, Mr. Daniel Freihofer, arrives in Hong Kong with his family in August. He has been serving as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Congo.

Please extend your kind support to him as you have done for me. I trust that he, his wife and two children will very much appreciate your friendship and any advice from you on life in Hong Kong.

Wishing you and your family happiness and health.

## Consulate General of Switzerland

### Katia's Farewell

Dear Swiss friends,

It's already time to go. Our four-year adventure in Hong Kong is coming to an end, and what an unforgettable journey it's been. The SAHK was an important part of this journey and what was the highlights? Hands down, the joyous 1st of August parties! Covid-19 was a pain, but I was still lucky enough to experience two national day celebrations and I will not forget that spirit. I would like to thank the committee members of the SAHK for the wonderful collaboration and the many joyful events together.

On a personal note, Hong Kong has gifted us our most priceless joy – our daughter, born here in February. This city is now a chapter in our family's story we'll always cherish.

Now, we're embarking on our next adventure – Italy! From August onwards, the eternal city will be our new home. Hong Kong, you've been amazing. Italy, here we come.



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Email: hongkong@eda.admin.ch  
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong



# Know our team

+++



**Rolf Frei**  
Consul General



**Katia Stampfli**  
Deputy  
Consul General



**Thomas Fischer**  
Consul



**Vanita Karpf**  
Consular Attaché



**Winnie Kan**  
Senior Assistant



**San Wang**  
Trade Officer



**Melody Shu Kin So**  
Visa Affairs Officer



**Senna Ma**  
Driver & Office Assistant



**Eva Enzler-Kölliker**  
Project Manager

## Other Swiss Associations in Hong Kong

### Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK)

Benjamin Sigg, Co-President  
Benno Jaeggi, Co-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](http://www.swisschamhk.org)  
[admin@swisschamhk.org](mailto:admin@swisschamhk.org)

### Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Carla Martinesi, The SCCHK Young Professionals organize regular social and networking events for the younger members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.  
[yp@swisschamhk.org](mailto:yp@swisschamhk.org)

### Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Peggy Huen, 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](http://www.SwissCommunity.org) [aso@swiss-hk.com](mailto:aso@swiss-hk.com)

### 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 58 of this magazine.

### 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.  
[tobias.brandner@swiss-hk.com](mailto:tobias.brandner@swiss-hk.com)

### Swiss Rifle Association

Oliver Seeholzer, President  
Founded in 1982, the Swiss Rifle Association organizes shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shooting and Operation Mercury. More on page 56.  
[www.srahk.com](http://www.srahk.com)  
[rifle\\_association@swiss-hk.com](mailto: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 57.  
[@swissdragons](https://www.facebook.com/swissdragons) on FB and IG



# Mission for Migrant Workers



Representing MFMW, Ms. Cynthia Tellez receives the SAHK donation.

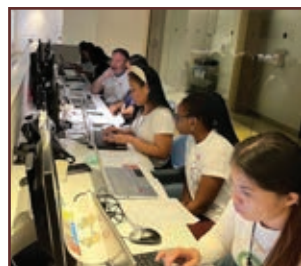
## By Cynthia Tellez

The MFMW, remains committed to “Serving Migrants Anytime, Anywhere”. Empowering migrant domestic workers (MDWs) while ensuring they know they are an integral part to our Hong Kong community, has driven us for the past 42 years and counting. Whether responding to one who lost her job late at night, providing care pack to a COVID-19 positive MDW or facilitating work and life skills trainings, we have continued to adapt to provide to the latest needs.

With the donation from the Swiss Association and Swiss Chamber of Commerce, we were able to adapt and continue our services into this new normal, reaching over 50

MDWs a month through direct services. These include sheltering migrants as we assisted in pursuing cases in the Labor, police or medical and answering questions through our hotline and weekly social media live streams.

