

瑞士通訊



S'Alphorn 2024





A TRADITIONAL ALPINE EXPERIENCE

A Peninsula landmark since 1965, the legendary bijou and romantic Alpine chalet Chesa is renowned for its authentic Swiss favourites in a cozy setting.

THE PENINSULA
HONG KONG

1/F, THE PENINSULA HONG KONG, SALISBURY ROAD, KOWLOON, HONG KONG TEL: +852 2696 6769 E-MAIL: CHESA@PENINSULA.COM
HONG KONG • SHANGHAI • BEIJING • TOKYO • NEW YORK • CHICAGO • BEVERLY HILLS
LONDON • PARIS • ISTANBUL • BANGKOK • MANILA • peninsula.com

Drawing by Daniel Wettling

Alpine Milk-Bath

++



Table of Contents

s'Alphorn issue 142



_6

SAHK

_6 Message from the President **_8** Committee 2024-2025
10 New Committee Member **12** Goodbyes
14 Annual General Meeting

16

In honor of Hong Kong

16 Organisation of the Swiss Abroad **18** Swiss Chamber of Commerce **20** Swiss Universities & Higher Education Institutions
24 Swiss Consulate **29** Other Swiss Associations in Hong Kong
30 Changing Young Lives Foundation **32** In the Spotlight with Marco Foehn

34

SAHK Events

34 Jass Evenings **36** Swiss National Day **40** Charity Luncheon
42 Joint Monthly Cocktail **43** Karaoke at Carlyle & Co. **44** Family Hike
46 Exclusive Swiss Fondue Night **47** Feng Shui Forecast
48 Tsz Shan Monastery **49** Samstag-Jass **50** Treff in Switerland
52 Events arranged by the Swiss School Committee

58

Sports

58 Swiss Rifle Association **60** Swiss Dragons **61** Swiss XI

XX

Other Articles

03 Drawing by Daniel Wettling **57** Meet the Swiss Teachers in Hong Kong **62** Become a Member

SECURE YOUR FUTURE

We are your trusted Swiss-Liechtenstein Provider for Corporate Services and Private Wealth Solutions in Hong Kong.

At Blue Concept Asia, we pride ourselves in delivering excellence, providing you with tailor-made Concepts.

Message from the President

Grüezi, Bonjour, Buongiorno, Allegra,

It is an honor to write to you today as the President of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong. With a rich tradition spanning over 76 years, the Swiss Association of Hong Kong can proudly look back on all its achievements and the positive impact and meaningful contribution it has made over the years to the Swiss Community living in Hong Kong.

Switzerland is my home country. I was born and raised in Zurich, and as a child, I spent a lot of time in the mountains. To this day, I still love the Swiss mountains; they are a place of peace and extraordinary beauty for me. About 15 years ago, my life journey took me to Hong Kong, where I now live with my husband and our 8-year-old daughter. We enjoy spending time outdoors and keep on discovering the breathtaking beauty of Hong Kong's nature. I have been a member of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong for many years and joined the Committee in 2022. Like many other families in our community, we can only travel to Switzerland during the school holidays. Therefore, I find it very important to have a closer connection with other Swiss families and Swiss friends living in Hong Kong, so that we can celebrate and share Swiss traditions together.

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong is entirely run by dedicated volunteers, driven by our passion and love for Switzerland. Therefore, I extend a heartfelt thank you to our current Committee Members for their unwavering commitment in their spare time, as well as to the previous Committee Members who have paved the way and contributed to the success of SAHK.



I would like to express my gratitude to the Swiss Consulate in Hong Kong for their continuous support throughout the year. The collaboration with the Swiss Benevolent Society is dear to our heart and we are also happy to be close friends with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong with which we are again looking forward to organizing some joint events this year. The Dragon Boat Team, Swiss Rifles Association, Swiss XI, and the Swiss Community of Swiss Abroad are additional partners with whom we are grateful to have close ties.

Whether Hong Kong is a temporary home for some or a residence of many years and decades for others, our shared love for Switzerland unites us all. Our goal is to bring the Swiss community together and ensure mutual support to its members. I have already noticed many familiar faces at various SAHK events over the past few months, and I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you at the upcoming events. I encourage you to participate in our events and gatherings so that we can get to know each other better. If you have any ideas in this respect, please feel free to reach out to us. We are a community and by working together, we shall be able to achieve many wonderful, good things.

Enjoy reading this new edition of s'Alphorn, the yearly magazine of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong. We are very proud to have this magazine as it provides a great recap of what has happened in the SAHK community during the past year. Thank you to all our sponsors, who play a vital role not only for s'Alphorn but also for many of our events, making them so successful and attractive. If you are interested in browsing through previous editions of s'Alphorn, you will find them all listed on our website: www.swiss-hk.com.

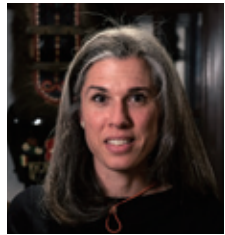
I'm looking forward to seeing you around in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong
Doris von Niederhaeusern Bertoli
President 2024/2025



Committee 2024-2025



**Doris von
Niederhausern
Bertoli**
President &
School Committee



Raffael Morger
Hon. Treasurer

Ching Law
Hon. Secretary



Joanna Koslowski
Hon. Treasurer
School Committee



Philipp Kha
Events
Coordinator



Joshua Spirgi
IT Coordinator



Lisa Peers
Events
Coordinator



Olga Paré
Events
Coordinator



Ashley Lau
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Kailonde Pho
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Paul Hugentobler
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Patrick Koslowski
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

info@swiss-hk.com

doris.vn.bertoli@swiss-hk.com

ching.law@swiss-hk.com

joshua.spirgi@swiss-hk.com

lisa.peers@swiss-hk.com

ashley.lau@dlh.de

paul.hugentobler@swiss-hk.com

raffael.morger@swiss-hk.com

joanna.lau@swiss-hk.com

philipp.kha@swiss-hk.com

olga.pare@swiss-hk.com

kai.pho@swiss-hk.com

patrick.koslowski@swiss-hk.com

New Committee Member

Philipp Kha

Switzerland is «Meine Heimat», I was born and raised in Rheinfelden and Basel and of course I love the “Basler Fasnacht”. Both of my Parents are of Chinese origin but grew up in Vietnam, which is why I grew up multilingual. I like to do sports and be in the Nature as well I enjoy good food with Friends.

I moved to Hong Kong in early 2023 to work for our Hong Kong Branch and helping to develop the Businesses and other Branches throughout Asia. I am one of the newest Members of the Committee of SAHK and will try my best to create unforgettable Events for our Swiss Community here in Hong Kong.



75 years of *blissful moments.*



“LINDOR,
your moment of bliss,
created by the
Lindt Master
Chocolatiers.”



Goodbyes from our Committee

The Swiss Association of Hong Kong would like to thank two very dedicated Committee Members who have decided to leave the Committee in 2024 after many years of involvement. You can see from their various functions, the amount of hard work and time they have dedicated to the Swiss Association of Hong Kong.

Dear San, dear Roland,
Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and commitment over the years. 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!

Roland Jossi

Hon. Treasurer (2015-2018 & 2022-2024)
President (2018/2019)
Past President (2019/2020)



San Wang

Hon. Secretary (2017-2020)
President (2020/2021 & 2021/2022)
Immediate Past President (2022/2023)
Past President (2023/2024)



Enjoy Swiss
hospitality before
you even land.

Travel is what
you make of it.



76th Annual General Meeting



The 76th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) followed by the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong (SBS) was held at the Ladies Recreation Club on Thursday, 22 February 2024.

