

瑞士通訊



S'Alphorn 2025



Switzerland. Naturally.



Drawing by Daniel Wettling

To Fish or Not To Fish



Fine Artisanal Wines from Switzerland

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SECURE YOUR FUTURE



Message from the President

Ching Yin Law Seeholzer



I am writing to you with a heart full of gratitude and anticipation as I step into the role of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong President this year. Many of you know me, but for those who don't, I'd like to share a little about myself: I am a Hong Kong Chinese who grew up in Germany and married to a Swiss. This year has been incredibly special for us as we celebrated the first birthday of our beloved son.

This fascinating blend of cultures – Switzerland and Hong Kong – has given me a deep appreciation for diversity and the beauty of our shared experiences. It is with this spirit that I approach my role as President, eager to foster a vibrant and inclusive community within SAHK. I feel honoured to serve as its President, and I am truly excited about the year ahead.

This past year has been a period of great adjustment for my family, and I understand the importance of community and support, especially during significant life milestones. I am committed to fostering a warm and welcoming environment for our members.

For this year, I would like to create with the team more memorable and engaging events that celebrate our diverse backgrounds and strengthen the bonds within our community. I believe in the power of shared experiences to create lasting connections. I want to build a year where we all feel included and can make great memories together.

We have already planned some exciting events, and we are also open to your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to us with your thoughts. Your input is invaluable in shaping the direction of our association.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

With kind regards

Ching Yin Law Seeholzer



New

Committee Members

Join us in welcoming our new members!

Want to learn more about the committee and why Keely isn't Aargau's most notable export? Or find out what Sean enjoys about Hong Kong and why he's stayed for five years?

Come to our events for fun and getting to know each other better.

We are looking forward to meet you!

Jennifer Ganz
1st Vice President



Roman Hofmann
2nd Vice President



Silvan Graf
s'Alphorn Coordinator



Keely Todd
Social Media



Sean Saar-Naville
Event Coordinator



Patrick Morresi
Event Coordinator



Joanna Wong
Event Coordinator



Committee 2025-2026



Ching Law
President



Raffael Morger
Hon. Treasurer



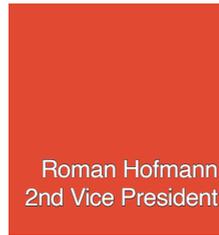
Joanna Koslowski
Hon. Treasurer
School Committee



Keely Todd
Social Media



Jennifer Ganz
1st Vice President



Roman Hofmann
2nd Vice President



Paul Hugentobler
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Ashley Lau
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Doris von
Niederhausern
Bertoli
Past President
School Committee
Event Coordinator



Joshua Spirgi
IT Coordinator



Silvan Graf
s'Alphorn
Coordinator



Olga Paré
Event Coordinator

About the Swiss Association of Hong Kong

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.

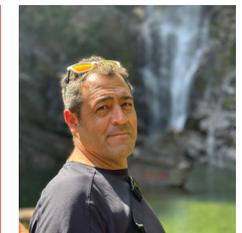
Please don't hesitate to get in touch and find out how to join the fun!



Joanne Wong
Event Coordinator



Sean Saar-Naville
Event Coordinator



Patrick Morresi
Event Coordinator

Goodbyes

From our Committee

Dear Patrick, Dear Lisa,

Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and commitment. While we will miss your presence on our Committee, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming SAHK events and gatherings. We wish you all the best and hope to see you soon!

Patrick Koslowski
2nd Vice President (2021-2022)
1st Vice President (2022-2023)
President (2023-2024)



Lisa Peers-Demont
1st Vice President (2023-2024)
Event Coordinator (2024-2025)



Enjoy Swiss
hospitality before
you even land.

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77th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 77th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK), followed by the 53rd AGM of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong (SBS), was held at the Ladies Recreation Club on Thursday, 6 March 2025.

The quorum of 39 members of the SAHK was met, hence, the meeting was declared to commerce.

Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli, the outgoing president of the SAHK, welcomed Consul General Daniel Freihofer, all guests, and members to the event.

The meeting agenda was as follows:

- Approval of the Minutes of the 76th AGM
- Introduction of the SAHK committee of 2024
- Approval of the President's Report 2024
- Approval of SAHK year-end accounts report 2024
- Approval of the Annual Membership Dues and Contributions to SBS
- Approval of SSC year-end accounts report 2024
- Approval of the amendments to AoA
- Appointing the Auditor of SAHK and SBS for the year 2024
- Election of the SAHK Committee 2025
- Approval of SBS minutes, their accounts, and election of committees 2025
- OSA report 2024 and election information

The traditional Cow Bell handover from Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli to Ching Yin Law Seeholzer, the newly elected president.

The audience gave a warm applause to the new president, Ching Yin Law Seeholzer, and the SAHK committee for their much-appreciated efforts made last year. Ching Yin Law Seeholzer, on behalf of the SAHK Committee, presented a thank-you Gift to Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli for her dedication and hard work.

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



Interview with Consul Jonathan Andrey

By Olga Pare



In July 2024, Mr. Jonathan Andrey landed in Hong Kong, ready to take the reins from Mr. Thomas Fischer as Consul and Head of Chancellery at the Swiss Consulate. Swapping the vibrant streets of Islamabad for Hong Kong's dazzling skyline, he brings with him a suitcase full of stories, experiences, and a mission to blend Swiss efficiency with a touch of hospitality.

In a few words, tell us about your background and journey so far.

I was born in Washington, D.C., to Swiss parents while my father was on a diplomatic posting. That set the tone for a life of constant movement, as I followed him to different corners of the world. Travel became second nature, and adventure, a necessity. Naturally, I pursued my studies at the École Hôtelière de Lausanne, which opened doors to exciting experiences in Dubai, Portugal and Thailand.

My time in Bangkok was particularly special—we even launched a culinary school there! But life has a way of shaking things up, and the COVID-19 pandemic led me to pivot towards diplomacy, following in my father's footsteps. After training in Bern, I embarked on postings in Vienna (Austria), Tehran (Iran), and Islamabad (Pakistan). And as destiny would have it, in Tehran, I met Kiana, the love of my life. From then on, we became partners in both adventure and life, ultimately landing here in Hong Kong together. Along the way, we even picked up a little dog, Kaja, who has been our joyful companion through all these moves!

On the topic of family and following Bruce Lee's wisdom: "To teach, one must first learn" — what life lesson would you pass on to your children?

As someone who is naturally more reserved, I would tell my children to just talk to people. Say hello, give a compliment, ask a question—you never know where a simple interaction might lead. Life is full of unexpected connections, and sometimes, the most random conversations bring the greatest insights and friendships. So don't be afraid to open up and engage with the world around you!

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What was your most positive first impression of Hong Kong? And what surprised you?