With your support we held more sessions of Employment Contract Orientation to newly arrived MDWs and expanded our life skills programs to include mental health issues such as Mental Health 101, Stress management, and Coping with Grief, as we all face the impacts of the pandemic. 30 to 50 MDWs were reached on Sundays (face-to-face) or weekday evenings online after-working hours, in language for MDWs.



Two activities organized by MFMW: Health Outreach and Computer Literacy Class.



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## Pencils versus Ladles



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

His parents ran a hairdressing saloon, so he had to help out from a very young age. Often time, lots of colourful dyes were “available” in the shop, and so he started his first few masterpieces colouring the walls and storeroom of the shop. After several fruitless at-

tempts to hide all the colourful mixtures and dyes, his parents finally bought him a large box of crayons and pencils – and that is how Daniel started his passion of drawing and painting! Now, a very few years later, he remains to be very passionate about his compositions and, apart from just simple illustrations, he also amuses his friends and colleagues with caricature drawings.

## In the Spotlight Daniel Wettling

He always leaves his house with a sketch book and pencil in his briefcase. Once he sees something interesting, he will make a few drafts. At home, he will sit down and try to bring his ideas to life. Sometimes it does not work right away, and more than one sketch is needed before the whole impression will be ready for the next step, the final layout. He also gets his inspiration during his trainings but without having a sketchbook in his hand! Daniel uses different pencils and tools to work on new ideas and techniques. The most time-consuming stage of the drawing lies in colouring where details and themes emerge.

For over 25 years, he has been contributing special portrayals of a Swiss Alphorn in a humorous way to the Swiss Association and Swiss community at large. Apart from the Swiss Alphorn, his “iconic mice” are always featured alongside the beautiful artwork.

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

to any form of tests to indicate their intelligence, they should be given the freedom of drawing anything they like. Every child has a different way of learning, therefore, he strongly suggests to purchase crayons and pencils for children at a very early stage in their lives so the walls and storerooms in their homes are not being coloured by dyes or any other forms of colorizations.



# See you soon, Hans Lutz!

## In the Spotlight: Hans Lutz

After more than five decades in Hong Kong, Mr. Hans Lutz is saying goodbye to his friends in Hong Kong and moving back to Switzerland. Below, the reverend tell us a little about himself and answer a few questions from s'Alphorn.



I was born 1936 in Bern where I grew up. I studied theology and was ordained a pastor. The example of the French workers priests led me to work in a factory for one year. Later I was accepted by the Basel Mission and was sent to Hong Kong in 1968. I was assigned to join the Hong Kong Christian Industrial Committee (CIC). The CIC was part of an Asia-wide effort of the churches to respond to the industrialisation in Asian countries. For 24 years I was on the staff of the Committee which led to the formation of the Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims and the now dissolved Confederation of Trade Unions. At the same time I was a minister of the Tsung Tsin Mission, a local church which grew out of the work of the Basel Mission over the past 175 years.

From 1992-97 I was the coordinator for the work of the Basel Mission in Asia, and from 1997-2002 I was Executive Secretary for Justice and Social Concern of the Hong Kong Christian Council.

In 1975 I was married to Shirley Shen Siu Ling. She passed away in 2019.

**Why, in the late 60's, Hong Kong seemed an interesting place to live and work?**

When I arrived, Hong Kong was an industrial

city with almost one million men and women working in factories or in the construction industry. The garment industry was by far the largest one, followed by spinning, weaving and dying. Other industries were electronics, plastics and metal. The riots in 1967 had alerted government and community to the need for improvement in working conditions. In the following years many pieces of legislation were passed. The CIC could contribute to the changes.

With Singapore, Hong Kong was the only political entity in the world composed of a single city. The local and the "national" were identical. It was possible to have direct access to almost all levels of government. This made it possible of a small organization like the CIC to have an impact.

**Looking back at your work in Hong Kong, what brings you more satisfaction?**

I could participate in the development of civil society. Besides the CIC I was active in community organization and the formation of the Hong Kong section of Amnesty International.