The quorum of 41 members of the SAHK was met, hence the meeting was declared to commence.

Patrick Koslowski, 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 75th AGM, President's annual report 2023, and SAHK year-end accounts report 2023
- Introduction of the SAHK Committee of 2023
- Approval of the Annual Membership dues and Contribution to SBS
- Approval of election of proposed Honorary Members
- Approval of SSC year end accounts report 2023

Appointing the Auditor of SAHK and SSC for the year 2024

Election of the SAHK Committee 2024

Approval of SBS minutes and their accounts read

The traditional Cow Bell Handover from Patrick Koslowski to Doris von Niederhaeusern Bertoli, the newly elected president.

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

Doris von Niederhaeusern Bertoli, on behalf of SAHK Committee presented a Thank You Gift to **Patrick Koslowski** for his dedication and hard work.

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



Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

By Peggy Huen

Local elected Delegate Hong Kong SAR for OSA

Objectives & mission

The Organization of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, is committed to preserving the connection between Switzerland and its citizens living abroad within the framework of Article 40 of the Federal Constitution.

SwissCommunity supports Swiss people with regards to cross-border mobility and promotes exchange between the country and its diaspora. It is aimed specifically at young Swiss people living abroad.



Peggy Huen

Represent, inform, network, advise

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad represents the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad vis-à-vis the Swiss authorities and the public at home. The mouthpiece of the Swiss diaspora is the Council of the Swiss Abroad, which is elected by the Swiss communities abroad.

It informs its compatriots abroad about important events and developments in Switzerland. We supply those living abroad who are eligible to vote with the basic information they need to exercise their political rights in Switzerland.

It networks Swiss nationals abroad with each other and with authorities, institutions and the public in Switzerland. To this end, we work particularly with Swiss associations and institutions abroad.

It advises Swiss nationals about issues related to emigration, staying abroad and returning to Switzerland. Together with our partner organisations, we provide Swiss nationals abroad with a wide range of services.

St. Gallen, August 19, 2023 – In this election year 2023, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSE), SwissCommunity, organized the 99th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in St. Gallen.

Saturday morning was entirely devoted to the federal elections. Representatives of six major Swiss parties have taken a position on the main political demands of the Fifth Swiss in front of the almost 100 Swiss abroad present. The afternoon has been reserved for the theme of Swiss culture as an export product, which made it possible to discover the diversity of the cultural landscape of the Swiss abroad.



Lycée Français International
French International School
Hong Kong



Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

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

Breakfast Club: The Innovation Factory by Elmar Mock



Business community.

In the heart of Hong Kong's dynamic business scene, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce organise an exciting series of events, embodying the spirit of Swiss precision and networking prowess.

Here are the notable examples of how the Swiss Chamber has engaged its members between in 2023.

We were honored to have Elmar Mock, the Swatchmaker, Founder of Creaholic sharing his knowledge of the fine art of breakthrough innovation management and how individuals and companies can repeat it over time.

SwissCham Watch Club: Watch Market 2023 New Novelties by Carson Chan

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong is proud to launch our "SwissCham Watch Club" in 2023. The idea is to gather a group of like-minded individuals to share their hobby and passion for watches.

We will have regular club meetings to discuss technical topics, market trends and specialist talks. We were pleased to kick start the event on 1 June. Carson Chan - Founder of Watch Professor and board member of Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong shared the latest market trend from the Watches & Wonders



and the participants also got the chance to appreciate some timeless pieces from Oriental Watch Company.

If you enjoy watches or collecting them, don't miss the chance to join the SwissCham Watch Club (SWC).

Crypto City to Crypto Valley - Digital Infrastructure for Web3 and Crypto Companies in Switzerland

Swiss Chamber launched the first "Crypto City to Crypto Valley" co-organizing with the Odsy Foundation and Fintech Association of Hong Kong and Cyberport in hybrid mode. The event was well received by over 90 participants.

We were glad to have speakers and moderators from Egon Zehnder, MME, SEBA Bank and Odsy Foundation, shared all the topics that are important for our members and for Hong Kong based FinTech and Crypto community.



Mid-Year Economic Outlook

With the positive comments from the participants for "Lunch & Learn: Economic Outlook" in January, we were delighted to organize 'Mid-Year Economic Outlook', which in close collaboration with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, who hosted their own

outlook in mid-September.

We were honored to have esteemed speakers from UBS, Union Bancaire Privée, LGT Bank and Julius Baer shared their in-depth views on the economy and capital markets.



Swiss Universities & Higher Education Institutions 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 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 Hong Kong Alumni Chapter of EHL Hospitality Business School was founded in 1893 as Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne and 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 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/>



"HSG Alumni is the alumni organization of the University of St. Gallen. 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 a range of over 350 interesting events per year organized in St. Gallen, online and by the 192 communities located in Switzerland and around the world. 2023 was a special year for HSG, as it celebrated the 125th anniversary of its university.

The Hong Kong chapter of the HSG alumni association was founded in the early 2000s with the goal 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 years' COVID restrictions, which impacted our members' base, our community has managed to remain active organizing 3 to 4 events per year held at the Hong Kong Country Club. Another major achievement of the past 4 years has been our collaboration with the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL). Through these joint events, we have been able to connect more and more people with a Swiss education to share their stories in Hong Kong.

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.

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.

By Alexandre Tunik (tpf&transpacificfareast.com)



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, 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

ETH zürich

Alumni

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 ohasler@phoenicianms.com, or our Community Engagement Manager Francesca Fuoli at francesca.fuoli@alumni-admin.ethz.ch

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

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/Alumni Association>.



Swiss House
Shop 

**Buy your favourite Swiss products online
and have your orders delivered to the
convenience of your home or office!**



[swisshouse-shop.com](https://www.swisshouse-shop.com)



info@swisshouse-shop.com



+852 6310 1860



Interview with Consul General Daniel Freihofer

By Paul Hugentobler

Daniel grew up in the eastern part of Switzerland, partly in St. Gallen and partly in Appenzell. Interested in international politics and international political economy, he chose to continue his studies in international relations in the French speaking part of Switzerland at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1996. He spent 5 years in the Suisse Romande where he met his wife, Ylva, a Swedish national working and learning French in Geneva at the time.

After taking a year off and backpacking in South America in 2002, Daniel did an internship at Roche pharmaceuticals in Buenos Aires providing him with first hand experience with a Swiss company abroad. After returning to Switzerland, Daniel joined the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in Bern.

Daniel's first position with SECO was Desk officer for bilateral economic relations in the Asia/Oceania Division. This gave him the opportunity to frequently travel to Southeast Asia and experience the culture of many



countries in the region, including Hong Kong. In 2007, Daniel took on the position as Head of the Economic and Trade Affairs Division of the Swiss Embassy to India and Bhutan in New Delhi. During their 5-year posting in India, Ylva and Daniel had their first child Theo.

Returning to headquarters in Bern in 2011, Daniel became Deputy Director of the Free Trade Agreements/EFTA Division at SECO coordinated the negotiation of free trade agreements with several partner countries in Asia, South America and Africa. Their second child Lia was born beginning of 2014. Later that year, he was assigned to Washington D.C. as Minister and Head of the Economic, Trade and Financial Affairs Division of the Swiss Embassy to the United States of America where he spent the next 5 years of his career. Loving the American way of life, Daniel and his family visited 46 out of 50 states on their travels.

After officially switching from SECO to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2019, Daniel was assigned to Kinshasa as Deputy Head of Mission of the Swiss Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Following a 3-years assignment in Congo, Daniel and his family were given the opportunity to return to the Far East, where Daniel now acts as Consul General of Switzerland in Hong Kong and Macao.