Mountains! I have a deep love for mountains, and Hong Kong did not disappoint. Whether in Iran, Pakistan, or now here, I've been lucky to be surrounded by nature. Hong Kong might be the only place in the world where you can be in the bustling city center one moment and on a serene mountain trail or a beach within ten minutes.

On the flip side, the city's pace is intense. People here move fast—really fast. There's an energy of purpose, but sometimes, that comes at the cost of warmth and small everyday kindnesses. Compared to Thailand, where smiles are abundant, Hong Kong can feel a bit colder in that regard.

What do you hope to bring to the Swiss Consulate in Hong Kong?

Fresh ideas, a stronger embrace of technology, and—pulling from my hospitality background—a more welcoming experience for our clients.

Internally, we're making processes smoother and faster by integrating modern technology, whether it's time management systems, digital communications, or streamlined online platforms.

Externally, I want to change how we view our visitors. Instead of seeing them as "clients," let's treat them as "Guests." A consulate visit, especially for visa applicants, is often someone's first encounter with Switzerland. Bureaucracy can be cold, but we have an opportunity to make it warm, friendly, and efficient. A smile, a helpful approach—small things make a big difference.

After this assignment, where would you like to go next?

For me, travel isn't just a job requirement—it's a passion. While Africa and South America intrigue me, the truth is, I'd go just about anywhere! Every place has its own charm, lessons to teach, frustrations to overcome and stories to uncover.



Any final thoughts to wrap up this interview?

I'm excited to be here and to serve the Swiss community in Hong Kong. If you ever need anything, don't hesitate to reach out—we're a small community of around 1,600 Swiss nationals, which allows us to maintain a personal touch that bigger consulates simply can't offer.

Over the next three and a half years, I hope to meet as many of you as possible. Let's build on what we have and strengthen our Swiss spirit here in Hong Kong!

With all your travels, what do you miss most about Switzerland?

Clean air, breathtaking landscapes, and the unbeatable combination of mountains and lakes. And, of course, the food! There are certain Swiss specialties that just can't be replicated abroad. But more than anything, I miss my family. It's a sentiment shared by many diplomats—no matter how many countries you call home, Switzerland will always have a special place in your heart.

What would you like to say to the Swiss community in Hong Kong?

I'm truly impressed by the Swiss Association of Hong Kong. Their dedication to fostering a sense of community and promoting Switzerland is remarkable. I encourage everyone to get involved—there's something for everyone: events for kids, families, cultural enthusiasts, food lovers, and business professionals.

It ties back to what I said earlier—talk to people, engage, make connections. You never know who you might meet!



Consulate General of Switzerland



Daniel Freihofer
Consul General



Françoise Killias
Zillweger
Deputy Consul



Jonathan Andrey
Consul



Susanne Gutknecht
Notter
Vice Consul



Mélanie
Mühlmann
Consular Affairs



Melody
Shu Kin So
Visa Affairs Officer



San Wang
Trade Officer



Winnie Kan
Senior Assistant



Eva Enzler
Project Manager



Senna Ma
Driver & Office
Assist.



Sabrina
Domenig
Academic Intern



Swiss Month

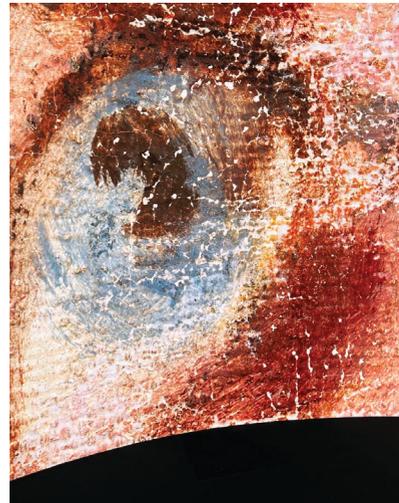
VIP Tour: EPFL & HKBU 360° Terapixel Panorama of the Battle of Murten

As part of the Swiss Month celebration in Hong Kong the Swiss Consulate organized for the Swiss Association of Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong a guided VIP tour to view the remarkable digitized Terapixel Panorama of the Battle of Murten 1893/2024 at the HKBU Visualization Research Center.

This extraordinary intersection of innovation and technology was highlighting the collaboration between Hong Kong and Switzerland in the digitization of cultural heritage. Professors Jeffrey Shaw (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Sarah Kenderdine (École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL) have curated a pioneering experience featuring the world's largest digitized artwork: the 360° Terapixel Panorama of the Battle of Murten 1893/2024.

Originally painted in 1893 by Louis Braun, this monumental 10m x 100m artwork captures the historic Swiss victory over Charles the Bold in 1476. Through cutting-edge digitization techniques, it has been transformed into a breathtaking 1.6 terapixel digital image, allowing viewers to explore its intricate details with unprecedented detail and immersion. This project exemplifies groundbreaking work in digital conservation, data science, and immersive technologies.

This was a rare opportunity to experience an iconic piece of Swiss history through a unique fusion of art and technology.



Swiss Month

Swiss Papercutting Design Workshop with Nick Tsao



On Wednesday, 20 November 2024, the first ever Swiss Papercutting Design Workshop with Nick Tsao took place as part of the celebration of the Swiss Month in Hong Kong.

During the workshop, participants explored the fascinating similarities between Swiss and Chinese papercutting traditions, and crafted their own unique designs, which were subsequently digitally transformed into bespoke pieces of art.

The workshop took place at the Blue House in Wan Chai – a UNESCO Award of Excellence heritage site, providing the perfect fusion of creativity, culture, and heritage. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy Swiss drinks and snacks while learning from Nick, a former architect and papercutting expert.





Swiss Month

A Taste of Switzerland at HK Outpost

Our special Swiss BBQ event at HK Outpost during the Swiss Month of Hong Kong, was a fantastic success! With more than 40 guests of all ages, the day was filled with great company, a delightful outdoor ambiance, and delicious Swiss-style dishes.

A round of applause to the dedicated hikers who made the trek to join us, and cheers to those who opted for the scenic Sampan Ferry ride, embracing the beauty of the journey.

A heartfelt thank you to Robin Wattinger for guiding the group and to Roland Buser from HK Outpost for the warm hospitality that made the day truly special with all the Swiss Decorations.



Swiss Associations in Hong Kong

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK)

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

www.swisschamhk.org
admin@swisschamhk.org

Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

The SCCHK Young Professionals organize regular social and networking events for the younger members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

yp@swisschamhk.org

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

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
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 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.

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

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.

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.

[@swissdragonshk on FB and IG](https://www.facebook.com/swissdragonshk)

In Loving Memory of Sandra Gantenbein

With profound sadness, we and the Swiss Association of Hong Kong remembers Sandra Gantenbein, a dear friend and unwavering supporter of our community, who passed away suddenly last year—just weeks before her 50th birthday.

