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## Editor's Message

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 2012 edition of S'Alphorn magazine! This past year has been a special one as our family became much more connected and involved with the Swiss community in Hong Kong. We found it to be a rewarding and enriching experience which made us realize that the 2,000+ Swiss in this city are a welcoming, helpful, proud and lively bunch! What made it even more memorable was that this year's President, Ueli Geissler, was handed the same cow bell on which his father's name, Bruno Geissler, was engraved 37 years ago. Hence, when I was asked to continue the role as editor of the magazine this year, I simply could not refuse. And without further ado, we set out to continue the tradition and produce another edition which we hope has improved and that captivates our readers.



SAHK President 1974 & SAHK President 2011

Firstly, you will see that the magazine has received a makeover in its layout and style. The aim was to create a more colorful yet easy-to-read look. We continued the columns from last year that received much positive feedback, such as profiles of our members and 'Interesting Jobs', where we hear from Michael Manzardo who has launched a different type of art gallery. We have also added an 'Interesting Travels' column which features a travelogue of Ethiopia from Barbara Rust.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to making the SAHK such a long-running success, especially those behind the planning of all the wonderful events. Without these people and the events that they bring to the Swiss community, the SAHK would be nowhere near the thriving and vibrant organization that it is today. This past year saw more than 70 events take place which is an unprecedented number and could only happen due to the tremendous support and contribution of our members. Thank you very much for your interest and efforts!

We hope that you enjoy this year's edition of S'Alphorn and we wish you much joy and prosperity in the Year of the Dragon!

Bianca Zee-Geissler  
Editor



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# COMMITTEE 2011 – 2012

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The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) serves as a focal point for the local Swiss community to socialize, foster friendships, conduct business networking, and take part in activities. Throughout the years, the SAHK has welcomed numerous Swiss nationals in Hong Kong and enabled them to maintain and share their heritage and cultural experiences while abroad.

The SAHK organises a variety of activities including monthly luncheons with guest speakers, monthly Jass evenings, monthly golfing, holiday parties for children and family hikes. The SAHK works closely with other Swiss organisations such as the Consulate General of Switzerland, Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss School Committee and Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

The SAHK also maintains a website that is regularly updated and publishes a yearly magazine, 'S'Alphorn', which provides a montage of our annual events and other informative news.

Membership in the SAHK is open to all and we currently have over 600 members. To learn more, email us at [info@swiss-hk.com](mailto:info@swiss-hk.com) or visit [www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com).



# New Committee Members



**Michael Balsiger**

I came to Hong Kong 15 years ago for the first time to visit a friend. Through him, I had the chance to work for 1.5 years at the “new” airport. After six months travelling throughout Europe, I ended up working in Guangzhou for half a year and that is where I met my wife. We were married in Switzerland and lived there for a couple of years and it is where our kids Julia and Dave were born. My wife was the reason that we moved back here again because she needed to work with her family in Guangzhou. She had followed me for a long time, so this time I decided to follow her to her part of the world. We are now back in Hong Kong for two years and thoroughly enjoy this fantastic city with its very ever-changing scenery and its variety of great food. I am now working for a telecom company as a Project Manager and look forward to many more years in Hong Kong.



**Annabelle Gerber**

After having graduated in the spring of 2010, I returned to Hong Kong, where I grew up, to start my career and my new adventures in “the real world”. I am currently in the final few months of the graduate training program at Julius Baer, and, having spent over ten years abroad in Malaysia, Canada, Italy and China, it feels good to be “home” again. Hong Kong is a vibrant, sometimes crazy city and I love it. I also love yoga, golf (but only sometimes), reading and traveling. I am very much looking forward to getting closer in touch with the Swiss community in Hong Kong!



**Simona Pinelli**

As you can imagine from my name, I was born and grew up in the “Sonnenstube” Ticino, in Bellinzona. After attending schools in my home town, I moved to Sierre where I studied at the Swiss School of Tourism. I have always loved to travel and had the chance to experience many cultures and destinations around the world, as well as living and working in Germany and Spain. A few years after meeting and marrying my husband in Ticino, we were given the opportunity to move abroad. We had our first expat experience in Singapore, where we stayed just under two years. In April 2011, we moved to Hong Kong and we are enjoying this vibrant and dynamic city, including the great outdoors and good food. And last but not least, I am enjoying my new role as secretary of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong; thanks to everybody for this great opportunity!

# Welcome & Goodbye

## NEW MEMBERS

Darrin & Eliane Adcock  
Hanny Stadelmann & Udo Alfare  
Richard & Prudence Ann  
Erlinda Asuncion Calumag  
Miguel & Doris Betrisey  
Jasmin Maximilian Blunck  
Antigone Theodoro & Stefan Bollinger  
Marc Eric Brulart  
Janaina & Lienhard Buechi  
Stephane & Hee Jeong Chopard  
Patricia Luise Frei  
Lynette Sue-Ling Gremlí & Tobias Fuerer  
Luca Fumasoli  
Mark Hellmann  
Eveline t& Thomas Hollinger  
Gabriela & Beat Hutzli  
Nathan Kaiser  
Eugenie Choy & Fabian Kleemann  
Johan Kaspar Locher  
Calina Lui  
Vincent & Cathia Magnenat  
Stepahne & Magali Marbehant  
Arpad & Christine Major  
Doug Tahiralli & Marie-Christine Merkly  
Veronika & Felix Enrique Mezzanotte  
Florian Michel  
Sven Moser  
Alois Mueller  
Daniel & Sibylle Oester  
Kristian & Franciane Olenik  
Simone & Simona Pinelli  
Bernhard Rapin  
Marc-Oliver Rohner  
Christian Ruettimann  
Kurt & Adriana Schilli  
Fabiola Ackermann & Patrik Schlageter  
Thomas & Jonna Schuetz-Lobsiger  
Benjamin Sigg  
Elena Cheung & Simon Saputra  
Wolfgang Stangl  
Vivienne Tang  
Istiy Komah & Urs Taufenecher  
Robin Simon Wattfinger  
Pierre & Corinna Widmer  
Aline Janin & Sebastien Wong  
Walter Josef & Evelyn Apryl Wuest  
Katrin Haudenschmid & Andreas Wullimann  
Peter & Shoba May Zehnder

## RESIGNED MEMBERS

Francois & Cecile Hora  
Fritz Horlacher  
Christoph Merz & Tatjana Kursawe  
Daniel & Annie Wettling  
Hans & Victoria Genberg  
Mark & Claudia Staudenmann  
Patrick & Junko Meyer  
Emanuel & Jie Breiter Huang  
Raphael & Miki Munro  
Stefan & Dagmar Basler Winkler  
Jeannette & Patrick Goeldi von  
Deschwanden  
Michael Schweizer  
Andreas Wundrak  
Cyrill & Jutta Schroeder Lackner  
Andreas & Barbara Vogelsanger  
Jun & Tsukasa Naito  
Karin & Christian Sticher  
Hedi-K Ernst Schmid  
Christoph & Jacqueline Ringger-Boissier