Daniel and Ylva's first born, Theo is 14 years old and enjoying the freedoms Hong Kong offers of being a teenager. Their second child, Lia is almost 10 years old. Both children are attending GSIS and following the German stream. They both love sports, in particular soccer and skiing.

Daniel is an avid tennis and golf player. He also loves the outdoors and will take advantage of the vast number of hiking trails that Hong Kong has to offer.

The Freihofer family are also "foodies" and are looking forward to experiencing the wonders of Cantonese cuisine and other Asian cuisines while posted here in Hong Kong.

Daniel and I talked about what are some of the things that he would like to focus on during his assignment here in Hong Kong.

In addition to the comprehensive range of consular and visa services provided by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, Daniel and his team would like to give more visibility to the many Swiss success stories here in areas like business, finance, science & education, hospitality as well as culture. Daniel's goal is to further strengthen the bilateral relations between Switzerland and Hong Kong in these areas over the coming years. The Swiss Consulate has already kicked off a series of "Hong Kong Swiss Collaboration Workshops" jointly organized with the Financial Services Development Council of Hong Kong.

During Daniel's first few months since taking up his position, he has already noticed a positive "post covid reset" effect with increased interest and Swiss delegations visiting the city. Daniel wants the Swiss Consulate to act as a door opener for Swiss businesses and institutions supporting them in their endeavours and

linking them with potential partners. The Swiss Consulate very much appreciates its close collaboration with the Swiss Association and Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Daniel's ambition is to provide a first class and hand-on service to the Swiss community in Hong Kong and to boost the already impressive Swiss footprint even further over the coming years.



62/F, Central Plaza
18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, HK
Telephone: +852 3509 5000
Fax: +852 3509 5050
Email: hongkong@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong

Interview with Françoise Killias Zillweger Deputy Consul General

By Paul Hugentobler

Daughter of a diplomat, Françoise has been used to living abroad. Having completed her primary education in New Orleans, USA, she returned to Switzerland with her family for about 10 years as her parents wished that she would grow up and continue her education there. Her parents were then posted for the first time in Hong Kong in 1985. Françoise's father was Consul General at the time. Having completed secondary school in Switzerland, Françoise decided to complete her last year of high school at the French International School in Hong Kong where she received her baccalaureate. Instead of going to University, she joined the Foreign Ministry in Bern as Assistant. Beginning in 1991, she was assigned to posts in Poland, Brazil and New Zealand. She married and had her first and second son in Brazil and New Zealand respectively, Lucas and Alec. In 1998, Françoise and her family moved to Bonn, Germany where she took an examination to move to the consular field. They then moved to Uruguay where she continued in the consular section. The family then moved to Greece where their third son, Théo was born. Having spent three years in Greece, the family moved to San Francisco. In 2008, Françoise was then posted to Hong Kong in the consular section as Head of Chancellery, her second time living in the city. Having spent 4 years in Hong Kong, the family finally moved back to Switzerland following 21 years of being abroad. Françoise then worked for the Crisis Management Center for the Foreign Ministry in Bern. Her role was to support and assist embassies and consulates abroad to prepare in the event of a crisis. Following a four-year assignment in Bern,



Françoise and her family moved to Shanghai in 2016 as Head of Chancellery. In 2020, Françoise and her family moved to Cuba. She was head of personnel, finance and administration focusing on humanitarian projects within the country. Here in Hong Kong, her role has expanded to culture, science & technology and human rights.

Françoise was motivated to join the Foreign Service since she loves to travel, meet new people, experience new cultures and of course was strongly influenced by her father being a diplomat as well. In her free time, she loves to hike and is looking forward to explore all the various trails that Hong Kong has to offer. Walking back and forth to work via Bowen Road from Happy Valley to Wanchai has become her daily routine. She enjoys going to live concerts which she plans to do here in Hong Kong and Macau.

Françoise's goal in her new role is to further enhance Switzerland's fine reputation by showing people the dynamism of the country beyond its reputation of having the finest chocolate and cheese and one of the world's most successful tennis players, Roger Federer. She wishes to further strengthen ties between Switzerland's universities and work closer with Swissnex in Shanghai to bring "Swissness" to Hong Kong and Hong Kong culture to Switzerland. Françoise looks forward to engaging with the Swiss community in Hong Kong.



Know our team

+++



Daniel Freihofer
Consul General



**Françoise Killias
Zillweger**
Deputy Consul General



Thomas Fischer
Consul



Robin Serex
Consular Attaché



Mélanie Mühlmann
Consular Officer



Melody Shu Kin So
Visa Affairs Officer



San Wang
Trade Officer



Winnie Kan
Senior Assistant



Eva Enzler
Project Manager



Senna Ma
Driver & Office Assistant

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
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

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
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. More on page 61.

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 52 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

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 58.

www.srahk.com
rifle_association@swiss-hk.com

Dragon Boat Team

Werner Heimgartner, Manager
The Swiss Association's dragon boat team participates in the legendary Stanley Dragon Boat races, every year in June. It is open to members and non-members. Beginners are welcome. More on page 60.

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

Changing Young Lives Foundation



Representing CYLF, Ms Caribbean Chan receives the Donation from the Swiss Association of Hong Kong

By Caribbean Chan

Disparity is the root of many juvenile and social issues. With the aggravation of wealth inequality, equity in education seems to be the only accessible path for the underprivileged to escape from the loop of cross-generational poverty and other social challenges.

Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYLF) believes that, regardless of socio-economic background, every child deserves the right for quality learning exposure and resources for achieving full academic and social potential. Since the 90s, we have been striving to empower underserved children and marginalized youth with capacity building programs to maximize their life horizons and competitive edges for upward mobility.



With such dedication, we reach out to over 4,000 youngsters in need every year through our 100% free of charge centre-based and outreach services in education and self-empowerment. And Yin Shan was one of the them.

Yin Shan grew up in a single-parent family with 3 younger siblings. Survived on social allowance, her mother couldn't afford any extra-curricular opportunity for the children even though Yin Shan had been struggling with schooling and low self-esteem since lower primary. Referred by school social worker, for nearly a decade, Yin Shan had attended the academic support workshops and received 1-on-1 mentoring in life planning at CYLF. Today, Yin Shan is a senior student of Engineering Science at the CUHK and a confident young lady with tons of hopes for the future.

We are honoured to share our dedications with the Swiss Association Hong Kong and be selected as the beneficiary charity of their 2023 Charity Luncheon. Education opens the doors to many opportunities, and thank you for gifting the keys to these doors for thousands of under-resourced children!



Fine Artisanal Wines from Switzerland

[the-swiss-wine-store.com](https://www.the-swiss-wine-store.com)
fb.com/TheSwissWineStore
info@the-swiss-wine-store.com
 +852 9685 8108
[Instagram.com/SwissWineStoreHK](https://www.instagram.com/SwissWineStoreHK)



SWISS WINE

In the Spotlight with Marco Foehn

By Paul Hugentobler

On a sunny September afternoon along the coast of the South China Sea, I had the pleasure of meeting Marco for a few hours over a lovely lunch.

Marco, born in Altdorf, Uri, one of the three original cantons of Switzerland, completed a commerce apprenticeship. A bachelor at the time, Marco was in search of adventure and found it in the Far East. An opportunity to work on the trading floor of a Swiss Bank in Singapore came up, and he jumped on it. Not looking back, it was the beginning of a lifetime in the exotic Far East. It was the spring of 1981.

The Swiss Club in Singapore or originally The Swiss Rifle Shooting Club was one of his first impressions of the Far East with its traditional colonial white dressed members. As the majority of its members brought their families, Marco was politely reminded to “Be careful” as a bachelor in such an exotic country.