Sandra was more than a diplomat; she was a bridge, a guiding hand and a friend to so many of us. During her time as Swiss Consul at the Consulate General in Hong Kong, she worked tirelessly to support the Swiss Association, Switzerland Tourism, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, the Swiss School Committee, the German Swiss International School (GSIS) and the French International School (FIS). She understood the importance of bringing the Swiss community together and went above and beyond to strengthen these ties. No request was ever too small for her, no challenge too big—she was always there, hands-on, making things happen with her characteristic warmth and generosity.

Her dedication to the Swiss community did not stop in Hong Kong. Over the years, Sandra's career took her from New Delhi to Singapore, then to Hong Kong, Munich and finally Wellington, New Zealand, where she served as Deputy Head of Mission. No matter where she was in the world, she carried with her the same passion for bringing people together, for making a difference and for ensuring that



Sandra was not just a skilled diplomat—she had a big heart. She always found time to connect with people, offer advice, lend a helping hand and share a laugh. She cared deeply about those around her and her kindness left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

She leaves behind a loving family, including her two grown-up children, Julian and Andrea, whom she was immensely proud of. Her sudden passing has left a void in our community, but her legacy of warmth, generosity and dedication will remain with us forever.

Sandra, thank you for everything you have done for your friends and the Swiss community in Hong Kong and beyond. You will always be in our hearts.

From San Wang and Melody Shu Kin So

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Marshall

Yvonne Marschall and her husband Franz, along with their children, moved to Hong Kong in March 1992. Soon after their arrival they joined the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK), and in 1995 Yvonne became a member of the committee of the SAHK as Ladies Coordinator. When the family left Hong Kong in December 2001 to return to Switzerland, Yvonne was honoured for her great contribution to the SAHK Community.

An excerpt from the Alphorn (2002) describes her dedication in this role:

“It was Yvonne who brought Hong Kong and its customs closer to Swiss women and ladies connected to Switzerland by organizing fabulous visits and lectures. She never ran out of ideas. Be it a visit to a Hong Kong hotel, a lecture on Feng Shui, Chinese festivals or poverty in the city we called our home. We learned so many interesting things. To keep things varied, she also introduced us to other topics such as pearls, charity work, yoga and flower arrangements, just to name a few of her perfectly organized ladies' events. And of course, she always knew how to get us into the festive spirit with her invitations to the splendid and fantastic annual Christmas brunches.”



Back in Switzerland, Yvonne and her family settled in Boll. With her warmth, cheerful spirit and open nature, she had no trouble building a new circle of friends in her new surroundings. In Hong Kong, she had enjoyed playing Mahjong with a close group of friends. Many of them also returned to Switzerland and they continued to enjoy playing this game on a regular basis.

In 2007, Yvonne began working at the Eye clinic Bern. It came as no surprise that her warm and open personality helped her quickly become part of the team. Even after retiring, she maintained strong ties with her former colleagues. Traveling the world always remained close to her heart.

We are deeply saddened to bid farewell to Yvonne. She passed away unexpectedly in a tragic accident and leaves a great void in our lives. We are profoundly grateful for the years we shared with her—for all the beautiful, unforgettable moments.

We will miss her dearly.
Luzia Kappeler (Ex-President of the SAHK)

Packing S'Alphorn

Behind The Scenes

S'Alphorn, the yearly magazine of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong, is well-liked among the Swiss community and friends of Switzerland. Every year, the SAHK Committee carefully hand-selects photos and writes texts to summarize what has happened during the past year. This process is then coordinated by one person, and for this year, it was coordinated by Silvan Graf.

We are thankful to have great and loyal sponsors every year who help us to make S'Alphorn happen. All these sponsors offer wonderful services and great products here in Hong Kong, so be sure to check them out.

As last year, we printed 1200 copies of S'Alphorn. Every year some of our SAHK Committee members get together at the Consulate Office to help hand-pack the freshly printed editions for our dear readers.

By the way, did you know that we send every year a copy of S'Alphorn to the Swiss National Library in Switzerland?



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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

By Peggy Huen
Local elected Delegate Hong Kong SAR for OSA



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

The 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad took place in person from 11th to 13th August 2024 in Lucerne.

The Congress' theme was "Together across borders: the evolution of Swiss emigration". During the Congress, the Assembly sparked a reflection on the past and present of Swiss migration and Switzerland's links with the world.

The next Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place from 22nd to 23rd August 2025 in Bern with a new concept as the OSA clearly noted a change in society's habits. The number of participants in the Congress has been declining for years. Sponsorship revenues are also collapsing. Swisslos, which has always supported the Congress financially, has modified its internal rules and now supports the OSA with 10,000 CHF instead of 60,000 CHF as in previous years. Therefore, it is appropriate to redefine the format of this event and make it less costly.

Below is a recap and review of the OSA year 2024/2025 and its most important events.

Confederation pushes ahead with e-ID and e-voting - January 2024

For the first time in eight years, a group of Swiss abroad was able to elect their representation in Parliament electronically. After the votes on June 18, 2023, Swiss citizens abroad in the cantons of Basel-City, Thurgau and St. Gallen were able to test La Poste's new electronic voting system for the second time. And it once again turned out that participation in the Fifth Switzerland tends to be higher when it has electronic voting.

Tests carried out so far with La Poste's new electronic voting system have not revealed any security defects. In principle, there is therefore nothing to prevent these tests from being extended to all cantons. Swiss people abroad, who enjoy the same political rights as all Swiss citizens, could thus effectively exercise them. In addition, e-voting makes voting more accessible to people with reduced mobility and visually impaired people. The OSE believes that it is essential that as many citizens as possible can exercise the political rights guaranteed by the Constitution. This contributes to maintaining a vibrant and diverse democracy.

Further information is available on German, French and English on our website.

New stamps dedicated to Swiss Abroad - March 2024

The Pro Patria Foundation and Swiss Post are dedicating a new series of stamps to the more than 800 000 Swiss Abroad.

The OSA welcomes this initiative which underlines its fundamental concern with strengthening links between the Swiss Abroad and those living in Switzerland. The initiative is a way for the "Fifth Switzerland" to put its stamp on the everyday lives of people here and elsewhere.

The motifs were designed in collaboration with 124 young people from 33 different countries at OSA Abroad summer camps. The ideas generated were forwarded to three Swiss graphic designers living abroad who were selected by Swiss Post and invited to take part in the competition to design the stamps.

The stamps will be available from Swiss Post from 25 April to 31 December 2024 and will be valid indefinitely from 2 May 2024. The heart and fondue pot that feature on the designs even boast a special effect. They have been overprinted with black thermal ink. If you run your finger over them, Switzerland appears underneath.



Renewal of the CSE Period 2025-2029

Elections for delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSE), the supreme body of the OSA, SwissCommunity, will take place worldwide between January and June 2025.

The CSE works to defend the interests of the Swiss abroad, to strengthen their links with Switzerland, and to facilitate their participation in the political and cultural life of the country.