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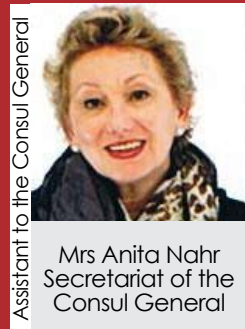
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# Consulate General of Switzerland



Consul General

Mrs Rita Hämmerli-Weschke  
Head of the  
Consulate General



Assistant to the Consul General

Mrs Anita Nahr  
Secretariat of the  
Consul General



Visa Assistant/Receptionist

Ms May Siu  
Visa and  
Reception



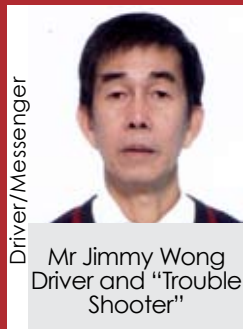
Deputy Consul General

Mr Erwin Lüthi  
Economic,  
Scientific and  
Cultural Affairs



Deputy Trade Commissioner

Mr Wing Kai Chan  
Trade Promotion



Driver/Messenger

Mr Jimmy Wong  
Driver and "Trouble  
Shooter"



Consul

Mrs Françoise Killias  
Zellweger  
Head of Chancery



Consular Affairs Officer

Ms Eva Kölliker  
Consular Affairs



Vice Consul

Mr Sacha  
Bachmann  
Deputy Head of  
Chancery



Cultural Affairs Officer

Ms Winnie Kan  
Cultural Affairs

## Consulate General of Switzerland

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Tel: +852 3509 5000  
Fax: +852 3508 5050  
Email: hon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch  
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong

# Consulate Events 2011

## Personnel

2011 was a year of change and movement within the consulate. On the personnel side, we saw changes in the visa section of the consulate which were already communicated in the last issue of S'Alphorn. Since April, we also have a new colleague, Ms. Eva Kölliker, who has joined us as a Consular Affairs Officer. She has taken over the role vacated by Michael Schweizer, who has been transferred to another country.

This coming summer, our Head of Chancery, Mrs. Françoise Killias Zellweger, will be leaving Hong Kong after four years of duties in this exciting city. She will be heading back to Switzerland with her family to take up new challenges within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne. All the best to Françoise and her family!

## Cultural Affairs

On the cultural side, we were kept busy with numerous events including the visit of Katja Gentinetta, a doctorate in Political Philosophy, who gave several workshops and lectures in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong. We also organized a magnificent concert by the Basel Chamber Orchestra and the highlight of the year was the truly successful Einstein Exhibition which took place at the Hong Kong Science Museum from April to August and saw an attendance of over 259,000 enthusiastic individuals.



Einstein Exhibition: from left to right: Mrs Flavia Schlegel (swissnex Shanghai), Prof. Tony Chan (President HKUST), Mrs Rita Hämmerli-Weschke (Consul General)



Primary students at the Physics and Einstein workshop

In August, we also had the great pleasure of welcoming "PlanetSolar", the biggest solar-powered boat navigating under the Swiss flag, in the first solar boat expedition around the world. A series of environmental conservation programs hosted by the Consulate General, in collaboration with various partners, were held during the Solar Village Exhibition. Local primary school children were invited to workshops to raise their awareness about today's environmental issues.



The MS Tûranor PlanetSolar berthed at Hong Kong's Harbour City Ocean Terminal as part of a tour to circumnavigate the globe propelled by a silent, pollution-free electrical engine and powered exclusively by solar energy on August 15th, 2011.



Another colorful event was the flower show at the beginning of the year in which Switzerland took part for the first time. Thanks to Mrs. Christine Mathys, the Swiss curator of the 2011 flower show, who helped design the flower bed which won the 'Grand Award for Unique Features' trophy!



Michael Schweizer (Consular Attaché),  
Helen Zemp (Intern at the Consulate)

### Business Affairs

There is good news for the Swiss business community in Hong Kong! Both the Free Trade Agreement and the Double Taxation Agreement were signed in 2011 and it is likely that both agreements will enter into force this year. The consulate will inform the Swiss community in Hong Kong as soon as the effective date is confirmed.

### Swiss Community in Hong Kong

In 2011, we have upheld tradition and invited young Swiss citizens who turned 18 years of age to a small gathering at the consulate. Birthday candles were lit and we wished these young adults lots of success in their future endeavours, which included plans to study in Switzerland or abroad for most of them.

**The Consulate General of Switzerland wishes you an exciting year of the Dragon !**

## Council of the Swiss Abroad

ASO is a non-political organization for the Swiss Abroad and organizes many activities for children and young individuals. We welcome new members to join us and the only criteria to do so is that either the mother or father holds Swiss citizenship. Our activities are fun, educational and varied and include holiday camps, adventure trips, discovering Switzerland, home-stays and Swiss language courses.

This past year, our Spring session was held in April in Brunnen, followed the next day by a 20th anniversary celebration of the "Auslandschweizerplatz".

In August, over 300 Swiss Abroad gathered in Lugano for the 89th Congress and centered around the theme of "Direct Democracy in an International Context". The event covered a number of relevant topics as follows.

The elections were held and Alain Berset (FR) was elected as the new Federal Councillor.

E-Voting was successfully introduced in several cantons. However, non-EU countries and countries not belonging to the Wassenaar Arrangement are excluded for the time being, which means that Swiss living in Hong Kong still need to vote by post.

Consular Services in Europe have undergone a change in which some consulates were closed and 'hubs' were created, a sore point with the representatives of the countries concerned. We are fortunate in Hong Kong to have an efficient and helpful consulate looking after our needs.

An initiative has been launched with the parliament to ask for a law to enforce the rights of Swiss Abroad. The commissions of both chambers will debate on it before a draft for such a law can be written. The whole process is a lengthy one and will take at least three years.

The next Spring session will be held on March 24, 2012 in Berne.

For more information on ASO, visit [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) or email [youth@aso.ch](mailto:youth@aso.ch).

Anna Marie Peyer



# Other Swiss Organisations in Hong Kong

## Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Wener Heingartner, President  
werner.heingartner@swiss-hk.com  
The Swiss Benevolent Society of Hong Kong was incorporated in September 1949 in order to assist Swiss nationals who encounter financial difficulties in Hong Kong. 30% of the SAHK membership fee is contributed to the SBS fund.

## Swiss Chamber of Commerce (SCC)

www.swisschamhk.org  
Susanne Sahli, President  
Irene Lo, Secretary General  
admin@swisschamhk.org  
The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (SCCHK) represents the Swiss business community to both the Swiss and HKSAR governments. Regular meetings and luncheons (jointly with SAHK) allow members to meet and discuss their common interests. The Chamber also informs members of new government initiatives that might have relevance for them and acts as a lobbying vehicle to promote their interests to the Government.