The Bank, needing someone urgently in Hong Kong, requested him to transfer there, which he did in the spring of 1982. A few years later, he was given the opportunity to return to Switzerland as a trainer in the head office. Marco rejected this offer, preferring to remain in Hong Kong. The attraction to remain in Hong Kong was the combination of the mountains, the sea, the climate, and the ease of blending in with the local people and culture.

He served the German Swiss International School (GSIS) Finance Committee first as a member in 1994 and from 1997 till 2003 as its Chairman and navigated the school successfully through the Asian Financial Crisis. He was elected Chairman of the Board in 2000 and laid the foundation for the first strategic plan. In 2002, Marco left the banking industry at the young age of 47 and fully concentrated on the board and chairmanship of GSIS,



Seeing that the facilities of GSIS were no longer competitive with relation to other international schools operating in Hong Kong, he recommended that the school is doing a complete overhaul of all its facilities.

After stepping down as Board Chairman in 2003, he served the school as its Building Chairman responsible for the implementation of the School Redevelopment Plan and later in 2011, Marco was offered the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) at GSIS, coinciding with the start of the renovation.

In March 2017, Marco resigned from his position as COO, while unluckily days later he suffered a stroke. That closed a chapter that lasted for nearly 25 years.

Following a 100% recovery, Marco has been on the board and advisor of two International Schools in China, namely Utahloy International School in Guangzhou and Zengcheng.

Many other Swiss, like Marco, have chosen Hong Kong to settle down and live for many years. A strong bond of friendship and community has been established amongst these “Old China Hands” who join each other for a monthly “Jass” evening and dinner at the Swiss Chalet. In addition to card playing, these friends often get together on hiking and biking trips to spend time venturing as far as Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

Married to an Indonesian Chinese for nearly 40 years, Marco and his wife, Alice, have three grown up children, one in Hong Kong and one in the United States and one who lives in Chiang Mai. Four grandchildren all together, two in Hong Kong and two in the USA. Marco is amazed by the contrasts in the different educational upbringing of the grandchildren,

whether they be in an Asian or Western culture and society.

While Marco enjoys returning to Switzerland on holiday to visit relatives and friends, if he has the choice, he will remain in Hong Kong.

From all of his experiences in the Far East and back home, Marco has the following message for our readers:

“Try not to talk about age, try to talk about, what can I do today? And do it. Don’t complain that today is too cold or today is too hot. Just do it!

“Encourage others to do things. Come on, we will do it together.”

“It’s never too late to learn something new.”

This comes from a man, at the age of 69, who is still doing Rock Climbing this year at the Swiss Association of Hong Kong’s event. Bravo!



Jass Evenings

By Ching Law

The monthly Swiss Jass evenings continue to take place at the **Swiss Chalet** in Tsim Sha Tsui East. It is a fun event with exciting games, interesting debates, and delicious food.

The top three winners of each Jass evening will take home a bottle of red wine and the player with the best overall result out of five participations will become Jass Champion, winning a Swiss cowbell!

This year, the annual Jass championship ended with a fantastic new Jass King – congratulations to Adrian Ort! It was a very narrow race at the top, the runner-up was Ruedi Bischof.

The Jass evening is a fun event for Jass friends of all generations! If you are interested in joining 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.



Adrian Ort, Jass Champion 2024 with Ching Law during the Cow Bell Handover



AUTHENTIC SWISS CUISINE



Established in 1988



Reserve Now: (+852) 2191 9197

ALPINE CHALET DINING EXPERIENCE

Indulge in the finest Swiss ingredients and beverages including delectable crisp wines, refreshing beers, and hearty dishes like rosti and sausages. And don't forget to try our extensive selection of Swiss cheese and Schnapps, the largest in Hong Kong. Let us transport you to a cozy and unforgettable dining experience

ADDRESS

G/B, 8 Hart Avenue
Tsim Sha Tsui
Kowloon
Hong Kong



Swiss National Day Let's Celebrate!

By Alexander Peers

The August 1st 2023 celebrations were an absolute blast. This year marked the 75th time that the Swiss Association came together to rejoice in all things Swiss for National Day and the Conrad played host to a booming crowd of attendees from Switzerland, Hong Kong and around the world. Merriment was had in the highest order, fine food and drink consumed, friends old and new rejoiced as games, music and prizes punctuated the evening.

There was a special atmosphere of conviviality and excitement in the air with the first celebration post covid for the community. Masks no longer being compulsory, the return of live singing and the much-anticipated Alphorn contest all contributed to a jubilant ringing-in of Switzerland's birthday. In fact, the team at the Conrad

generously donated a spectacular cake of mammoth proportions (and suitably patriotic decoration) to accompany the singing of Happy Birthday. A rather special moment had all Presidents of the Swiss Association, past and present, gathered on stage to blow out the candles. Such diligence and dedication to the diaspora, exemplified and applauded.

We were honoured to have Acting Consul General Killias Zillweger to welcome us to the event, back in Hong Kong after 10 years away. She was followed by a rousing speech from President Berset reminding us to continue to build connections with all of those around the world and its increasing importance as we face continued conflict in Europe. The stage was graced by not one, but two, wonderfully

pregnant ladies throughout the evening. Lorraine Morger lit up the stage alongside her co Master of Ceremonies guiding proceedings for the night. One of the absolutely highlights was Lisa Peers Dermont, also great with child, singing the National Anthem in Swiss German and Romansch for the second year in a row in full voice.

Fabulous wine provided by the Swiss Consulate was flowing from the start of the evening and guests were able to feast upon treats such as wurst-käse salat, zürigschnätzles, zuger fisch, Berner platte and raclette before a selection of sweet delights including meringue suchard, zuger kirsch tart, chestnut vermicelli and many more.

++ SAHK





None would have returned home hungry that evening! Diners supped upon tables groaning with food and centred with adorable bovine centrepieces named after the most popular names for Swiss cows. Such trivia was explored in the quiz which saw tables battling it out through a selection of questions from the Swiss Citizenship test.

The evening was not all frivolity! We were lucky to have an incredibly engaging Back to the Future themed insight into the history of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong to mark the 75th anniversary. Pietro Immordino, former SAHK President and society historian, kept us all enthralled with the intriguing story of a tumultuous 75 years. Following on the heels of our history seminar a veritable crowd of enthusiastic instrumentalists

stepped up to showcase their Alphorn abilities. We saw more than ten players puff and blow: many were even able to create some sound with a select few melodious hoots boomed across the hall.

As the revellers enjoyed their desserts, Swiss Mandopop singer songwriter, Andy Schaub, bounded up to entertain the assembly with some classic Swiss anthems, much swaying and singing across the group ensued before the lucky draw prize began. Earlier in the evening had seen instant prizes given out for those with the correct wristbands but the main prizes, provided by generous sponsors including Swiss and Wynn Palace were raffled off with ceremony. Last years' proceeds were donated to Mission for Migrant Foreign Workers. Prizes including ipads, hotel

stays, beauty hampers, flights to Europe and even a gold bar (among many others) were scattered across the excited mass of ticket holders and money was effectively raised. Bravo! One couple who had flown in from Thailand for the event where certainly the lucky ones and returned to the stage at least three times to claim their prizes.

All too soon carriages were called and the assemblage turned to home, bellies full, eyes glistening with love for Switzerland (and perhaps the effects of the wine). Another successful August 1st Celebration of the Swiss in Hong Kong. Roll on 2024 and Viva Svizzera!