**What was the most challenging time you faced in Hong Kong?**

A very big challenge for which I was ill prepared



occurred in the early 70s. At that time the blind workers in the workshop of a charity went on strike against the management. They organized a sit-in at the star ferry. I became the coordinator of all the support groups. The first stage of the negotiations with the board ended in failure. I blamed my-self for it. Fortunately the blind workers continued their agitation until the workshop was taken over by a new management.

The recent changes in Hong Kong present a major challenge, although being in retirement I am more of a spectator. But it saddens me that Hong Kong society has changed to such an extent.

**What is your favourite place in Hong Kong?**

The Lantau Mountain Camp on Sunset Peak. Before air travel became cheap I used to spend the summer holidays on the mountain.

One of my favourite hiking trips is the walk from Tai Shui Hong near Ma On Shan over the hill to Saikung by way of Mui Tze Lam.

**What are the Swiss habits you could not lose?**

Singing Swiss songs even if only to myself. Eating potatoes and cheese from time to time.

**What are your plans for Switzerland?**



When I was young, my godfather gave me some money for a trip to Israel. Up to know I have not made use of it. So I plan to go there to visit the places mentioned in the bible, to see modern Israel and to spend some time with Palestinian organizations.

Otherwise I look forward to receive guests from Hong Kong, to meet friends and to read books.







### By Ching Yin Law

Another year with exciting Swiss Jass evenings at the Swiss Chalet, Hong Kong. I am delighted that we survived the COVID-19 pandemic, and we can finally play our monthly Jass evenings in full joy and of course, with delicious food.

For the year of 2022, we always had a minimum of three Jass tables, so this was really good. As in every year, we also had our Chlaus Jass. A big thanks goes to everyone that contributed to the prizes that we had for that day. We had prizes such as cheese, ham, cookies, chocolate, champagne, Grittibanz, and dining vouchers! The winner of Jass 2022 is Stella Seeholzer! Yes, you read correctly! She was the winner in 2020 already. Congratulations to her again.

The Jass evening is supposed to be a fun event for Jass friends of all generations! If you are interested to join the event, you are more than welcome to join. The Jass evenings are published on the Swiss Association website. If you have questions, please email to [jass@swiss-hk.com](mailto:jass@swiss-hk.com).



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### By Olga Paré

Credit to Lisa! Her enthusiasm, creativity and magnetism helped develop this event into a series of truly memorable and fun evenings. The group is large and extremely diverse: we are all united by Switzerland but come from very different backgrounds. To hear every person's story is like reading a book: family histories, travels, experiences – all fascinating and rich.

To match this human diversity, our choice of location and food every month is as wide as a place like Hong Kong would allow: simple or exquisite, Asian or Western, well known or concealed – it is always delicious. Bravo to the group for keeping up a great tradition and thanks to Lisa for being at the heart of it!

Know what we are planning for you, remember your best moments with the Swiss Association of HK

## Follow our social networks!

See the codes and links below:



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**Instagram**

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**LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/swissassociationhk/mycompany/>





# Swiss National Day Let's Celebrate!

**By Alexander Peers**

Having arrived in Hong Kong from Switzerland less than three months before the celebrations of Swiss National Day, I was not expecting to feel the wave of nostalgia and homesickness that struck me upon arrival at the Hong Kong Country Club last month. The smell of grilling cervelat and the sound of Schwizer Tütsch intermingling with French and Italian washed over me most pleasantly. The effect was compounded by the swift appearance of a bright red farmers shirt (Sennenkutte) and charming welcome by many of the volunteers and committee who put together such a delightful event.