## Swiss Chamber Young Professionals

Benjamin Mueller-Rappard  
bmr@bmr@gmail.com  
The SCCHK Young Professionals organise regular social and networking events for the younger members of the SCC.

## Dragon Boat Team

dragonboat@swiss-hk.com  
The Swiss Association's dragon boat team participates in the legendary Stanley Dragon Boat races in June every year. It is open to members and non-members, and beginners are welcome.

## Monthly Golf

Patrick Meyrat  
golf@swiss-hk.com

## Jassen

Thomas Burkhalter  
jass@swiss-hk.com  
The Jass club meets once a month at the Pacific Club Kowloon for 4 friendly rounds and dinner. Dates are announced on www.swiss-hk.com.

## Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA/ASO)

www.aso.ch  
AnnaMarie Peyer  
annamarie.peyer@swiss-hk.com  
The Organisation of Swiss Abroad ensures that 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 emigration or moving back to Switzerland.

## SWISS XI

Peter Klaus, president  
pfefepapi@hotmail.com  
The SWISS XI was founded in 1977 to offer members of the Swiss community and beyond an opportunity to participate in local amateur football league games.

## Rifle Association

www.srahk.com  
Alexander Luedi  
alexluedi@netvigator.com  
Established in 1982, the Association organizes shooting events and competitions, including the annual Compulsory Shoot and Operation Mercury. In its early years, it co-operated with the Queen's Gurkha Signals, and, since 1998, with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, now called the RHKR Sport Shooting Association.



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# 2012 Events Calendar

## January

9

Joint Monthly Luncheon: Oliver Trueb - "Cities in the Sand - Designing and Building New Cities in the Middle East"

12

Apero Drinks SAHK and Swiss Chamber of Commerce

19

Cercle de Lecture

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

Swiss Bread Baking Evening

## February

6

Joint Monthly Luncheon: Raymond Lo, Fung Shui Master - "Fung Shui Predictions for 2012 / Year of the Dragon"

8-12

Swiss Bread Baking Evening

17

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

18

Raclette in the Park

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## March

5

Joint Monthly Luncheon: Dieter Kaeslin - Risk Management for the Financial Industry

10

Jason Wordie - Chau Kei Wan walk Historical Walk incl. Coastal Defense Museum

12

Swiss Bread Baking evening

15

AGM

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

19-23

TREFLE

26

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## April

2

Joint Monthly Luncheon: Pranay Gupta CIO of Lombard Odier

16

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

19

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

27-28

FIS Fundraising evening shows for the association "Enfants du Ningxia"

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

TBA

Shek-O BBQ event

## May

5

Chungking Mansions Service Center Tour

7

Joint Monthly Luncheon

12

FIS Gala Dinner at the HK Football Club

17

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

28

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

TBA

Dragon Boat Warm up Race

TBA

FIS School Fair

TBA

Horse Race

## June

8

Urban Discovery Wan Chai adult evening event (Treasure hunt!)

21

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

25

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Dragon Boat Race at Stanley Main Beach

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon: President of Swiss Banker c/o Consulate

## July

19

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

30

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## August

1

National Day Celebration (TBC)

16

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

27

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## September

20

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

24

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## October

18

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

29

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

## November

15

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

26

Jassen at the Pacific Club Kowloon

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

TBA

Cercle de Lecture

TBA

Sedan Chair Race

## December

1

GSIS Bazaar

20

Monthly Golf at 9 Eagles

TBA

Joint Monthly Luncheon

For updates, please visit [www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com)



# CHEF'S CORNER: SWISS PASTA GRATIN

Contributed by Nathalie Piers de Raveschoot



This recipe serves 4 persons.

You need a large, oven proof deep dish.

250 - 300 grams Pasta (i.e. Hoernli/rigatoni/fussili/or similar)  
Cook to al dente and pour into ovenproof dish

Add to the pasta and mix well:  
250 grams ham or grilled chicken or sausage or just vegetable, cut into cubes  
100grams grated cheese (Gruyere or Sbrinz or Appenzeller)

Mix together: 7 dl Milk, 3 - 4 eggs and season with salt and pepper OR granulated chicken stock and pepper and pour over the pasta mix.  
(for a lighter version - you can mix milk and water)

Bake in oven for approx 50 - 60 minutes at 200 degrees C (preheated oven)

(NOTE: it should not be liquid anymore once finished)

To avoid the top burning:  
Cover the dish while baking and remove the cover for the last 15 - 20 minutes to allow it to turn a little bit crispy.

En Guete!

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# In the Spotlight: Our Members



**BRIAN  
GROEBSCH**

## How long have you been in Hong Kong?

All in all, I have been living in Hong Kong for 12 Years, from 1994 - 1998 and from 2004 until now.

## Which city are you originally from and where did you live before Hong Kong?

I was born in Hong Kong. Before moving back to Hong Kong for the second time, I lived in Singapore for five years.

## What brought you to the city?

An airplane... but on a more serious note, my father started a new position in the city.

## What line of work are you in?

Officially I am a student, but I also DJ and produce electronic music.

## What do you love most about Hong Kong?

Hong Kong is never quiet. Everything comes and goes so fast. I could not live in a town where I see the same things

every day and nothing new happens. In Hong Kong, if you just leave the city over the summer and "poof", a new high-rise apartment block appears out of nowhere when you return. The fast pace, that's what I love about Hong Kong.

## What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

Going out with friends. Other than that, I like photography, DJ or I sleep long into the midday.

## Where are your favourite places in Hong Kong?

Lan Kwai Fong for its good food, good drinks, good atmosphere which equals Good fun!

SaiKung for its good seafood restaurants, great pubs and scenic location for photography.

On a boat. Junk trips are the best way to escape the buzzing side of Hong Kong!

## What do you miss about your home country?

You can't miss it if you haven't left it, can you?



**BRIGITTE  
WEBER**

## How long have you been in Hong Kong?

Since August 2004. I just got my permanent residency last year.

## Which city are you originally from and where did you live before Hong Kong?

I grew up on a farm in a tiny village called Huggenberg near Winterthur (only 120 inhabitants) which was located on a small mountain and so we always had lots of snow . After I left Switzerland, I lived in London, Hong Kong, Tokyo and back to Hong Kong seven years ago. I have been away from Switzerland for 7 years.

## What brought you to the city?

My passion for travel and adventure

## What line of work are you in?

After working in accounting for many years and living and working in London, Hong Kong and Japan, I changed my career path to work in the Spa and Beauty industry in 2004. Since last year, I am the director for the Spa and Beauty

area at The Strand. It is a new concept hair and beauty salon in Central.

## What do you love most about Hong Kong?

The fact that I can have a city life and be close to nature at the same time. I also love the fast pace and the vibrant energy.

## What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

Every weekend, I spend my time running the trails and exploring new parts of Hong Kong on my Vespa or I go surfing in Tai Long Wan and Big Wave Bay. From time to time, I go camping or arrange a Sunday afternoon BBQ on Shek O beach with friends.