Charity Luncheon

By Joanna Koslowski

The annual charity luncheon held last November 2023 was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and the support of the Swiss community. Your contributions and active participation in this event have made a significant difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

The event began with a presentation on this year's chosen charity, the Changing Young Lives Foundation (CYLF). Ms. Carribeau Chan, the Executive Director of CYLF, shared insights on the socioeconomic inequalities in Hong Kong and CYLF's mission. She talked about some of the charity's programmes and how they help to transform the lives of underprivileged children.

The live auction was expertly facilitated by Mr. Peter Reichenbach. Attendees were treated to an impressive array of items and experiences up for bidding, ranging from luxurious hotel packages to an exclusive full flight experience. A Private Tour of the M+ SIGG Collection, led

by Dr. Uli Sigg himself, was another exclusive addition to the auction lineup.

In addition, participants had the privilege of bidding on exceptional artwork generously donated by artists Cath Love, Nicolas Jeanbourquin and Norm Yip.

The excitement continued with a lucky draw, where guests had the opportunity to win fantastic prizes donated by companies such as Victorinox, Coop, Migros, Swiss Wine Store, Peninsula and other private donors. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce for their collaboration in jointly organizing this event.

Overall, the annual charity luncheon was an extraordinary and impactful event. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event and helped us create a brighter future for underprivileged children in Hong Kong.



Over

30

*years of Professional
& Heartfelt Service
- since 1988 -*

MEDICAL * GENERAL * BUSINESS * LIFE INSURANCE

**Insurance, an Investment
in Peace of Mind.**

Contact Us

T: (852) 2543 8428
F: (852) 2541 8147
P: GPO Box 11338, Hong Kong

W: www.swiss-sure.com
E: info@swiss-sure.com.hk



Joint Monthly Cocktail

By Philipp Juling

The Monthly Cocktail events organized by the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and co-hosted by the Swiss Association of Hong Kong are truly exceptional. They provide an incredible platform for professionals, entrepreneurs, and businesses to connect, collaborate and expand their network with the Swiss and Hong Kong business community. These events are highly recommended for anyone looking to establish meaningful connections, explore business opportunities and stay at the forefront of industry trends. They are an excellent platform for fostering collaboration and

achieving success in the dynamic business landscape of Hong Kong.

The highlight event in 2023 took place in December. Around 100 guests took the opportunity to get together one last time before the festive season, exchange ideas and get in the mood for the Christmas season with delicious drinks and good conversations. The Lucky Draw created a Christmas atmosphere and the location, a rooftop bar in Central, rounded off this wonderful event.

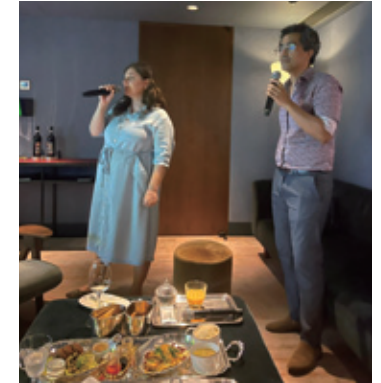


Karaoke at Carlyle & Co.

By Claude Scheidegger

We had a great time hosting a karaoke event at Carlyle & Co with Katja Stämpfli-Ferraz and her husband Ricardo, their friend Giulia, Lisa and Claude from the committee, and Stephen Tong. With a group of 6 people, it was an intimate and enjoyable experience. We sang songs in different languages - Chinese, Italian, Portuguese, and English - which added to the fun and diversity of the event.

As we sipped on Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio wines, we bid farewell to Katja and her husband as they move to Rome. It was bittersweet to say goodbye, but we were glad to have had one last karaoke night together before they left.



Singing together was a great way to bond and let loose, and we truly embraced that spirit. It's an experience that we'll all remember fondly for a long time to come!





Family Hike Discovery Bay to Mui Wo

By Isabella F. Bertoli (8 years old)

To reach Discovery Bay it felt like an exciting adventure. First we had to take a big ferry boat from Central. On the ferry boat I was thinking what kind of people will join this hike. When the hikers got together in Discovery Bay we were about twenty people and two dogs. They were the cutest doggies you have ever seen and their names were "Ceasor" and "Teddy". **Fritz Sommerau** welcomed everybody and explained us about the Discovery Bay Island.

We then launched into action and started walking towards the bus station and went a little bit further down to reach the path near the sea to Mui Wo. There was a steep hill to walk up through the forest and we saw some pretty flowers. Further up we reached the Trappist Haven Monastery and made a water and snack break. We managed to have a sneak peek at the church. On the way back from the church we saw a huge, yellow and black coloured banana spider with eight long legs. **Marco Foehn** spoke to us about nature and also a project about a new island nearby Discovery Bay. He also showed us a real Bauhinia tree leave. This is the symbol of Hong Kong and Marco Foehn said that you find it on the HKD 2.- coin. Check it out yourself, if you have a coin nearby in your wallet.

After that we went up a rocky path. It was very exhausting. My friends mum came up with an idea to play the game 'tag' and so we ran up the mountain. All of us were so sweating and so we decided to take another water break. Then we kept

on hiking uphill and saw some trees with flowers. When we finally got to the top of the mountain we were very, very exhausted. This time we had a huge snack and water break. We enjoyed the relaxing moment a lot. The air was soft and fresh and a cool breeze swayed in our way. We saw a little tree and all the kids climbed on it. We saw birds, mountains, the sea and the villages with its cute tiny houses and the cars looked like ants from that point. There were no vehicles around us and that made it so peaceful. It was very enjoyable.

After that it was time to start a brand new adventure. And that adventure was going down the mountain. On the way down curious butterflies and bees zoomed by and it sometimes looked like we were in a meadow with not so much grass. Birds were singing and the sun was out doing its job (the sun's job is shining).

After that we went to find a restaurant in Mui Wo. Some of us ate lunch there and some others went straight back home. When I was back home I felt very proud of myself since it was a long time I didn't go hiking. I wish there would be every week a family hike. In fact it was so nice that I felt I wanted to go every day for a hike. Thank you to **Paul Hugentobler** who has organised this hike for SAHK and if you ask me which was my most favourite part of the hike 'uphill or downhill'... it was downhill because it was easier to play the game 'tag'.



Hotline 3575 2575

ECO & SAFE PEST MANAGEMENT

ISO 14001/9001 CERTIFIED

- COCKROACH MANAGEMENT
- TERMITE MANAGEMENT
- MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT
- RODENT MANAGEMENT



Even allows you to Stay at Your Premises During Treatment

BIO KILL BioKill Exclusive Operator



ECO AIR-CON REFRESHING & DISINFECTION SERVICE

- Approved by the National Asthma Council Australia
- Equipment and Technology from Australia
- No Mess Catchment Bag



Exclusive Swiss Fondue Night

By Paul Hugentobler

Indulging in a delightful Swiss cheese fondue event hosted by the Swiss Association of Hong Kong at the esteemed Heimat, orchestrated by the culinary mastery of Chef Peter Find, was an unparalleled experience. Nestled in the heart of Hong Kong, this fine dining establishment set the stage for an evening filled with culinary finesse and camaraderie.

The event was a fusion of flavors and traditions, accentuated by the fine selection of artisanal bread from Bakehouse. Each bite of crusty bread dipped into the luxuriously melted Swiss cheese fondue was a journey through the alpine pastures, delivering an explosion of rich, creamy flavors.



Complementing this exquisite affair were the meticulously curated artisanal wines sourced from The Swiss Wine Store. These wines, a testament to Swiss viticulture, impeccably paired with the fondue, enhancing the overall gastronomic experience.

The pièce de résistance, undoubtedly, was the remarkable fondue from Jumi. Its exceptional quality and authenticity transformed the evening into a celebration of Swiss culinary heritage, captivating every palate and igniting conversations filled with warmth and delight.