The 120 members from abroad represent Swiss people abroad in their respective countries.

Any Compatriot that would be interested in becoming such delegate is welcome to voice out.

Last but not least...

Webinars

We remind our Compatriots that OSA holds and participates in webinars on various topics together with its partners and other specialists. Those are broadcasted live on our YouTube channel and usually last one hour. The video is then recorded and can be viewed at any time. You can find the previous webinars at the following link:

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/webinars>

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

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is a business association with over 180 members, representing the Swiss business community to both the Swiss and HKSAR governments.

In 2024-2025, the Swiss Chamber has maintained a high level of activity, organizing more than 50 events—both in-person and online—that have been well received by over 2,000 attendees. These figures highlight the enthusiasm and dedication of our team, as well as the positive response from the Swiss business community.

In the heart of Hong Kong's dynamic business scene, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce organizes an exciting series of events that embody the spirit of Swiss precision and networking prowess. Here are some notable examples of how the Swiss Chamber has engaged its members:

Swiss Business Excellence Night



The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Limited, in partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong and Macau SAR, successfully kicked off Swiss Month 2024 with a vibrant evening celebration.

The event brought together over 200 distinguished guests from the Swiss business community, friends of Switzerland, and representatives from Swiss and Hong Kong politics, creating a unique networking opportunity. Special guests included HE Juerg Burri, Swiss Ambassador to the PRC, and The Hon Algernon Yau Ying-Wah, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Hong Kong SAR.



Attendees gathered to celebrate the achievements of Swiss Excellence at the Swiss Business Excellence Awards. The evening recognized the remarkable accomplishments of Swiss and Swiss-affiliated companies within the community.

The prestigious event featured the presentation of four "Excellence of the Year" awards across the categories of Financial Services, Luxury & Lifestyle, Education & Hospitality, and Healthcare, Industrial & Services.

As the evening unfolded, guests enjoyed an elegant atmosphere filled with camaraderie and inspiration, reinforcing the strong ties between the Swiss community and Hong Kong.

This year's celebration set a high standard for future engagements and highlighted the commitment to excellence within the Swiss business sector.

Swiss New Year Cocktail



In February 2025, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Swiss Association and the Consulate General of Switzerland, hosted the annual Swiss New Year Cocktail.

This event brought together members of the Swiss community and its friends for a memorable evening in a stunning setting with breathtaking views over the city. Guests enjoyed a selection of fine wines and canapés while taking in the spectacular scenery. Attendees benefited from valuable networking opportunities, fostering connections across diverse industries and reinforcing community ties. The gathering celebrated the vibrant spirit of the Swiss community, creating a positive atmosphere and setting an optimistic tone for the year ahead.

Economic Outlook 2025

Building on the positive feedback from last year's participants, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce organized the 'Economic Outlook 2025', an insightful panel discussion focused on the current economic landscape. With over 70 attendees in the audience, the event provided a valuable opportunity to gain perspectives from esteemed industry leaders on key economic trends and challenges. The panellists, including representatives from BlackRock, CIGP Group, St. James's Place, UBS AG, and Union Bancaire Privée, shared their expertise on a range of topics, including market dynamics, regulatory changes, and the impact of global events on local economies. The evening was further enhanced by an elegant selection of wine and canapés, fostering a sophisticated atmosphere for networking and connections among professionals.



Luncheon with Mr. Jürg Burri the Swiss Ambassador to China

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, hosted an insightful luncheon with Mr. Juerg Burri, the Swiss Ambassador to China. The event provided a unique opportunity to engage in a dynamic discussion about the current state and future of Swiss-Chinese relations.

Ambassador Burri shared his insights on the top Swiss priorities for China in 2025, as well as key topics that will keep his successor busy in the coming years. This year, we also celebrate 75 years of diplomatic ties between Switzerland and China, reflecting on the remarkable growth and collaboration between our two countries.

The luncheon was a fantastic opportunity for attendees to engage directly with the Ambassador and explore important issues surrounding Sino-Swiss trade relations, economic development, Swiss neutrality, and more, while strengthening the connections between Switzerland and Hong Kong.



Swiss Universities & Higher Education Institutions



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 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>

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.

The Stamm is eager to engage with fellow EHL graduates, especially those who have recently relocated to Hong Kong or just graduated.

For more information, please go to the website : <https://connect.ehl.edu/en/> or reach out to us via our IG: @ehlalumnihongkong

Swiss Universities & Higher Education Institutions



With over 33,000 members, we are 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 192 communities worldwide. 2023 was special for HSG, celebrating its 125th anniversary. The Hong Kong chapter was founded in the early 2000s to reconnect graduates and build their professional network. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to preside and develop our club. Despite COVID restrictions impacting our members, our community remained active, organizing 3 to 4 events per year at the Hong Kong Country Club. A major achievement has been our collaboration with the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), connecting people with Swiss education to share their stories in Hong Kong. Prior to COVID, our flagship bi-yearly event was the "Asia Weekend" hosted alternately between Hong Kong and Singapore, gathering over 100+ Alumni from Asia. These events were self-funded through corporate sponsorships and have always been memorable. As we look to the future, please reach out to join us! We aim to connect young HSG graduates starting their careers with senior Alumni in Hong Kong for over 30 years.

By Alexandre Tunik

USI Università della Svizzera italiana has around 12'800 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, 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

Swiss Universities & Higher Education Institutions



Over 35,000 former students of ETH Zurich are united within the ETH Alumni Association and its 64 affiliate organizations. Alumni benefit from an active, global network, connecting them with fellow graduates across various fields such as economics, sciences, politics, and social issues. Membership in the ETH Alumni Association offers a range of services to facilitate staying up-to-date and connected with ETH Zurich.

ETH alumni include individuals who have completed their education at ETH Zurich or have spent a minimum of four semesters at ETH as members of the academic faculty or as post-docs. Membership in the ETH Alumni Association is open to all ETH alumni.

ETH alumni serve as ambassadors for the university's interests, contributing to the advancement of their alma mater. This fosters dialogue between ETH Zurich and the broader community, providing opportunities to shape the university's future.

The Hong Kong chapter currently boasts around 30 members. To join the ETH Alumni Chapter in Hong Kong and Macao, simply register or update your information through the ETH Alumni Association. For more information and membership registration, you can also contact the Chairman of the Hong Kong Chapter Oliver B. Hasler obhasler@phoenicianms.com, or our Community Engagement Manager Francesca Fuoli at francesca.fuoli@alumni-admin.ethz.ch

IHEID Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement was founded by Swiss League of Nations scholar-diplomats William Rappard and Paul Mantoux in 1927. It was then the first academic institution in the world entirely devoted to the study of international affairs.

The Institute's alumni community has over 24,000 members across 100+ countries. The Institute boasts a diverse group of graduates pursuing careers spanning international organisations, diplomacy, governments, NGOs and in the private sector.