## Where are your favourite places in Hong Kong?

Tai Long Wan and the beauty of the green hills on a clear day. All the untouched and peaceful parts of Hong Kong. There is so much to explore.

## What do you miss about your home country?

My family and the fresh air.



**HANS  
LUTZ****How long have you been in Hong Kong?**

I arrived in Hong Kong by boat from Colombo on 1st April 1968.

**Which city are you originally from and where did you live before Hong Kong?**

I grew up in Berne. I was last minister of the Swiss-German congregation in Geneva before going to Great Britain to learn English in preparation for Hong Kong.

**What brought you to the city?**

The Basel Mission (today renamed Mission 21) sent me to participate in a new approach by the Hong Kong churches to reach out to industrial workers.

**What line of work are you in?**

Although retired, I am still involved with the church in Hong Kong and with a number of non-governmental organizations serving industrial accident victims, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

**What do you love most about Hong Kong?**

Together with Singapore, Hong Kong is the only city in the world today which has a separate political identity. This

makes life here exciting as small groups can influence social change.

**What are your favourite weekend pursuits?**

Sunday morning is devoted to worship. In the afternoon, my wife and I often take a stroll in the beautiful Lai Chi Kok Park near our home.

**Where are your favourite places in Hong Kong?**

Lai Chi Wo in the North East New Territories, Cheung Chau and its seafood, and Mei Foo Sun Chuen where I live.

**What do you miss about your home country?**

Regular meetings with friends and family, hiking in the countryside and the mountains.

**VERENA  
MOOSER AND  
FAMILY****How long have you been in HK?**

My husband came to Hong Kong in April 2011 while our four children (ages 17, 15, 12 and 10) and I have only been here since the end of August 2011.

I am from Mexico City and moved to a smaller city south of it after we were married to seek a better quality of life for our family. We also lived in France for a time and in the US.

A little more about my background.

My paternal grandfather, from Maienfeld, Graubünden, emigrated from Switzerland to Mexico at the end of the 1920s, with my grandmother meeting up with him almost ten years later. They had two sons. The elder, my father, decided to stay in Mexico where he met and married my mother, daughter of German immigrants. My uncle, on the other hand, decided to study in Switzerland, where he still lives.

We three children were born in Mexico and the family always kept up the ties to Switzerland, visiting as often as possible, attending the Swiss School, talking Swiss and German at home and taking part in the many activities of the Swiss community in Mexico.

**What brought you to the city?**

The airline my husband worked for in Mexico went bankrupt so it was up in the air where we would end up: Japan, Dubai, Turkey, Kazakhstan? We were very excited when it turned out to be Hong Kong, a multicultural, vibrant city in the heart of Asia.

**What line of work are you in?**

I have been a full time mother with many other activities thrown in, like being part of the "Schulkommission" of the Swiss School evaluating and giving feedback to teachers, being in charge of the school library and writing and lecturing on family-oriented themes.

**What do you love most about Hong Kong?**

There is such an interesting mixture of people living here, all getting along and

open to new experiences. I find people very friendly and helpful. I love the fact that I don't need a car! We live in Mui Wo and I use a bicycle and if I need to go somewhere else there is the ferry to Central, the bus or the MTR.

I also like that so much of daily life goes on outside the home, for example, there are street vendors selling about everything you can imagine from fruit to clothes to buttons. Eating out is very common and the food is delicious.

**What are your favourite weekend pursuits?**

Because of my husband's job, we are able to do activities as a couple during weekdays like hiking. Exploring Hong Kong either by myself, with friends or as a family, there are still so many places we haven't been to! During the hot season, we like to go to one of the beaches on Lantau with the whole family.

**Where are your favourite places in HK?**

We still have many places on our to-do list, but so far we like Cheng Chau and Peng Chau and the hiking paths on Lantau Island.

**What do you miss about your home country?**

I miss the food, both Mexican and Swiss and also the convenience of the big, American-type stores like WalMart. Stores in Hong Kong are in the most unexpected places, like the 7th floor of a skyscraper.

## In the Spotlight: Interesting Jobs

The art scene in Hong Kong has been gradually gaining momentum and a higher profile within the last few years. More and more galleries are dotting the SoHo and NoHo landscape and in November 2011, Hong Kong saw the opening of a gallery with a difference. Art Supermarket was launched by Swiss collector, Michael Manzano, who was born into a family that collected art and grew up in a house where there was not an inch of space left on the walls since they were covered with paintings. Its supermarket-style theme and focus on affordable art by emerging Chinese contemporary artists sets it apart from other galleries.

The concept of Art Supermarket is to offer plenty of choices, a range of prices and a stand-back staff policy, a business model not yet tried in Hong Kong's still high-end art market. For this issue, we had a chat with Michael Manzano to find out more about his business, which is creating a stir in the local art industry.

### What is your background? What did you do before Art Supermarket?

My parents provided an art-inspiring childhood for all of us. They involved us from an early stage in all forms of art, such as literature, theatre and music. Such special family environment has helped me to land in the creative industry (advertising) at a later stage. I have worked as a copywriter and a creative director for more than two decades in Switzerland and Germany. In my adult life, I was never convinced to spend money on luxury goods (even though Switzerland is famous for its luxury brands). Instead I always collect art, which is the luxury in my life.

### Why did you decide to open Art Supermarket?

When I came to Hong Kong three years ago, I was a little bit disappointed by the Hong Kong art market, because I could hardly find any artwork by emerging Chinese artists although Hong Kong is already the third largest art market in

the world, behind London and New York. However, most of the galleries in Hong Kong only promote established and well-known. That is why the prices of such art works are at a certain level.

### After a while I asked myself, why not open my own gallery selling such art?

I wanted to make art accessible to normal people in Hong Kong. My target customers are expatriates, middle-class Hong Kong locals and tourists... that's why I have also a lot of smaller pieces that you can carry onto a plane.

### How do you select the artwork that you are selling at Art Supermarket?

The key consideration for my artwork selection is to find young artists who have a high potential in the future. To do so, I need to get to know each artist personally. At the moment I am focusing mainly on Chinese contemporary art. The Chinese art market was not accessible [to buyers from the West] for decades but now it has opened up. However, most of the artists exhibited in the Hong Kong art scene are famous ones because it is a costly and risky process to promote less known artists. I find the art by young Chinese artists more interesting and relevant because their work is a constant reflection of the current thinking and reality of China.

### How have people responded so far?

They have responded quite well. A lot of people have told me that there is really a demand for affordable art in Hong Kong. At first, I thought that people would not understand the concept and they would think the name "Art Supermarket" meant that the gallery

sells cheap art, and by "cheap", it means low in quality, not just low in price. But actually, people seem to understand that this is not the case.

Art Supermarket is located at:

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[www.artsupermarketasia.com](http://www.artsupermarketasia.com)







# Dragon Boat race 2011: Swiss Dragons

by Werner Heimgartner

The Swiss Dragons gave it their best this year, despite having only one team. The energy and spirits were high and participated in three events last summer including the Deep Water Bay 500 meters races and Stanley Main Beach warm-up races in May and the main event at the Stanley Boat Festival in June.