Together, in the convivial ambiance of Heimat, surrounded by friends and fellow enthusiasts of Swiss culture, this fondue event transcended mere dining; it became a cherished memory- a symphony of flavors, laughter, and cultural appreciation, marking an unforgettable evening in the heart of Hong Kong.

Lunch & Learn: Feng Shui Forecast for the Year of the Dragon

By Philipp Juling

On February 7, 2024, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Swiss Association of Hong Kong co-organized a highly anticipated event entitled "Lunch&Learn: Feng Shui Forecast for the Year of the Dragon 2024."

Renowned Feng Shui expert, Grand Master Raymond Lo, also known as "Feng Shui Lo," delivered an enlightening speech during the event. With his extensive knowledge and expertise in the field, Lo provided valuable insights into the Feng Shui predictions for the Year of the Dragon. The event, held in The Foreign Correspondents' Club, attracted a diverse audience eager to gain a deeper understanding of how Feng Shui principles could impact their personal and professional lives in the coming year. Attendees left the event feeling empowered and equipped with the wisdom to make informed decisions in the Year of the Dragon.



Tsz Shan Monastery

By Cynthia Tellez

After three long years of restrictions and many postponements, we finally were able to take our members to explore the tranquil beauty of Tsz Shan Monastery on a two-hours-long guided tour.

Our knowledgeable guides provided us with insights into the history, culture, and significance of the monastery. We have learned about the different buildings and structures that make up the monastery, including the Grand Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the Meditation Hall, and the Pagoda of Infinite Light. Tsz Shan Monastery is a relatively new addition to Hong Kong's cultural landscape, having opened its doors to the public in 2015.

We truly enjoyed the peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. Nestled in the hills of Tai Po, this serene Buddhist temple offers a breathtaking blend of natural beauty and spiritual tranquility which let us forget the busy happenings in the city for a while.

One of the highlights of the tour is a visit to the monastery's art museum, which houses an impressive collection of precious artifacts and objects from across the globe associated with the



historical Buddha and other important figures in Buddhist history.

The lunch following the guided tour was traditional Buddhist vegetarian style in Fanling. For our members, who have never ventured out to the remote areas in the New Territories, this was a very delightful experience. I hope to see you again at many of our events!!



Samstig-Jass

By Egon Schnyder & Raju Harilela



In Switzerland, one hears often about “Donnschtig-Jass”, and we have watched this program a few times. For those that haven't heard of this, the “Donnschtig-Jass” cultivates the distinctive Jass culture in Switzerland. According to SRF1, the audience can expect the best entertainment – a colorful mix of competition, games, folk and pop music. There are also prominent personalities in every show.”

When we heard the Swiss Association was organizing a “Samstig-Jass”, we were naturally curious and enrolled immediately. What awaited us was an afternoon full of fun, laughter, education and sweets. The organizer, Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli created an atmosphere of warmth and joy. The Swiss Flag was displayed on the Mantel, the Swiss Flags hanging on the outside garden, the private room decorated in White and Red, and a Buffet Table spread out for a “King, Jack, Ober or Under.” The homemade delicacies including Chocolate Brownies, Apple Cake, Lemon Cake, Carrot Cake, Ham and Cheese Sandwiches, Fresh Berries and other snacks. From Red Flowers to the Red Coffee Machine, we felt we were transported to Switzerland.

Our Jass teachers, Ching and Oliver, were knowledgeable and patient. Ching, the Jass Meister

2020, was ready to share her strategies, whilst her partner, supporting the opposing team, was up for the challenge with his skills and experience. The afternoon was filled with personal sharing, discussions and strategic planning. The handout, brilliantly prepared by Ching and Oliver, guided us on the importance of each card and how, ultimately, the game was about achieving the highest score (not by the number of hands won). A fascinating and intriguing experience that has convinced us that playing Jass is as intellectual as Bridge or Chess. While we played the most basic form “Trumpf”, “Trumpf Puur” or simply “Puur”, there are variations including the French Cards, Oben-abe and Unden-ufe as well.

For Doris, Flora, Paul, Egon and Raju, together with our teachers Ching and Oliver, the afternoon was simply delightful. We would certainly enroll again for another round of Jass. How to outwit and outsmart each other, as well as the occasional bluff, as well as the sequence of how the cards are played out, requires concentration, skill and mathematics. We can certainly understand why Donnschtig-Jass has become a tradition in Switzerland.

Thank you to Doris, Ching and Oliver for an unforgettable and joyful afternoon!

The yearly Hong Kong Treff in Switzerland

By Hans R. Kunz

It is a great privilege to organise the Hong Kong Treff or Hong Kong Luncheon in Switzerland for all the many people that miss Hong Kong and the Chinese Food.

This tradition was started 1977 by the late Benno Welschen and Eugene Coray, who were strongly connected with Albert Hausammann. Prior to the annual "Watch and Jewellery Fair in Basle" they would orchestrate a meeting in the Splügen Schlosshotel in Zurich. About a dozen managers from Hong Kong visited the Watch Fair Switzerland and wanted to meet up with old and new friends and consequently, the "Hong Kong Treff" was born.

The event was later organized by the late Kurt Huber and Rene Carell and it was Kurt who initiated a unique Logo for the event:



For several years, the Hong Kong Treff would take place at various locations in Zurich and Bern. Assisted by Paul Vogler a decision was made to offer Chinese Food for this event and after several trial runs, the former GM of Renaissance Hotel in Glattbrugg, Roland Ulmer, a friend of Walter Kiener, the Hong Kong Chef Kei Kwong Ng prepared excellent Cantonese food in Dai Bai Dong style.



Another Swiss-Hong Kong Chef, the late Fritz Tschantre was responsible for one event Zurich-Oerlikon to the delight of Benno Welschen and some of his old Peninsula Crew.

The last two years the Hong Kong Treff settled in the famous HONG XI Restaurant in Zurich Glattpark-Opfikon, where another Hong Kong Chef, Ma and his kitchen crew, would create very tasty dishes for an excited crowd of about 80 hungry Ex-Hong Kongers and people from other Asian destinations.



It is always a nostalgic get-together and to talk about old times. Telling stories of a mostly adventurous and unforgettable time in Asia. Meeting people you haven't seen for years. Talking about the schooling of Children, who have grown up in the meantime and are pursuing professional careers or have now a family on their own.

Don't hesitate to visit our website www.hongkong-treff.ch and register for the next event for meeting with people that share your compassion of living in Hong Kong or any other Asian country. See you soon at the Hong Kong Treff.



Events arranged by the Swiss School Committee Samichlaus came to town!



By Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli

On Saturday, 9th December 2023 the Swiss families of Hong Kong gathered at Chung Hom Kok Beach to enjoy one of the traditional SAHK highlights: the Samichlaus Event.

A special moment was certainly when Samichlaus and Schmutzli arrived at the beach, carrying two big bags filled with goodies for the children. Traditional Grittibaenz (bread dough men) and delicious Swiss Christmas cookies such as Zimtsterne, Brunzli, and Mailänderli were nicely handpicked and packed for each child. All the children patiently waited for their turn and listened to what Samichlaus and Schmutzli had to tell them. Some were even brave enough to recite a "Versli".

It was wonderful to see the Swiss community coming together for this traditional gathering.

The youngest participant was as young as 6 weeks and it was delightful to see so many grandparents joining the event while being on their vacation in Hong Kong to spend time with their beloved ones.