The Hong Kong Chapter was launched in 2022 to provide a platform for alumni and friends to connect and expand their professional and social networks. As the chapter is young and rapidly expanding, your input and participation will be highly valued. We hope to see you in future events that cater towards your personal and professional interests.

For more information, please contact us via email at hongkong.chapter@graduateinstitute.ch We also have a group on LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12683783/>

Meet The Swiss Teachers in Hong Kong

In 2024, the Swiss Teachers in Hong Kong, together with the Swiss School Committee (a sub-committee of the SAHK), organised four engaging workshops designed for Swiss Children living in Hong Kong. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Priska Erni, Nadine Greuter and Aurelia Bosko-Graf, as well as to GSIS (German Swiss International Schhol) and FIS (French International School) for their collaboration and kind support in this misson. Through these workshops, we were able to pass on Swiss traditions and values to Swiss children in Hong Kong. Enjoy the workshop summaries on the coming pages.

Let us introduce you to the Siwss Teachers in Hong Kong. We asked them two key questions:

1. How long have they lived in Hong Kong?
2. What is their favorite place in the city?



Priska Erni Primary Teacher

1. Since August 2013
2. I love all the promenades in Hong Kong



Nadine Greuter Primary Teacher
German Swiss International School

1. Since March 2021
2. The front-row window seat of any double-decker bus



Aurelia Graf-Bosko Primary Teacher
French International School of Hong Kong

1. Since August 2023
2. I enjoy both the Aberdeen Promenade and the Lamma Island Walk



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Swiss School Events

Apfelwaehe Baking Class

The aroma of freshly baked apple pie filled the air at GSIS on Saturday, 27th April 2024 when 12 enthusiastic Swiss children gathered for the Swiss Apple Pie Baking Class.

The workshop was led by two skilled Swiss teachers, guiding the young chefs through tasks from peeling and slicing apples to rolling out doughs and crafting perfect pie crusts. Working in groups of four, the kitchen was filled with laughter as they mixed sugary glazes for their pie toppings. While the apple pies baked to perfection, the children played Swiss games and read Swiss storybooks.

The highlight of the day arrived when the children tried their homemade apple pies and generously topped their pieces with whipped cream. Each child proudly took home three pieces of apple pie to share with their families, spreading the joy of Swiss baking beyond the classroom. The Swiss Apple-Pie Baking Class was a sweet success, blending the flavors of tradition, teamwork, and joy.



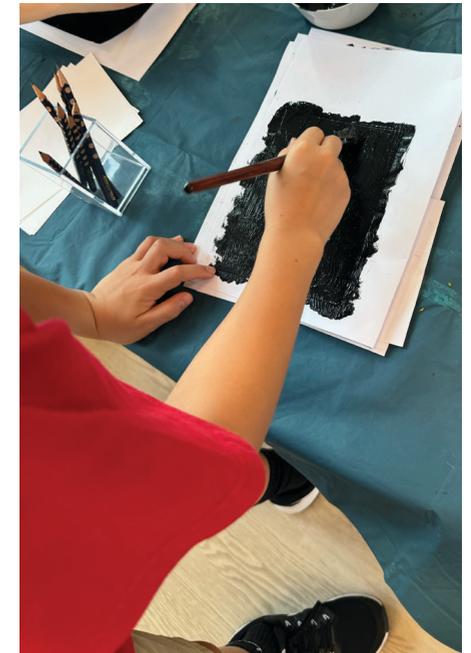
Swiss School Events

Arts like Rolf Knie

For the first time, the Swiss School Committee organized a Swiss Kids workshop at FIS (French International School) in Hong Kong, an accredited School by the Swiss Government. The workshop focused on "Arts like Rolf Knie" and the children learned many interesting facts about this famous Swiss artist as well as the Circus Knie.

During the workshop, the children created their own scratch art paper and were surprised by the process of how this is done. They used beautiful color combinations and then covered the paper thickly with black paint. While these creations were drying, the children enjoyed exploring circus-related activities, playing with each other, and deepening their friendships.

After a break with Swiss snacks and drinks, the children then used a sharp tool to scratch out their unique and individual artworks from the homemade scratch paper. It was beautiful to see all the different creations, and the kids had lots of fun.



Swiss School Events

Everything About Playing Jass

The Swiss kids had a blast at the "Everything about playing Jass" workshop organized by the Swiss School Committee. The workshop was led by Swiss teacher Ms. Priska Erni, who did a fantastic job. The kids got to know the cards, learned the rules, and played in groups. The workshop included competitive Jass games, including the variation called Tschau Sepp (the "Swiss UNO").



During the break, the kids enjoyed a refreshing "Rivella" and delicious Swiss snacks before participating in an exciting activity in the sports hall. Working together in groups, the kids communicated effectively and moved swiftly through the sports hall. Their mission? To find and collect specific cards, sparking their competitive spirit to triumph over the other teams!



The Swiss School Committee thanks GSIS for allowing us to organize this special workshop at their venue and is excited about bringing together more Swiss kids for future workshops to make new friendships and familiarize themselves with Swiss traditions.



Swiss School Events

A Fun Afternoon with Globi



During the short break, the kids enjoyed a refreshing Rivella, some Swiss Bretzels and other delicious Swiss snacks. Once back in the art room, the children colored the canvases, and with the help of Priska Erni, a real Swiss watch clock mechanic was added to the creation, completing it as a Globi clock that will bring lots of joy to the kids and their families.

More than a dozen Swiss children enjoyed a workshop organized by the Swiss School Committee at GSIS.

The famous Swiss cartoon character, Globi, was in the spotlight. The workshop took place in the art room, where each child received a plain canvas with a hole in the middle. After choosing their favorite Globi design, the kids started to get creative. They learned a new technique and were surprised that they had to scribble on the backside of their chosen Globi design. It was a lot of fun, and they needed to shake their hands a few times to release the pressure from scribbling hard.



The children then turned the template around, fixed it with tape to the canvas, and carefully traced the lines of their Globi design with a pencil. This step required a lot of concentration. One of the highlights was clearly when the template could be removed, revealing the perfectly fine lines of their Globi design on their canvas. All that was needed now was to trace the lines



Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong



By Oliver Seeholzer



As we reflect on the past year, it is evident that the past months have been a uniquely challenging period for the Swiss Rifles Club. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the club's ethos and values, but it is important to address the hurdles we've encountered and explore new opportunities for improvement.

Current Situation – Since October 2024, we have been unable to access our shooting range due to ongoing construction works in the area. Regrettably, to date, we have not received any updates or projected timelines for when the range might be operational again. As a result, all shooting activities have been placed on hold indefinitely.

However, we are encouraged by the dedication of the Regiment (our partners inviting us for various shooting competitions), who are working tirelessly to bring the range back to operational status. Their focus is on ensuring that the facility meets the necessary standards to accommodate the use of our Swiss Army rifles. We are grateful for their efforts and look forward to updates on this front.