The purpose of the first two races is to determine where the team stands and we were lucky to have a solid group of driven and enthusiastic paddlers brave the training throughout the winter and prepare for the main event for the Dragon Boat Races at the Stanley Boat Festival.

In our category of mixed teams, there was a total of 144 teams from Hong Kong participating. The Swiss Dragons, which included at least eight women and 12 men, finished in 10th place in this fairly vast category. This is certainly a ranking in which we could hold our heads high and was on par with last year's placement.

We always encourage keen paddlers to join us and we look forward to seeing new faces for the 2012 season. The feeling of all paddlers cutting through the water in unison is truly invigorating and an unsurpassed experience that anyone can enjoy!



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# SWISS XI: Richest Football Team in Hong Kong

by Juerg Niederberger

## Season 2010-11

As with every year in late summer, the transfer market for amateur football players is in full swing and team officials are using sponsors' money on unknown talents and fancy stadium upgrades. The Swiss XI team is no different!

With its history of being a founding member (in 1977) of the now 50 team Yau Yee League, its social and competitive focus and its deep-pocket sponsors, Swiss XI is a top address in amateur football in Hong Kong. For this season, we were able to attract very strong players, in particular some fast legs from Japan and Switzerland and Belgium (the team is now a United Nations' gathering from Switzerland, Japan, Belgium, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Slovakia, Germany, Australia and Malta). The remaining funds were used for a new football kit, new warm-up shirts and new balls.

Every coach will confirm that the start of a new season is particularly important

for the further progress through the 22 league games. Well, we lost the first four games and were obviously at the bottom of the table by late October. However, we worked hard on our loose ends during our weekly 90-minute training sessions at King's Park and the results soon took effect. We finally won a game at the Hong Kong Football Club stadium after many close encounters and many draws. The new players were nicely integrated and we did not lose another game in the first half of the season. Expectations rose and we were looking forward to a good run in early 2011. However, while we continued to play well against the three Hong Kong Football Club teams, we dropped some silly points against other teams. In the YYL Cup competition, we aimed to surpass last year's semi-final penalty loss, but were stopped 0-1 in the quarter-final by Club Wanderers.

We ended the season as the top team of the bottom half with 29 points after 8 wins, 5 draws and 9 losses. The highlights were taking nine points from the three

HKFC teams and beating the eventual champion, Club Albion, on their home turf. Although we could have done better, the best part about amateur football is that, despite winning or losing, what matters is that it is fun, we all stay injury-free, stay fit along the way and enjoy the social side of being part of a multi-national team!

## Extracurriculum Activities

The Swiss XI team was not only involved in the Yau Yee League and Cup competitions, we also sent a team to the 6-a-side international tournaments in Manila in November as well as in March. A team was also sent to the inaugural Xiamen 6-a-side International Tournament and during that hot July weekend, a third place finish was a nice end to the of season. Additionally, this year's Christmas party made it into the Swiss XI history books with the theme "Superhero", while the GAT ("Go-Away Trip") was a fun weekend that took us to Bali.

## Season 2011-12

The economic environment also affects the Swiss XI's financial situation and the belt had to be tightened and some key players from Switzerland and Japan left the team. We played the first half of the season, and we are "okay" after three wins and three draws although we lost the Cup 2nd round game in penalties.

Last but definitely not least, thanks to our sponsors Ziggy's Fine Food and Swiss-Sure Company Limited. Without them we would not be able to stake our claim as the richest football team in Hong Kong.







# Melchterli Cup

by Patrick Meyrat

This year saw a hugely successful turnout for the 41st annual Melchterli Cup, held on November 11, 2011, as 23 golfers took a break from their usual Friday afternoon activities to gather and compete for the coveted Cup. After eleven years with Peter Klaus at the helm, the organization of the Melchterli Cup event was handed over to a young team of Swiss golfers this year, including Tobias Murer, Mike Imam and Dominik Fuerst, who all did a stellar job.

Four hours after the shotgun start, the players gathered into the clubhouse from the golf course just as it was getting dark. We were joined by other friends and enjoyed the delicious food, wine and each other's company.

The prize presentation followed, with the final results as follows:

- 1st Nam Kyu Park – 35 stableford points
- 2nd Tobias Murer – 33 stableford points
- 3rd Peter Klaus – 32 stableford points

A lovely welcome package and some nice prizes were donated by various sponsors and a special surprise awaited all players after hole nine, where everybody was required to drink

some shots of imported Appenzeller Schnapps. It is rumoured that the score of some improved substantially on the second nine holes. Overall, it was a memorable day and which ended with a splendid evening view of the golf course and the coastline from the veranda of the Shek O clubhouse.



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# Golf Week: Swiss Golfing Mafia 2011

by Peter Klaus



The annual meeting of the Swiss Golfing Mafia took place from August 8 to 12th, this time in Germany. Over 20 participants gathered for a fun-week of golf which was well-organized by Alex Hirt. Stationed in Bad Bellingen, in the southwestern part of Germany, we found great golf courses, delicious food and a nice hotel, yet paid a fraction of the price for something similar in Switzerland.

The highlight was, once again, the Coupe Hardy. The history of this Cup goes back to 1987, when it took place for the first time in Discovery Bay. Many of this year's participants played back then and have fond memories of the legendary six hour round by Alfred Killias and Leo Weiss, the harmonica concerts on the ferry back to Central and the merriment at the Hong Kong Club.

The formula of the cup remains a mystery every year. This year, we discovered one par 3, 4 and 5 was selected, each on the front and back nine resulting in stableford points. The resulting figure was multiplied by the number of putts from which the number of the dice throwing was deducted. One problem was that the putter was a wooden stick that had a spring attached which was holding a wooden block and made it very difficult to hit the ball. Well, at the end of all the hard work, dinner was held in a small, beautiful house in the middle

of a vineyard and the winner of the Coupe Hardy 2011 – Guido Cherubini was announced and received the massive bronze duck. Thank you Hardy Diethelm for your continued support and sponsorship which is greatly appreciated by all.

During the week in Bad Bellingen, we learned that our dear friend Alfred Killias was in hospital and just a few weeks later, we received the sad news that Alfred had passed away. He had participated in the first cup in Hong Kong and had joined us in Switzerland on many occasions. Our "Gmeindamme", as he was called affectionately by his friends, will always be remembered for his warm heart, his good humor and his friendship – may God rest his soul in peace.

The organization for next year's Coupe Hardy is under preparation and while the place has not yet been decided, it seems that Germany is once again a good candidate after the excellent experience we had this year.



## Monthly Golf

Every third Thursday of the month, the SAHK organizes a round of golf at the Nine Eagles Golf Club at the airport. It is quite a special experience to play this course with seven Par 3 holes and two Par 4 holes, not only because some of the holes are rather tricky, but also because we play at night. While the course may not be suitable for absolute beginners, it is great fun for players of all other levels of experience. Some great shots have been hit and various birdies have been achieved since this event was launched two years ago, however, a hole-in-one is still the missing highlight so far.