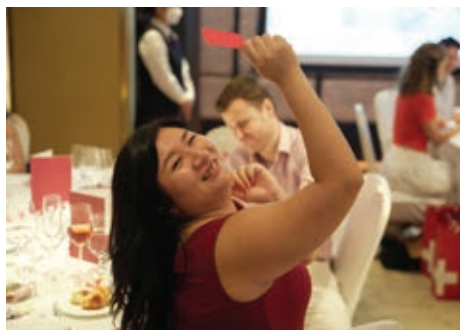
The Country Club was an excellent venue for such a celebra-

tion. The room was decked out in cow bells (of varying sizes) with tables assigned the names of famed Cantonal and Hong Kong peaks. Covid regulations carefully managed throughout. After some time mingling and chatting with friends old and new, we were treated to a round of speeches from various dignitaries. Prominent was the acting Swiss Consulate Generale to Hong Kong Katja Stampfli-Ferraz and even a rousing online speech from The President of the Swiss Federal Councilors Ignazio Cassis. Talk of dark times in Europe and face masks were not enough to dampen the wine fueled frivolity and joy at such an event happening in Hong Kong at all!

++ SAHK







One of the highlights of the evening was a spectacularly moving rendition of the Swiss national anthem by a bemasked Lisa Peers-Dermont. Singing in Romansh and German, her heavenly voice moved many to tears as her impassioned words transported all present to another space, far from the shores of Deep Water Bay.

Then to the food! Such a smorgasbord of Swiss delights was on offer that my pen alone cannot hope to do justice to the range. The raclette station was incredibly efficient and manned by a very friendly fromagerist, a sea of charcuterie and salads greeted the eye as you roved from room to room: absolutely essential to play the buffet game with care and planning, lest one miss out on the aubergine risotto, grilled Bratwurst, Thomy mustard or – heavens forbid – the cheese table groaning with lactose indulgents.

Having begun the evening with an apero of Swiss wines, dinner was accompanied by free-flowing wine from around the world. The guests, not shy to indulge, filled the chamber with the buzz and shriek of happy, well cared for celebrants.

Intermingled with the food courses were charming quizzes and games where we learnt about areas as diverse as the price of family train ticket in Bern, a Nusstorte in Chur and access to lakes in Ticino. Many laughs were shared at gorgeous snippets and individual details from a country so rich in food, language and culture. Along-

side and following these events was the introduction of various prizes and raffles. There is no doubt that the Swiss in Hong Kong know how to stock a raffle. There was building excitement as suitcases, skin care products, hotel stays and copious chocolate was dolled out to the masses waiting to see who might win the grand prize of Swiss return flights to Europe.

Cow bells, Röteli and good-night speeches marked the end of an evening of conversation, connection and consumption in honour of such a wonderful country celebrating more than 130 years since it's confederation. The organisers did a magnificent job throwing such an evening and the guests made the party. Viva Svizra!





# Meeting Santa Claus at Chung Hom Kok Beach



By Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli

Under a stunning sunshine, the Swiss Families of Hong Kong welcomed the „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ at the Chung Hom Kok Beach.

The children and their families were gathering at the beach, when suddenly a tiny bell could be heard from the nearby forest. The children immediately ran from the beach towards the pathway to check out what sound was that. It was a mix of excitement and hesitation when they realized that it was „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ arriving. „Schmutzli“ was dressed all in black carrying a heavy loaded red/white checkered bag over his shoulder and had kind of a whip in his left hand, which made some children wonder what that was for.

„Samichlaus“ quickly found a comfortable place to sit down near the beach and took out his golden book of wisdom. He had something

personal to tell for every child and he surprised them by speaking many different languages such as German, French, Italian and English... Every child to whom „Samichlaus“ was talking to received from „Schmutzli“ a cute „Chlaus-Säckli“, which is a cloth bag filled with a tasty „Gritty-Bänz“, traditional Swiss Christmas Cookies and famous Swiss Candies as well as Mandarins and Peanuts.

Once „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ left the beach to continue their valuable work elsewhere, the Swiss Families continued gathering and making good use of the nearby Barbeque area, where some tasty sausages were prepared. What a great event! It brought so much joy to everyone. A big Thank you to „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ for coming all the way to Hong Kong to make the children (and parents) happy! We truly hope to see you again next year.