Once Samichlaus and Schmutzli left the beach, the event continued with a friendly barbecue gathering. From delicious ice creams sponsored by a SAHK member to homemade cakes and cookies by other SAHK members, it was beautiful to see how many families contributed to the shared dessert buffet. It was a day filled with festive fun, food, and community spirit.

Thank you everyone for joining. We hope to see you all at the Samichlaus Event in 2024!"

Der Samichlaus kam nach Hongkong!



Deutsche Fassung

Am Samstag, 9. Dezember 2023 versammelten sich die Schweizer Familien aus Hongkong am „Chung Hom Kok Beach“, um eines der traditionellen Highlights der SAHK zu genießen: das Samichlaus-Event.

Ein besonderer Moment war sicherlich, als Samichlaus und Schmutzli mit zwei großen Säcken gefüllt mit Leckereien für die Kinder am Strand ankamen. Traditionelle Grittibänz (Brotmänner) und köstliche Schweizer Weihnachtsplätzchen wie Zimtsterne, Brunzli und Mailänderli wurden sorgfältig ausgewählt und für jedes Kind abverpackt. Alle Kinder warteten geduldig bis Samichlaus ihren Namen aufruf und hörten dann aufmerksam zu, was Samichlaus und Schmutzli zu sagen hatten. Einige waren sogar so mutig und sagten selber ein "Versli" auf.

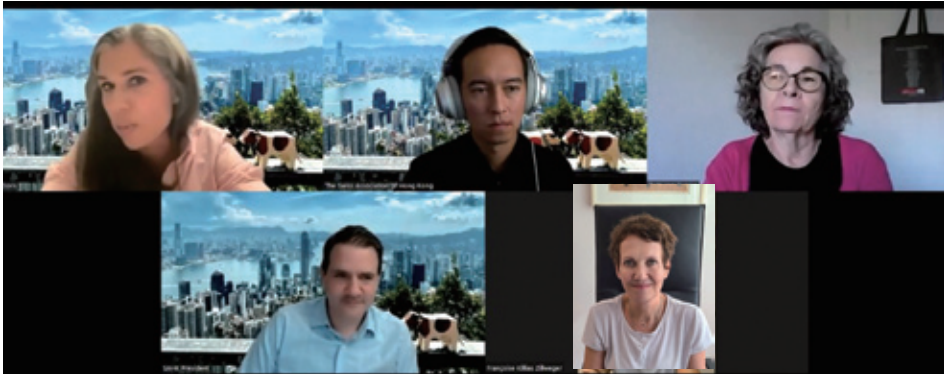
Es war wunderbar zu sehen, wie die Schweizer Familien sich zu diesem traditionellen Treffen

versammelten. Der jüngste Teilnehmer war gerade mal 6 Wochen alt und es war auch beeindruckend zu sehen, wie viele Großeltern während ihrem Hongkong Urlaub an dem Ereignis teilnahmen um Zeit mit ihren Liebsten zu verbringen.

Nachdem Samichlaus und Schmutzli den Strand verlassen hatten, ging der Anlass mit einem freundlichen Grilltreffen weiter. Von leckerem Eis, das von einem SAHK-Mitglied gesponsert wurde, bis hin zu hausgemachten Kuchen und Plätzchen anderer SAHK-Mitglieder. Es war schön zu sehen, wie viele Familien zum gemeinsamen Dessertbuffet beitrugen. Es war ein Tag voller festlicher Freude und Gemeinschaftsgeist.

Vielen Dank an alle, die teilgenommen haben. Wir hoffen, euch alle beim Samichlaus-Event 2024 wiederzusehen!"

'Study in Switzerland' Zoom Online Meeting



By Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli

The Swiss School Committee organised a Zoom Online Meeting with Educationsuisse on Wednesday, 11 October 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the Swiss Education System. This topic has drawn a lot of interest among the Swiss Parents in Hong Kong.

The participants were encouraged to submit their questions in advance to ensure that their specific concerns would be properly addressed during the Zoom Online meeting.

The SAHK president, Mr. Patrick Koslowski warmly welcomed everyone and it was a great honour to have Ms. Françoise Killias Zillweger, the Deputy Consul General of Hong Kong, addressing the participants. We were delighted for having had Mr. Justin Torrence – University Counsellor of FIS and Dr. Lennart Jentsch – University Counsellor of GSIS as special guests attending the meeting.

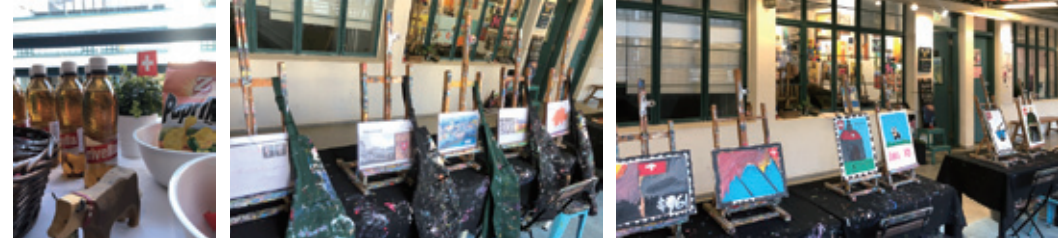
The presentation 'Study in Switzerland' was conducted by Ms. Ruth von Gunten from Educationsuisse. She guided the Swiss parents with her expertise through the session and covered important topics such as admission requirements, academic programs and scholarships.



Ms. von Gunten provided to the 37 participants all the essential information needed to make smart choices regarding their children's future educational path.

Educationsuisse is a partner of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. It advises and supports young Swiss abroad who wish to pursue their tertiary education or training in Switzerland.

Paint Your Own Swiss Stamp on Canvas!



By Doris von Niederhausern Bertoli

The Swiss School Committee organised on Saturday, 18 November 2023, an Art Class titled "Paint Your Own Swiss Stamp on Canvas" for Swiss children in Hong Kong.

During the workshop, the children discovered information about stamps in general and found out that Switzerland was one of the first countries in the world to implement them. They also learned about the "Postleitzahlen" system in Switzerland.

Following the introduction, the kids were able to unleash their creativity and start painting their own Swiss stamp. If they needed support, a professional art teacher was on hand to provide guidance.

While the kids painted, they also enjoyed some traditional snacks from Switzerland and sipped on a cold and refreshing Rivella!

Yanick Suter:

In German: "Das Malen hat mir wirklich Spass gemacht. Ich denke, dass war eine tolle Aktivitaet und eine gute Moeglichkeit, Kreativitaet zu zeigen. Ausserdem habe ich einiges ueber die Geschichte der Briefmarken gelernt."

In English: "Painting my own Swiss Stamp on Canvas was fun. I think it was a great activity and a good opportunity to show creativity. Additionally, I learned a lot about the history of stamps."



Bake your own Swiss Zopf!

By Leoni Koslowski

On the 17th of June a Zopf making workshop and factory tour took place in Gourmet House, Chai Wan led by Rene Frauenfelder.

Several Swiss families participated in this fun-filled activity and were very very excited to learn how to make this traditional Swiss bread. We got our hands dirty to learn new techniques including how to properly knead the dough by slamming it on the counter top, which was like a mini workout. We were also taught how to braid the dough which was initially confusing, but everyone got it in the end.

While the Zopf was baking in a human-sized oven, we were given plenty of Schoggi Meier chocolate to snack on, which was heaven for any chocolate lover then! But that wasn't all, we even got a tour of the pastry and chocolate factory, which was extremely exciting and intriguing.

We discovered how they shape the chocolate, temper the chocolate, and package the chocolate! We also observed the pastries being produced while enjoying the wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread.