We meet around 7pm and then play for about two hours. The course is rarely crowded and, after the round, we usually have a quick bite and drink at the club house. It is a nice way to chat and bond over the game in a very relaxed atmosphere. So, if you would like to meet other like-minded golf enthusiasts, come out and join us for a round!





# Sedan Chair Race

by Werner Heimgartner



The Swiss Association has been a participating team of this high-profile event since 1979 and has taken pride in the variety of creative sedan chair decorations each time. The theme for this year's event was 'Rock-and'Run and the Swiss team decided to dress up as The Beatles with the chair decorated as the Yellow Submarine. However, four other teams chose the same the subject, therefore, the Swiss team was did not have a unique idea in this year's race.

The Sedan Chair Race is not about having fun. The organizer, Sedan Chair Charities Fund and all participating teams collect money of which 100% goes to various charitable organizations in Hong Kong. A big thank you to all sponsors who donated through the Swiss Team into that fund. The Swiss Team collected a total of HKD 27,200 which goes directly into the Charity Fund of Sedan Chair Charities Fund 2011.



# Swiss Rifle Association

by Alex Leudi

Since 1982, the Swiss Rifle Association of Hong Kong has upheld the tradition of shooting activities for Swiss living abroad. We are a private club that operates in Hong Kong under a strict licensing framework which has enabled us to maintain a set of official Swiss Army rifles in Hong Kong, suitably adapted for civilian and sport use.

Annual highlights include shooting competitions with our friends from the former Hong Kong Regiment at their shooting range near Sheng Shui. Last year was an exciting one for us with the arrival of shiny, new rifles from Switzerland. We now shoot with a civilian version of the Swiss Army rifle StgW 90.

Membership is open to all Swiss Army trained individuals and in exceptional cases we are also able to grant membership to those who have a proven track record in the handling and firing of weapons, are sponsored by two active members, and who have attended our training camps. Shooting competitions for 2012 are planned for April and December.







**NEW YEAR COCKTAIL**

On January 14, 2011, the New Year Cocktail was held to a great reception with over 116 participants gathering to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones. Supported by the Consulate-General of Switzerland, it was a joint event held together with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and young professionals. The outdoor vibe of the trendy courtyard at The Mira Hotel provided just the right atmosphere for casual chats and mixing and mingling.



**TEA GALLERY VISIT**

On March 23, 2011, a small and cosy group of 11 ladies paid a visit to the Hollywood Tea Gallery on Hollywood Road. A diverse range of Chinese teas were sampled in the quaint setting of the tea gallery where the ladies learned about the fascinating world of teas and their benefits. The tasting was followed by a delectable dim sum lunch at dragon-i where the group feasted on small, Chinese delicacies.

**RACLETTE IN THE PARK**

Raclette in the Park is a long-held, traditional event of the Swiss Association and every year, it just keeps getting better! On February 19, 2011, members had the pleasure of indulging in the 'melt-in-the-mouth' cheese that we all know so well, meticulously prepared by Chef Stefan Herzog. It was delightfully complemented by ham in bread crust and Laugen rolls. Parkview played host to over 45 members on the cold and rainy day, just perfectly suited for a warming and hearty raclette. We were fortunate that our camper, Werner Heimgartner, brought a big tent to shelter us from the inclement weather.



**DISCOVER POKFULAM**

One of the oldest communities in Hong Kong, dating back to the 17th century, Pokfulam was where the French Missionaries decided to establish their Asian headquarters. On January 16, 2011, Hong Kong history and heritage expert, Marco Foehn led an historical walk with 16 adults and three children.

Marco is Swiss and has lived in worked in Hong Kong since 1982 and after retirement, started his own company called "Walk Hong Kong". He has been offering walks and hikes since 2003 and this particular one saw an enthusiastic group trek along the Pokfulam reservoir for 2.5 hours. The journey ended with a visit to the Bethanie Centre, a striking neo-Gothic style, preserved historical building which was built in 1875 by the French mission as a sanatorium and was once the home of a dairy farm. Today, it serves as the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' School of Film and Television.





## BEACH BBQ

Lots of fun was had by all at the annual beach BBQ which took place on April 10, 2011. Shek O beach provided the setting for 69 beach-goers from Swiss Association to soak in the sun, ride the waves, and simply relax to the sound of the ocean. The food was an assortment contributed by all and while the adults chatted under the shade, the children splashed happily in the water. It was a warm-hearted, social afternoon for everyone!



## DRAGON'S BACK HIKE AND SHEK O BBQ

Shek O beach seemed to be the favourite spot of choice for Swiss Association as it once again provided the setting for a hike along the Dragon's Back for a small group of avid hikers on April 27, 2011. Dubbed the 'Best Urban Hike in Asia' by Time Magazine, the Dragon's Back is one of Hong Kong's most breathtaking and scenic trails. The glory of it is that you are so close to the city but could hardly feel farther away. As you descend down the rugged undulating spinal ridge of the Dragon's Back, there are spectacular views eastwards to Clear Water Bay Peninsula and islands in the eastern sea approaches to Hong Kong. To the west, there are views of Stanley Peninsula and the South China Sea. It is clearly a hike that must be done at least once, if not many times, while visiting or living in Hong Kong.



## CONTAINER SHIP VISIT

On October 15, 2011, it was a full house, or rather a full boat, of a limited number of nine visitors on board the container ship Eleonora Maersk. Organized by Patrick Meyrat, Area Manager of Greater China at FMS Logistics, the event attracted a captive audience which toured the PS-type vessel with a capacity of 13,000 TEUs (Twenty Foot Container Equivalent Units). In other words, this massive vessel is in the category of the largest container ships in the world.



## NIGHT AT THE RACES

On May 25, 2011, 43 guests had the privilege to get a close-up view at the Happy Valley racecourse courtesy of Albert Hausammann, a member of the SAHK and owner of the racehorse "Suisse de Or". Guests were able to go down close to the track with Albert and could follow the races from where his horse Suisse de Or was starting. It was truly invigorating to be so close to the heart of the action.

The exclusive, private box arranged by the Swiss Association was the ideal reprieve to escape the hustle and bustle of the usual Hong Kong life and to further delight the senses, a mouth-watering buffet with a diverse range of gastronomic treats kept everyone's tummies satiated.

Albert gave a short introduction on betting strategically and shared his insights on horse racing, one of the most popular pastimes of Hong Kong citizen.



## WELCOME BACK APERO

Top Deck on the Jumbo boat in Aberdeen provided the perfect setting for this year's Welcome Back party on September 17, 2011, following a long summer away from Hong Kong. A crowd of 70 adults and 17 kids caught up with each other amidst the cozy lounge chairs scattered along the restaurant deck and everyone had the chance to soak in the gorgeous view over Aberdeen and bask in the cool autumn breeze. None could resist the creamy and delicious ice-cream from Moevenpick which generously sponsored our event again this year.