# Samichlaus am Strand



Deutsche Fassung

Die Kinder versammelten sich mit ihren Familien am Strand, als plötzlich ein Glöckchen aus dem nahen Wald zu hören war. Sofort rannten die Kinder vom Strand zum naheliegenden Weg um zu sehen, woher der Klang kam. Es war eine Mischung aus Aufregung und Zögern, als sie merkten, dass es der „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ war. „Schmutzli“ gekleidet ganz in schwarz trug einen schwer beladenen rot/weiss karierten Sack über der Schulter und hatte in der linken Hand eine Fitze, was manche Kinder zum Wundern brachte.

Der „Samichlaus“ fand schnell ein gemütliches Plätzchen in der Strandnähe und öffnete sein goldenes Buch der Weisheit. Er wusste über jedes Kind etwas persönliches zu erzählen und überraschte alle mit seiner Sprachgewantheit in Deutsch, Französisch, Italienisch und Englisch... Jedes Kind,

das mit dem „Samichlaus“ sprach, bekam von „Schmutzli“ ein schönes „Chlaus-Säckli“, welches mit einem leckeren „Gritty-Bänz“, Schweizer Bonbons sowie Mandarinen und Erdnüsse gefüllt war.

Nachdem der „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ sich von allen verabschiedet hatten um ihre wertvolle Arbeit anderswo fortzusetzen, versammelten sich die Schweizer Familien beim nahegelegenen Grillplatz, wo einige leckere Würste zubereitet wurden. Es war eine tolle Veranstaltung! Ein großes Dankeschön an „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“, welche den langen Weg nach Hong Kong auf sich genommen haben um die Kinder (und Eltern) glücklich zu machen! Wir hoffen sehr, den „Samichlaus & Schmutzli“ nächstes Jahr wiederzusehen.



# Rock Climbing in Shek O

Full-day Adventure for Rock Climbing Connoisseurs.



By Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli

The Swiss Association in Hong Kong held on Saturday, 18th March 2023 an exciting full-day outdoor rock climbing event in Shek O. A handful of participants experienced the sport for the first time. The event was nothing short of a thrilling adventure climbing rocks and cliffs with a stunning view of the ocean.

Those participants who had previous rock-climbing experiences also had the chance to show their skills during the event. Professional guides were on hand to assist the climbers and make sure they had a safe experience, while also challenging them to push their limits. It was a great day of fun, recreation and comradeship. The event was organized by Raffael Morger who did an excellent job in ensuring that everything went smoothly, from choosing the perfect location to liaising with the guides and providing the equipment. Raffael organized an experience that left a lasting impression on all those who participated. Thank you.

If you're looking to experience something new and exciting, rock climbing is an excellent choice! Keep your eyes open for upcoming events like this and join us!



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# Ling Kok Shan Hike on Lamma Island

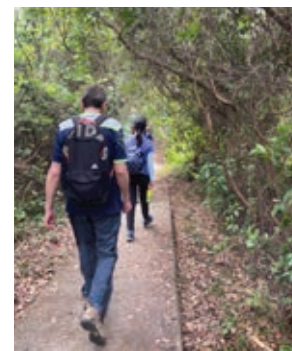


**By Doris von Niederhaeusern Bertoli**

A group of members from the Swiss Association Hong Kong gathered on Sunday morning for a hike led by Marco Foehn.

The hikers assembled in Aberdeen and took a boat from Chuen Kee Ferry Pier across the beautiful Lamma Channel to Mo Tat Wan, where the hiking adventure began. Throughout the hike, Marco Foehn took several small breaks and shared many interesting facts about the flora and fauna of Hong Kong. This enhanced the hike's uniqueness and made it even more engaging.

The highlight was certainly reaching the top of Ling Kok Shan, situated at approximately 250 meters above sea level. A big bravo to the youngest climber, Emil. At only 4.5 years old, he managed to conquer all 1,200 steps by himself. Another courageous mountaineer was "Ceasor," the dog of Winnie and Werner Heimgartner, always eager to be at the front of the group and lead the way with great enthusiasm. The view from the top of Ling Kok Shan was limited due to the foggy weather, but the extraordinary



and impressive rock formations were so amazing that the hikers didn't mind not being able to catch a glimpse of the beautiful ocean view.