As custodians of our rifles, we take great pride in maintaining the integrity and security of our equipment, as required by the HK Police Force. However, this responsibility comes with financial challenges. Our largest ongoing expenses are Storage Fees and Rifle Maintenance, ensuring the safe and proper upkeep of our rifles. While the cost of ammunition in Hong Kong is typically our most significant factor, it is worth noting that due to the absence of shooting events, ammunition consumption costs have been reduced to nearly zero during this inactive period. This has provided slight relief amidst our broader financial considerations.

In light of our current circumstances, we turn to you - our valued members and supporters - for your thoughts, ideas, and feedback. If you have any suggestions on how we can address the challenges we face or explore alternative avenues for engagement, we would love to hear from you. We welcome all feedback, whether positive or critical, as it helps us grow and adapt.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your ideas at oliverseeholzer@gmail.com. Your contributions, big or small, will make a meaningful difference.

Looking Ahead – although the past year has presented obstacles, we remain optimistic about the future of the Swiss Rifles Club. With the Regiment's ongoing efforts, we are hopeful for a brighter year ahead where we can return to what we love most.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the club.

Swiss Dragons

2024 Dragon Boat Season Recap



The 2024 Dragon Boat season was one of perseverance, teamwork, and triumph for the Swiss Dragons. As we look back on the journey, I am incredibly proud of the dedication and spirit demonstrated by our team members.

Throughout the season, we gathered nearly every Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at Stanley Main Beach for training sessions. Rain or shine, cold or heat, our team showed up consistently, braving challenging conditions—from chilly mornings and strong winds to the sweltering heat of summer. Each session was a testament to our collective determination and commitment to improvement.

Our hard work paid off during two key race days:

May 29, 2024: Warm-up Race
June 10, 2024: Stanley International Dragon Boat Championship

The highlight of the season was the outstanding performance of our Swiss Dragons Mixed Team, who clinched the Silver Cup Championship. This achievement reflects the strength of our teamwork, resilience, and shared passion for the sport.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their invaluable support:

- Spiaggia Restaurant Stanley
- CIGP, Compagnie d'Investissements et de Gestion Privée

Your contributions played a significant role in our success, and we are deeply appreciative.

To the entire Swiss Dragons team: thank you for an unforgettable season. Your dedication and camaraderie continue to inspire, and we look forward to building on this success in the years to come.

With pride and gratitude,
Werner Heimgartner
Coach, Swiss Dragons Dragon Boat Team



Swiss XI

A Season of Triumph, Drama, and Grit

Hong Kong—a city of highs and lows, bear markets and bull markets, downturns and upswings. These cycles don't just define finance; they shape life, health, and sport alike. And if there's one team that embodies this rollercoaster ride, it is Swiss XI.

Last time we checked in, they were sitting comfortably atop the second division of the Yau Yee League. But true champions don't just settle for the summit; they cement their place in history. Swiss XI finished the season earning a hard-fought promotion to the coveted first division, along with a dazzling trophy now proudly displayed in the Swiss XI museum.

Then came the Six-a-side tournament, a traditional season-ending spectacle. The first weekend? Not pretty. It was a shaky start, barely scraping qualification for the final showdown. But champions thrive under pressure, and when it mattered most, Swiss XI delivered.

The final weekend saw the squad flip the script, battle through the brackets, and ultimately secure a thrilling 2-0 victory in the Sixes Cup Final. Another trophy, another strong statement.

Stepping up into the first division, the competition immediately turned fierce. A nail-biting 3-4 defeat in the season opener proved that this league would demand every ounce of effort, every second of play—right down to the final whistle. But Swiss XI held their ground, fought through grueling encounters, and now, with just one last match remaining, they've already secured their place in the top tier for another season. Mission accomplished.

A special shoutout to coach Javeed Vageehudeen, whose leadership and dedication have been instrumental in this journey. Swiss XI, take a bow. This season has been nothing short of spectacular. Keep pushing, keep fighting—because the next chapter promises even more fun.



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Society for Community Organization (SoCO)



By SZE Lai Shan

Hong Kong is regarded as one of the richest cities in the world. However, lurking beneath this prosperity is great wealth inequality and a forgotten group of poor people. Hundreds of thousands of people still live in caged homes and sub-divided units, while the working poor, the unemployed, newly arrived families from Mainland China as well as children in poverty struggle for survival.

For People, we care, For Justice we act. SoCO was formed since 1971 and was registered as non-profit making organization for the underprivileged in 1972 and received charitable status in 1980. SoCO concerns the human right of the underprivileged and campaigned for a fair and just social system. SoCO outreaches to the cage, cubicle and sub-divided flats dwellers and homeless, such as elderly singletons, new immigrant women, children living in poverty, street-sleepers, persons-in-recovery, low-income workers and ethnic minorities, advocate for better policies together and provide training to enhance their ability and opportunity to get rid of poverty. SoCO also undertakes original social policy research, lobbies Hong Kong decision-making bodies and organizes direct social services.

“Never Give Up, I wrote on the wall to encourage myself. I am eager to enter university.” Man Nui and her family live in a rooftop slum with another ten households. During heavy rain, everyone has to be up in the middle of the night to mop up dripping water in the shack.

Neither can they sleep in sultry summer nights because it is so hot they feel as if they are fishes in the steamer. Taking refuge in community centers is the only option when there is a typhoon. The only reason for them to rent such a miserable dwelling on the rooftop of a 9-storey building with no lift is POVERTY.

Living in a tiny room with less than 100 square feet, Man Nui, a form five student, had to attend classes and study in such a suffocating environment. In order to stay resilient and motivated, and strive for her goal of entering university, Man Nui wrote “Never Give Up” on the wall! Man Nui is fully aware that her parents work very hard for her and the sister. Their father led a hard life in construction site, while her mom, despite her chronic illness, works part-time in a restaurant. With SoCO’s assistance, the family moved to public housing, Man Nui is promoted to study in College. The two sisters became more and more confident and independent. Man Nui also take initiative to be a volunteer to visit the poor.

SoCO works within the community to help the poor, provide support services to grassroots people and mobilize resources and people from different sectors for poverty alleviation. SoCO annually serve near 20,000 households in poverty. SoCO provided children and family services in learning center at urban slums to support women to work, English learning and tutorial classes to the children and youth in poverty, provided employment training, family counseling, emergency fund, etc.

SoCO also subsidized the unemployed poor for training to enhance their employability in the society. SoCO will continue to soldier on with the underprivileged and hope more people will join forces with us to enable the development of a caring and just society.

SoCO and the underprivileged communities are honoured to share our dedications with the Swiss Association Hong Kong and be selected as the beneficiary charity of their 2024 Charity Luncheon. Poverty alleviation work ensures equal opportunities and facilitates upward mobility, and thank you for gifting your helping hand to creates possibilities of the vulnerable brothers and sisters in poverty.