## PAINTBALL

Paintball is a combination of the childhood games "tag" and "hide & seek", but is much more challenging. Each player is equipped with a paintball gun that shoots and the aim is to tag (shoot) your enemy with a paintball while attempting a mission. It is a hobby that is fast rising in popularity and in Hong Kong, it is played by people from all walks of life. Women and men, both young and old, can compete equally. Physical size and strength are not as important as intelligence and determination as paintball focuses on tactics and teamwork.

On October 14, 2011, a group of 18 gathered at the Paintball Headquarters in Kowloon where the energy was charged and the competitiveness was heated. The teams huddled together and tactics and strategies were secretly discussed, then players took their positions and no mercy was shown on the field! Although the dads gave it their best shot, the kids fought hard and conquered while the moms preferred to cheer on the sidelines. It was a day of extreme fun and great family bonding that is sure to see even more players return for next year's event.



## RACLETTE STAND AT GSIS BAZAAR

The raclette stand at GSIS has been a long-standing tradition at the annual Christmas Bazaar and for those who faithfully attend year after year, one cannot imagine the bazaar without the distinct and intense fragrance of the melting cheese. One also cannot imagine the raclette stand without the culinary skills of Inge and Stefan Herzog who have long been the heart and soul behind this Swiss tradition. Each year, like the last, the raclette stand sees an endless queue of eager customers yearning to get a taste of the melt-in-your-mouth cheese. Even the queue has become a tradition in itself. Thank you to Stefan and Inge for allowing the Swiss community to uphold a yearly ritual that gives them a little slice of home!

## Family Hike

by Michael Balsiger

We met at Discovery Bay Ferry Pier on November 6, 2011 for the annual Swiss Family hike. A group of about 25 eager hikers ventured towards the Discovery Bay Golf Club and then to the very steep trail up to the "Tiger head" and although it was quite a tough trek going up, the stunning view from 465m above sea level was worth the pain. Unfortunately my daughter (7 years) twisted her leg a little by climbing up, so I had to carry her for the next 3.5 hours on my shoulders like any good dad would do. The next two hours was not as strenuous and only a slight up and down over the plateau, with a view on one side towards the golf club and the other side towards the airport. After another 1.5 hours we arrived in Mui Wo for a nice seafood lunch. People seemed worn enough after the first hike that nobody took the option to hike back to Discovery Bay by the short route passing the Trappist Monastery. It was a splendid day spent amongst the nature and beauty that is a hidden gem in Hong Kong.







As my family was in Canada, I needed to think of a big party myself to overcome my chronic home sickness. I was encouraged since many willing volunteers were interested in joining me for the significant task of planning for the 720th birthday of Switzerland. Again, we were lucky to secure the venue at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, this time above Happy Valley in their Clubhouse. The theme of this yearly unrivalled event is always a challenge to come up with and this year was no different. However, after drumming my mind for something creative and memorable, the light bulb finally was lit. The image of messy hair popped up in my mind, sparked by a highly successful exhibition over the summer at the Hong Kong Science Museum about Albert Einstein. Einstein's genius and eccentricity always inspired me along with the unforgettable and renowned photo of a crazed scientist complete with protruding tongue and messy hair – so very un-Swiss! Also, there was much written and seen on the controversy of nuclear power during the year and the organizing team was instantly convinced that this was the way forward.

MC Werner Heimgartner steered the crowd through the evening and our own 'King of Jazz', Claude Diallo, was flown in

by Swiss with his own jazzy interpretation of the national hymn which had the guests singing the hymn in all our four national languages.

Consul General of Switzerland, Rita Hämmerli-Weschke, said a few words to the Swiss community, after which we all listened to the taped speech of our President of the Swiss Confederation, Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey. Afterwards, everyone was challenged by the Famous Swiss Quiz in which Swiss celebrities had to be recognized by their hairstyle only and brought the house down with laughter.

The gourmet feast was unsurpassed and featured a vast selection of Swiss delicacies lovingly and meticulously prepared by Chef Christof Suter.

I would like to thank the following people for their generosity and support:

The 1st August Committee members: Ashley Lau, Emily Chaw, Angelina Bussinger, Irene Lo, Ursula Eberhart, Françoise Killias Zillweger, Eva Kölliker, Michael Balsiger, Thomas Rechtsteiner, Fabian Kleemann, and Werner Heimgartner.

The volunteers at the registration desk and on the floor who sold Pro Patria pins

and raffle tickets.

Our Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke for the wine aperitif.

Fritz Sommerau and the staff at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Daniel Wettling for the drawing on the invitation.

All in all, it was a fun-packed, memorable, and well-planned evening. It was heart-warming to celebrate Switzerland's birthday together with family and old and new friends and I am already looking forward to next year's 1st August event in Hong Kong. I wonder what the theme might be?

The 1. August Committee wishes to extend their thanks to the following companies for their generosity:

#### Gold sponsors:

Kägi Söhne AG, Swiss International Airlines

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ORIS-Swiss Prestige, Schoeni Art Gallery, Air Pacific Ltd, Swissôtel GRAND Shanghai, Bally GC Retail Co Ltd, Jet Aviation Business Jets (Hong Kong), La Roche & Co Asia Ltd, Finessa HK Ltd, Lindt & Sprüngli (Asia-Pacific) Ltd, and all the companies and individuals who contributed to the raffle prizes as Bronze sponsors.





# Samichlaus



*None were naughty and all were nice, at this year's Samichlaus visit, where it was not too 'heiss'.*

On December 4, 2011, Samichlaus made his yearly sojourn to Tai Tam Country Park to greet all the excited children who had been eagerly anticipating and preparing for his visit. It seemed that all 62 children had done a splendid job of maintaining good behaviour since Samichlaus made only favourable reports and no negative ones. Over 150 participants donned their merry spirits and turned up to feast on the assortment of goodies as well as the home-baked Swiss Christmas cookies and 'Appenzeller Biberli' that was kindly contributed by the Swiss Consulate. Ten barbecue pits were fired up to ensure a continuous flow of sausages and bratwurst while the children crafted mini-replicas of Samichlaus. It was another successful visit by Samichlaus, who could see big smiles on the faces of parents and children alike as he departed to his next destination.

# Jassen Evenings

Every last Monday of each month, an enthusiastic group gathers for the game of Jassen. This year, the venue has changed to Pacific Club in Kowloon. Like a Swiss version of the Chinese game, 'Mah-jong', Jassen involves four players, without any teams. Jassen evenings are full of fun and merriment so, whether beginner or seasoned pro, come and join us for a round! For meeting dates, visit [www.swiss-hk.com](http://www.swiss-hk.com).