It was a moderate hike of about 5 km and took the group less than 3 hours to reach Sok Kwu Wan, where all the local seafood restaurants are located on Lamma Island. The hikers enjoyed a typical seafood lunch and cherished the relaxing time spent together. On the return journey to Hong Kong Island, the group divided, with some hikers boarding the ferry to

Central while others headed to Aberdeen.

The participants not only formed new friendships but also learned many interesting facts about Hong Kong, its history, and its natural beauty. A big Thank You goes to Marco Foehn, who led the hike in such a friendly, professional, and memorable manner. We can't wait for the next opportunity to hike together again.





# Raclette in the Park

Olga Paré

It was a very hot day. Most of us cheated and arrived by taxi, avoiding a strenuous hike. Prepared by the event organisers, the BBQ area tables were already covered with checkered red & white cloth and freshly baked Zopf. A mighty raclette machine was threatening to melt not only the cheese but the team serving it.

With over 50 of us in attendance, this was a great feast! 10 kg of raclette with its traditional accompaniments and beverages flowed endlessly (except one could never bring enough Rivella to the thirsty Swiss abroad). Stefan Herzog, the Master Chef behind this event, assured me that happy smiles and cheerful interactions were the best way to express gratitude for his group's hard work. It was obvious: a great time had by all, cheers!



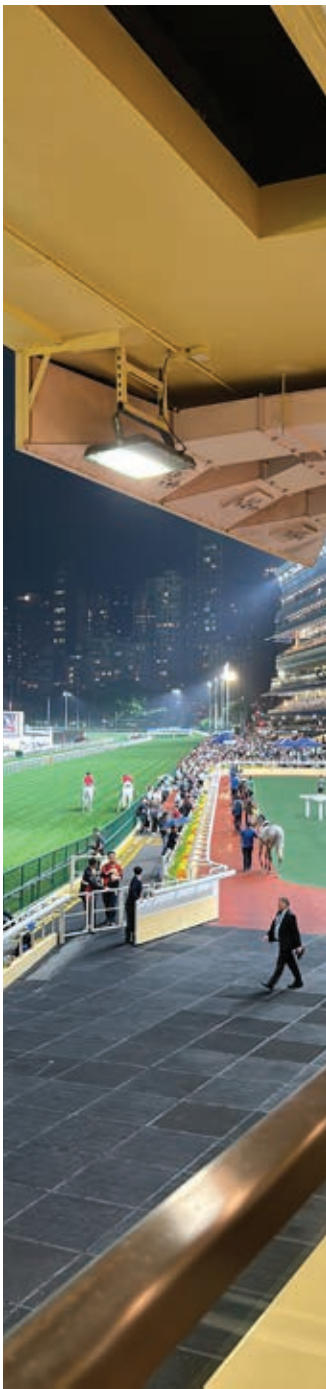
# Night at the Races!

Olga Paré

Was an unforgettable event! A prime view of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Happy Valley racecourse. Two round tables set for a first-class meal. And great company of SAHK members: a diverse group of ages, backgrounds and experiences united by one goal – win a fortune!

As amateurs, we mostly bet on horses' names (e.g. AllGreek-ToMe) and favourite numbers (avoiding 4 & 13). As a result, our profits could not even cover a short taxi ride home. But we were so well fed and entertained that we were ready to lose fortunes just to extend the fun.

All this was made possible by one honorary member of both SAHK and HKJC, Fritz Sommerau, who had a long and rewarding career with HKJC. Fritz and his team's hospitality offered a once in a lifetime experience only available to a lucky few. Mm-goi-sai!