Representing SoCO, Ms. SZE Lai Shan, receives the Donation from the Swiss Association of Hong Kong



Swiss National Day

Pictures Tell More Than a 1000 Words



Christmas Charity Luncheon



On 10 December 2024, during the festive Christmas season, the Swiss Association of Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce organized their traditional Charity Luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong.

During that Tuesday lunch, the Swiss community showcased their generosity. The proud sum of HKD 53'200.- was raised to support The Society for Community Organization (SoCO), a chosen local Hong Kong charity dedicated to helping the homeless and underprivileged citizens living in the city.

A special thank you goes to Peter Reichenbach, who expertly hosted the Lucky Draw, keeping it engaging and entertaining. A heartfelt thank you goes to our loyal sponsors who donated wonderful prizes, making the Lucky Draw attractive and the table decorations truly festive and a sincere appreciation to all the participants who purchased an impressive number of lucky draw tickets.

The Christmas Charity Luncheon was a wonderful opportunity to gather before everyone set off to enjoy the holidays with their families and loved ones. The event proved, once again, that with our combined efforts, we can make a meaningful contribution to a good cause.



Family Hike Wong Nai Chung Gap to Tai Tam Reservoir

On a stunning day following the cold winter months, a large crowd of around 20 adults and 8 kids gathered for the Swiss Family Hike in Hong Kong, hiking from Wong Nai Chung Gap to Tai Tam Reservoir. Guided by the experienced Marco Foehn, the hike provided a wonderful opportunity to discover the picturesque landscapes of the region and gain insight into Hong Kong's impressive water systems. Throughout the trek, Marco shared fascinating facts about Hong Kong's waterworks, adding an element of education to the hiking adventure.

It was wonderful to hear so many different languages spoken during the hike. French, Swiss German, English, and Cantonese were all heard as the hikers got to know new members and reunite with existing ones. Every participant completed the hike, and it was impressive to see the remarkable performance of the youngest hiker, a 3-year-old who tackled the trail with great enthusiasm and determination. This heartening demonstration of resilience added an extra touch to an already great day.

A special thank you goes to Marco Foehn who chose and led the hiking route and made this wonderful morning in the nature possible. We all are already looking forward to the next hiking adventure with him!



Jass Evenings

Another Fantastic Year in the books

It was a resounding success, just like every year, filled with friendly competition and the familiar Stöck!! Match!!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the numerous lively games and, of course, the delicious food and many drinks prepared with love from the Swiss Chalet – a perfect pairing!

A huge congratulations to Patrick, our well-deserved Jass Champion this year! With an average game score of 3,072.

We are looking forward to many more exciting rounds of Jass and good company in the coming year.

See you all at the next one!



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Raclette in the Park



The "Raclette in the Park" is one of SAHK's flagship events and on Saturday, 13 April took place once again. The traditional SAHK event brought together around 50 participants.

The crowd was a wonderful mix of adults, children, and babies and brought the community together in a natural and delightful outdoor setting at the Tai Tam Reservoir Road BBQ area. The location provided a great opportunity for adults and children to spend time together outdoors, enjoying the best cheeses of Raclette while mingling with existing Swiss friends and making some new ones.

A special thank you goes to Inge and Stefan Herzog for ensuring that this wonderful flagship event features always the best of Swiss Culinary food.



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Samichlaus came to Town!



On Saturday 7 December 2024, many Swiss children buzzed with excitement for the annual Samichlaus event. This year, the event took place in the beautiful Parkview Forest.

Samichlaus and Schmutzli made their grand entrance, bringing smiles to children's faces as they listened to the wise words. Even bigger smiles appeared when they received the special red goodie bags packed with delightful Swiss treats such as "Grittibaenz," special Swiss Christmas cookies, mini Toblerones, mandarins, and plenty of nuts. Schmutzli only had to hand out the goodie bags, which is a very good sign as it shows how well-behaved the Swiss kids in the community are!

Upon the departure of Samichlaus and Schmutzli, the festivities continued with a mouth-watering Swiss Barbeque. The aroma of grilled sausages, bratwurst, and other Swiss delicacies filled the air, as families shared their delicious food. Laughter and conversations flowed freely, making the event a truly memorable one.

To sweeten the day, 'XTC-Gelato' provided free ice cream for the kids, much to their delight. And let's not forget the tasty tarts from 'Le Dessert', which were a huge hit among the adults.

We can't wait for Samichlaus to come again to town.



Swiss Night @ The Races

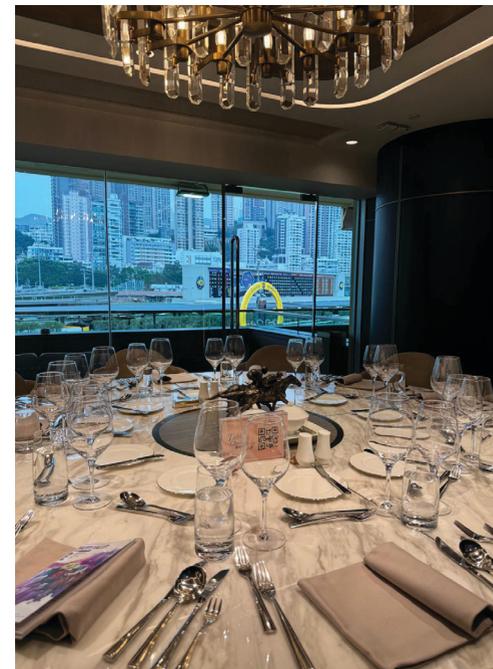
On Wednesday, 8 May 2024...

...the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) hosted a spectacular event at the prestigious Happy Valley Racecourse.

To start the evening, Fritz Sommerau shared interesting facts and figures about the Hong Kong Jockey Club with all the participants. The guests were treated to a culinary experience as renowned Swiss Chef Chris Suter curated an extraordinary meal that showcased his expertise in Swiss cuisine. From the exclusive vantage point of the private box, attendees enjoyed each dish while taking in the electrifying atmosphere of the races.

The guests seized the opportunity to test their luck and gain valuable insights into the world of horse racing. As the night unfolded, some were fortunate enough to strike it lucky with their wagers, adding an extra touch of excitement to the event.

A big thank you goes to Fritz Sommerau, who helped make this unforgettable event possible. The combination of exquisite dining, thrilling entertainment, and the camaraderie of the SAHK members made for an unforgettable and glamorous evening at the races.



Francophone Football Competition: Swiss Triumph on the Pitch

For the third time, the Consulate of France in Hong Kong and Macao hosted the Francophone Football Competition, one of the first events kicking off Francophone Month – proudly supported by the Swiss Consulate.