Shortly after, we were tricked into entering a walk-in freezer where the lights suddenly turned off. It was freezing, but a very unique experience we won't forget! Finally, the Zopf was done baking. The Zopf was taken out of the oven and carefully wrapped to take home and share with family and friends.

Overall, the Zopf making workshop and factory tour at Gourmet House was an amazing experience. We learned new techniques, indulged in delicious chocolate, and even braved a walk-in freezer. It was a day filled with laughter, good food, and unforgettable memories



Meet the Swiss Teachers in Hong Kong



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

What is your favorite place in Switzerland and why?

I have two favorite spots: Charmey in the Canton of Fribourg, cherished for its scenic hikes, delightful cuisine, and warm-hearted locals; and Troistorrents in Valais, a nostalgic place from my childhood summers where I learned goat milking, Monopoly, and mushroom identification.

Your top Swiss dish?

I have a fondness for three Swiss delicacies: the unique Bénéichon mustard paired with Cuchaule bread, the savory Berner Rösti, and the classic combination of shattered meringue in rich double cream!

Which was your favorite subject when you were at school?

Science captured my interest at school, particularly due to my fascination with animals and plants.

What is your favorite place in Switzerland and why?

Being somewhere on Lake Zurich with friends in summer is the best. But I also enjoy spending time in snowy Klosters.

Your top Swiss dish?

There are so many delicious dishes to choose from, but Zürcher Geschnätzertes, Fondue and Raclette are definitely among my favourites.

Which was your favorite subject when you were at school?

Math was always my favourite subject throughout Primary School. Later on, I also enjoyed History and French very much.



Nadine Greuter
Primary Teacher,
German Swiss
International School

Operation Mercury 2023

The Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong



By Oliver Seeholzer

The annual Operation Mercury shooting event, between the Royal Hong Kong Regiment and the Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong, took place on a luckily warm and sunny day in the late of November 2023, with a remarkable outcome of near 50 participating shooters, both from the Regiment and Swiss side.

The day was meticulously organized, with our Range Officers on duty working diligently to create and maintain a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved. From setting up the range itself, checking and shooting in the rifles, to enforcing our strict safety protocols, their efforts contributed to the overall success of the event.

Moreover, the F&M team played a pivotal role in enhancing the experience by preparing a wide array of traditional Swiss dishes ranging from the Bündler Gerstensuppe (Barley Soup), Häröpfelsalat (Potato Salad) to various Sausages on the grill and a large selection of Swiss breads.

Congratulation to the top shooters of the OP Mercury competition (SRAHK Tobias – 66), the Falling Plate champions of 2023 (Neil & Daniel) and the Cowbell Champions (RHKR Team #1).

Once again, a big thank you to the whole team and the RHKR, especially our acting and supporting Range Officers, who have spent close to the whole day on their feet to ensure that all precautions and activities could be held without much of a break! Thank you to the Swiss Chalet for your support in the F&B! Thank you to Gourmet House for your generous sponsoring of the many delicious bread loaves and thank you to all our members, both young and old for your continuous support in the Swiss Rifles Association of Hong Kong!

Guet Schuss and see you at the next shooting, If you are interested to join the SRAHK and in our activities, please send an email to: oliverseeholzer@gmail.com.

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:



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SwissAssociationHK>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/swissassociationhk/>



LinkedIn

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

Swiss Dragons Boat Team

Beach Cleaning

By Werner Heimgaertner

One week after the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2023, the Swiss Dragon Boat Team was back on the beach for the last time before the summer break. After one hour training in very hot weather condition it was time for our team to give something back to the beautiful Stanley Main Beach and the community that lives around Stanley.

A group of 15 paddlers and some members of the Swiss Association started to clean up the beach by picking up trash like plastic bottles, bags, wrappers and so on. 45 minutes later some 10 large garbage bags were filled up and ready to be moved to the trash collecting point.

Beach cleaning is vital for our environment. It helps protect marine life from harmful trash. Litter can hurt or kill sea creatures. Clean beaches also look nicer for everyone to enjoy.



Hike from Mui Wo to Mong Tung Wan

The Swiss Dragons spent again some training sessions after the summer break on the water. To round up the year 2023, we went for a hike from Mui Wo, Lantau, to Mong Tung Wan. Unfortunately, only a handful of our team members could make it on that day, but luckily some other friends joined us to make it a group of twelve.

A Ferry brought us from Central to Mui Wo. From there we walked for about 1 ½ hours along the shore to Ham Tin, where we met Peter and his little girl Ellie. From there it was just another 30 minutes to Mong Tung Wan. On the way to Ham Tin we came across a herd of

water buffaloes who obviously enjoyed the warm sunshine and laying in the mud. And just before we reached Mong Tung Wan I almost stepped on a snake, a red necked keelback....!

Roland, who runs the Hong Kong Outpost Mong Tung Wan, prepared a nice BBQ and delicious fresh salads for us. After spending some leisure time on the beach we called for a Sampan that brought us over to Cheung Chau. From there we took another Ferry back to Central.



Swiss XI

Change is the only Constant



By Jurg Niederberger

In the realm of sports, one element stands unyielding amidst the chaos of competition and the passage of time: change. And doesn't that also sound so true for our home Hong Kong. For Swiss XI, this philosophy resonates deeply within the core of our existence, "Change is the Only Constant." A football team revered for its storied 46-year history, Swiss XI stands as a testament to evolution. The essence of our success does not lie solely in what we achieve, but in our adaptability to the ever-shifting Hong Kong football landscape. From the roaring cheers of victory to the humbling silence of defeat, Swiss XI understands the ebb and flow of sportsmanship. We have seen the rise and fall of eras, each transition marking a chapter in our unwritten book of legacy (and our Swiss XI museum).

But what truly sets us apart is our embrace of change. Instead of being intimidated by the winds of transformation, Swiss XI harnesses

its power. Whether it is a change in coaching staff, a strategic shift in gameplay, or a new generation of talented players gracing the field, this team has always welcomed change as an opportunity for growth. Our ability to adapt to new circumstances has solidified our place among Hong Kong's top amateur team. As Swiss XI continues its journey through seasons, we stand tall, a testament to the transformative power of change. We prove time and again that in a world where everything is in flux, the only constant that truly matters is our unwavering commitment to embrace change, evolve, and conquer whatever challenges lie ahead.

On the pitch, Swiss XI is currently top of the second division in the Yau Yee League. Showing our ability to adapt to last season's unexpected relegation to the second division. Swiss XI is truly alive and kicking the ball, as it has been doing so every year since 1977.

Are you not a member yet?

Join the Swiss Association of Hong Kong!



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

- Membership is for a calendar year (i.e. 1 Jan to 31 Dec).
- Single membership fee is only applicable to single/wid-owed/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 re-side in Hong Kong.

Use the QR code or type <https://swiss-hk.com/become-a-member>

CI/HOR/CH/E/031017 | ALTERNATIVE.CH



A BANK THAT TARGETS
THE PROTECTION OF
YOUR FREE TIME AND
YOUR ASSETS.

 **BCGE**
The Swiss Bank of Geneva

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE . UNIT 808-809 ALEXANDRA HOUSE . 18 CHATER ROAD .
CENTRAL HONGKONG . TELEPHONE +852 2810 8138



WHAT MAKES A ROLEX A ROLEX?

It's not the wheels and cogs. It's not the steel we shape nor the gold we forge. It's not the sum of every single part that we design, craft, polish and assemble with countless skills and constant care. It's the time it takes. The numerous days and months that are

necessary until we can print this single word on each individual dial leaving our workshops: *"Superlative."* It's the mark of our autonomy, responsibility and integrity. This is all we make, but we make it all. So that, in time, you can make it your own.

#Perpetual



ROLEX