## Other Swiss Association Events 2022-2023



**Pipilotti Rist Guided Tour**  
23 September 2022

**Family Walk and BBQ**  
27 August 2022



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## Other Swiss Association Events



**Exploring the Mills**  
24 October 2022



**Wreath Making Workshop**  
27 November 2022



**Charity Luncheon**  
7 December 2022

**Feng Shui Forecast**  
8 February 2023







# Going Strong and Stronger Swiss Rifle Association

By Alexander Lüdi

With virus restrictions lifted, shooting activities resumed immediately, first dealing with a backlog of shooters' training, followed by our traditional shootings, in the fall of 2022 and in the spring of 2023. Membership as well as participation at events was strong. This gives us a great opportunity to pass on Swiss citizens' traditional respect for handling weapons also when growing up abroad.

Shooting in Hong Kong is tightly regulated and controlled, and recently we were asked to provide our rifles to the Hong Kong Police for a forensic assessment and recording of each rifle's shooting characteristics. I take this opportunity

to express our thanks to the Hong Kong Police Force for their unabated support and great assistance in keeping our activities alive.

On a personal note, after some 18 years, I have handed over the reins of the presidency to Oliver Seeholzer, a trustworthy expert in all matters concerning Hong Kong and Switzerland. I am confident that Oliver will be very successful in keeping the exclusive opportunity to do rifle shooting with our traditional weapons in Hong Kong alive.

All the Best and Good Luck Oliver!

If you are interested to join in or activities, please send an email to: [oliverseeholzer@gmail.com](mailto:oliverseeholzer@gmail.com)



# Swiss Dragons

By Oliver Seeholzer and Werner Heimgartner

The Swiss Dragons, led by master Werner Heimgartner, continued to be a strong contender in local competitions. However, the team was facing a new challenge this year as they were slowly losing members due to various reasons such as retirement and relocation. Despite this setback, the team remained focused and committed to their training, working hard to maintain their skills and stamina.

Last summer, the Swiss Dragons also made a conscious effort to give back to their local community by participating in social events. They organized a fun race for members of the Swiss Association and volunteered at a beach cleaning morning.

Master Werner was instrumental in keeping the team motivated. He encouraged the team to keep pushing themselves and to never give up, even in the face of adversity. His leadership and guid-

ance were greatly appreciated by the team, who looked up to him as mentor and role model.

Despite the challenges faced by the team, they remained united and determined, always striving to do their best both on and off the water. Their dedication to the sport and their community was a source of inspiration to those around them, and their positive attitude and team spirit were a reflection of the true essence of dragonboating.



# Swiss School Committee

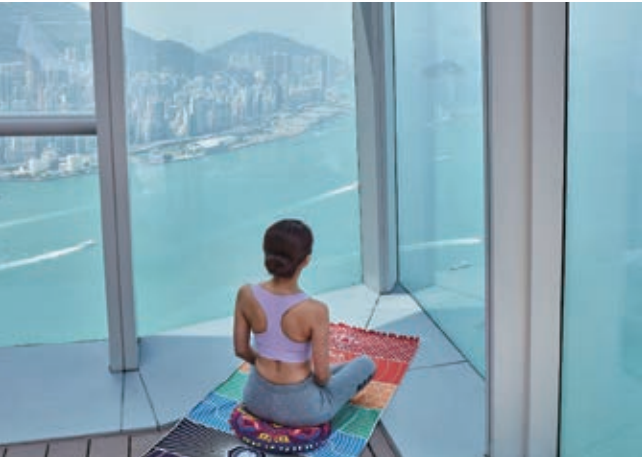
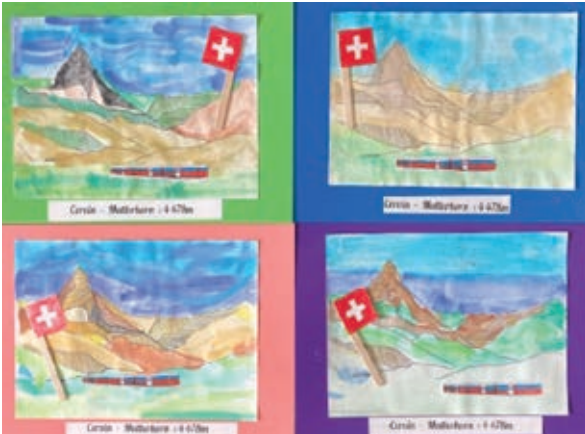
## Exploring Switzerland: FIS Organizes Engaging Activity for Primary Students

As part of a collaborative learning initiative, the French International Stream (FIS) recently organized an exciting activity for 75 primary students. The focus of the activity was on Switzerland, and the students were guided through a dynamic slideshow presentation that showcased the country's stunning landmarks and sights.