After some initial hesitation, and with the backing of the Swiss Association, the Consulate managed to assemble a rather eclectic 5-a-side squad representing the Swiss community. Our team featured father-son duos, a husband and wife, and even our very own Consul General, Daniel Freihofer – one-half of a father-son duo!

The tournament took place on the stunning rooftop astro turf of Christian Alliance International School, which also fielded a team. After the junior categories wrapped up their morning matches, it was time for the adults to take the field. Eight teams battled it out in the group stage, where Switzerland faced the Belgian Club, Leung's Institute, and Lou Pichoun. With two wins out of three, we advanced to the semi-finals.

That match had all the drama football fans live for – falling behind 0-1 early on, we swiftly equalised. Then, just when penalties seemed inevitable, our youngest player, Max, fired home a spectacular last-minute winner to send us to the final.

The grande finale

A déjà vu moment—the final was a re-match against Lou Pichoun.

As if the stakes weren't high enough, players marched onto the pitch to the Champions League anthem. A brilliant touch that got the adrenaline pumping!

True to our strategy, we began with our seasoned players controlling the tempo. The Consul General came close to scoring but immediately gifted possession back – prompting a tactical substitution: Freihofer Sr. out, Freihofer Jr. in! Still, 0-0.

A few more fresh legs later, Cedric burst through to score the opener. Lou Pichoun never found a way back, securing Switzerland's victory!

A Sweet Swiss Sweep

For the final award ceremony, all remaining teams came together to cap off a fantastic day. Switzerland cleaned up, with Cedric winning Player of the Tournament and Justin taking home Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

A huge thank you to the Swiss Consulate for their superb organisation, including goody bags and stylish shirts for all players. And, of course, to the friends, family, and die-hard supporters who brought custom banners and cheered us on to glory.

As for the trophy? It now sits proudly in the Swiss Consulate meeting room, a testament to teamwork, talent, and a bit of Swiss football magic!



Private Tour of Asia Society of Hong Kong

Just over a dozen members of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong gathered at the Asia Society of Hong Kong on a cool, but sunny afternoon. Conveniently located above Admiralty next to the British Consulate General of Hong Kong, the Asia Society is nestled on the hills of the mid-levels overlooking Hong Kong Harbour.

It's strategic location was one of the reasons, former landlords chose it to protect Hong Kong from any aggressors during the Chinese dynasties and colonial presence of the British Empire. The buildings on the site have been preserved from the days when they were used to produce and store ammunition for the boats that anchored in the harbor and protected the colony.

The new buildings of the ASHK feature a reception, meeting hall, several galleries, a restaurant and gift shop. A sound proof theater has been built in one of the storage barracks. The unique architecture blends old and new surrounded by nature and tranquility.

Our experienced docent, Miranda Yuen walked us through the history of all the buildings and features on the premises providing us with a deeper understanding and importance of the role of the barracks. Members were inspired by the three adjacent walls offering a glimpse of the Chinese Dynasty, British Colonial era and the Special Administration Region of today.



Feng Shui Luncheon with Grand Master Raymond Lo



The Swiss Association of Hong Kong and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong once again hosted their annual Feng Shui Luncheon, a popular tradition that has captivated both the Swiss family and Swiss business community for many years.

The luncheon was a perfect blend of cultural enrichment and community spirit, and the participants left fully ready to embrace the new Chinese Year.

This year's event took place on Thursday, 13 February 2025, at the FCC (Foreign Correspondents' Club). The attendees appreciated the presence of the renowned Grand Master Raymond Lo and enjoyed listening to his expert insights and predictions for the Year of the Wooden Snake.

Master Lo explained that the Feng Shui principles focus on the five elements: earth, metal, wind, water, and fire, and their interactions. The Year of the Wooden Snake is expected to bring more harmony than the previous Year of the Wooden Dragon, despite the strong presence of the fire element, which can lead to some fire-related challenges. Most of all, we definitely look forward to the anticipated economic upswing.



Ladies Meet 2024

Following a brief pause, the Swiss Ladies Meet made a return under the new leadership of Joanne Wong from the Swiss Association Committee. The Ladies Meet 2024 events in May, July, and October buzzed with cool drinks, delectable bites, and rounds and rounds of contagious laughters. Attendees relished the opportunity to foster new connections and strengthen existing ones, cultivating a lively ambiance of mutual support and genuine warmth. This series of gatherings brought joy and connection to all participants, who gathered together with a shared enthusiasm and connection with Switzerland.



Sanctuary Frozen in Time

Private Tour with Marc Progin

Swiss adventurer, photographer, and writer Marc Progin led an exclusive SAHK Private Tour through his captivating "Sanctuary Frozen in Time" exhibition at La Galeria Paris 1839 in Central Hong Kong on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

The participants were taken on a mesmerizing photographic journey through Mongolia, expertly led by Marc Progin. They gained profound insights into Mongolia, revered as a haven of peace, an asylum for nature, wildlife, and human beings living a nomadic life.

Progin's impressive expertise captivated all attendees, creating a memorable event for SAHK members. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Marc Progin for making this extraordinary Private Tour possible for us.



Blue House Private Tour

A Fascinating Journey Through Hong Kong's History!



A group of 12 gathered on Sunday, May 26, 2024, in Wan Chai for an exclusive Private Tour led by Nick Tsao, a resident of the Blue House and a part-time architect.

The Blue House in Wan Chai, built in 1922, is a traditional tenement building with elements of the former "Wah Tor Temple" integrated into its iconic corner facade. Recognized as a grade-I historic building, the Blue House stands out with its terraced balconies and has received the Award of Excellence from UNESCO.

During the Private Tour, the group had the unique opportunity to visit the preserved unit on the top floor, providing an experience that allowed each participant to travel back in time and witness the compact sub-divided units of the past. Nick Tsao generously opened his home, serving as a design studio for his papercutting art and offered the group a deeper understanding of papercutting traditions with origins in both Chinese and Swiss cultures. The morning of exploration concluded with a refreshing selection of Swiss drinks and snacks.



Swiss Chocolate Mooncake

A Sweet Success



The Chocolate Workshop at Conspiracy Chocolate on 13 September 2024 was a delightful and mouthwatering experience for everyone involved. This event centered around the art of creating Chocolate Autumn Mooncakes, a unique fusion of Swiss and Chinese traditions. Participants had the opportunity to work with high-quality Swiss chocolate, learning various techniques for crafting the perfect mooncakes.

It wasn't just about making delicious treats; it was an engaging journey into the captivating history and complex world of chocolate. Attendees enjoyed fascinating facts about the origins of chocolate, its journey through history, and its cultural significance. The workshop provided a hands-on experience that perfectly combined fun, flavors, and education.

Throughout the workshop, the participants experimented with different flavors and designs for their mooncakes. The atmosphere was dynamic, filled with a sense of community and a shared love for chocolate. By the end of the session, everyone walked away with a newfound appreciation for the art of chocolate making and a box of their own beautifully handcrafted mooncakes.



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