One of the highlights was the Matterhorn - a mountain that many of the children recognized from advertisements they had seen before. To spur their creativity, the students were tasked with creating a painting inspired by Switzerland's most iconic mountain. The outcomes of this activity were truly impressive, with each painting being as inspiring and unique as the country itself.

Thank you students for your wonderful pictures! Below this caption, samples of their paintings may be seen.

For any information regarding the French International School, including admissions, visit [www.fis.edu.hk](http://www.fis.edu.hk) or write to: [communication@fis.edu.hk](mailto:communication@fis.edu.hk)



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## Swiss Teachers in Hong Kong



**Patrice Fournier**  
Primary Teacher  
Lycée Français International  
de Hong Kong

**Géraldine Fournier**  
Primary Teacher  
Lycée Français International  
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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 type <https://swiss-hk.com/become-a-member>

## About s'Alphorn

S'Alphorn is our yearly magazine that provides a montage of our annual events as well as other informative news for our members.

Since 2020 I had the pleasure to prepare the magazine for you. Since I am moving out of Hong Kong with my family, I am handing this responsibility to Paul Hugentobler.

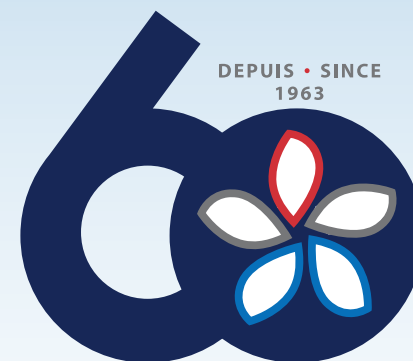
For this edition, Paul and I worked together. We also had the very welcomed support of Anston Yu (photo), who designed a part of this magazine. Thank you, Anston. I say goodbye to Hong Kong and to the Swiss Association knowing that the magazine will be in great hands with Paul.

Ricardo Ferraz  
Editor - s'Alphorn  
2020-2023



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excellence in education,  
looking to the future







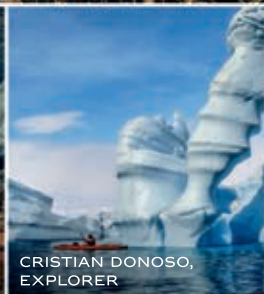
ROLEX AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
PERPETUAL PLANET AMAZON EXPEDITION



DAWA YANGZUM SHERPA,  
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN GUIDE



FRANCESCO SAURO, EXPLORER



CRISTIAN DONOSO,  
EXPLORER



GHISLAIN BARDOUT, EXPLORER

## WHAT DO THEY SEEK?

**Explorers, adventurers, scientists.** Men and women who always broadened the horizons, for all humankind to share. Rolex was at their side when they reached the deepest point in the oceans, the highest summits of the Earth, the deepest jungles and both poles. But now that we know, more than ever, that our world has its limits, why do they continue to venture out there, again and again? Certainly not for kudos, accolades, or an ephemeral record. What they truly seek is to understand more intimately how complex and delicate our planet is, to document its change and how together, we can affect it for the better. So as long as they need it, we will be at their side. Because today, the real discovery is not so much about finding new lands. It's about looking with new eyes at the marvels of our planet, rekindling our sense of wonder, and acting to preserve our pale blue dot in the universe...

**Doing our very best for a Perpetual Planet.**

*#Perpetual*



OYSTER PERPETUAL SUBMARINER DATE