## 2011 Results

	Name	Sum of Result	Count of Participation	Name	Sum of Result	Count of Participation	
1	Pius Jean-Richard	12,506	4	22	Andreas Vogelsanger	5,677	2
2	Peter Reichenbach	11,863	4	23	Martin Kleger	5,614	2
3	Guido Cherubini	11,741	4	24	Nancy Neumann	5,499	2
4	Peter Gautschi	11,618	4	25	Marianne Baldinger	5,427	2
5	Charles Grossrieder	11,599	4	26	Hanny Stadelmann	5,373	2
6	Markus Burri	11,582	4	27	Peter Frauchiger	5,170	2
7	Leo Doerig	11,547	4	28	Damian Milewski	5,138	2
8	Nicklaus Dali	11,502	4	29	Ulrich Geissler	4,859	2
9	Thomas Burkhalter	11,471	4	30	Hansrudolf Schmid	4,852	2
10	Philipp Zindel	11,466	4	31	Max Liechti	4,686	2
11	Dominic Jean-Richard	11,288	4	32	Erich Spirgi	3,019	1
12	Roland Seeholzer	11,161	4	33	Christian Lang	2,815	1
13	Stephane Hug	11,094	4	34	Beni Winkler	2,754	1
14	Adrian Ort	10,939	4	35	Carlo Huerlimann	2,736	1
15	Yvonne Sargent	10,072	4	36	Bruno von	2,734	1
16	Thomas Rechtsteiner	8,174	3	37	Patrick Lehmann	2,628	1
17	Stella Seeholzer	7,993	3	38	Alexander Caballero	2,621	1
18	Stefan Herzog	7,942	3	39	Peter Sutter	2,600	1
19	Tobias Muster	7,683	3	40	Heinz Rust	2,585	1
20	Charles Baldinger	5,985	2	41	Christopher Jean-Richard	2,321	1
21	Udo Alfare	5,678	2				



## Swiss School Committee



Sabrina Kheyar(FIS)

The Swiss School Committee is a subcommittee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK) since 1978 and, therefore, is completely independent from the schools. Presently, we are a team of six members. By reporting to the Swiss Government and the SAHK, we provide a platform to support the Swiss teachers, Swiss students, their parents and the Swiss community. We help newly arrived families as well as departing families with their educational enquiries.



Sybille Becker(GSIS)

Switzerland is supportive of Swiss educational options abroad and here in Hong Kong, these are the German Swiss International School (GSIS) and the French International School (FIS), which give our Swiss students the opportunity to study in their mother tongue. To safeguard the educational and cultural interests of Swiss citizens, government support is currently not given directly to GSIS or FIS, but instead, it is through partially sponsoring Swiss teachers at the respective school. Presently there are three sponsored Swiss teachers at GSIS and one at FIS.

Kathrin  
Dörfler(GSIS)

Reflective of the Swiss social spirit, the Swiss government requires active participation from the Swiss business community here in Hong Kong. A yearly fundraising effort aims to cover part of the costs of the Swiss teachers, the other part being sponsored by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture. This is where the Swiss School Committee comes into play and organises the fundraising, manages the Swiss funds and liaises between the Swiss government and GSIS / FIS.

Luca  
Fumasoli(GSIS)

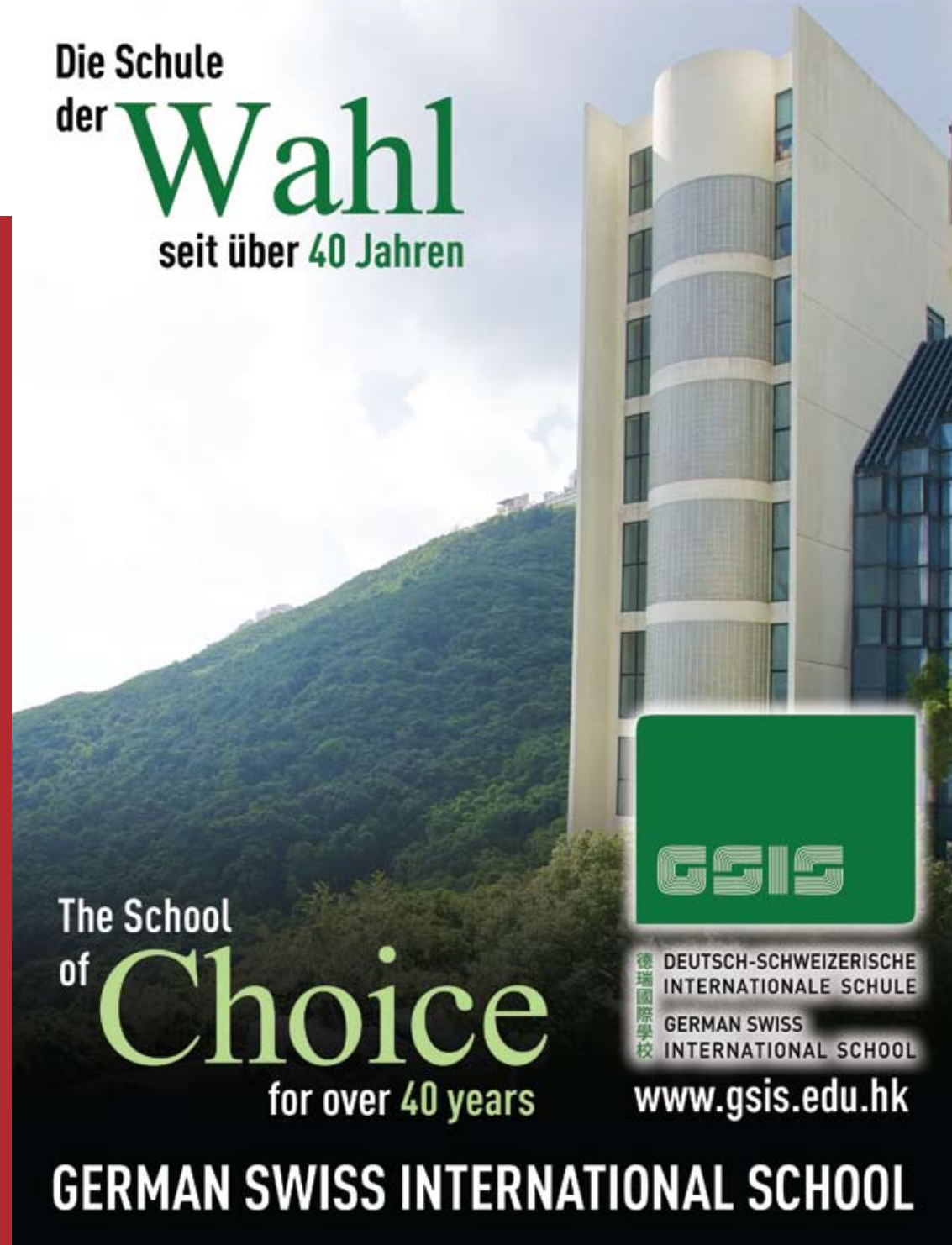
In return, future Swiss students have priority status to enter the German Stream of GSIS and the French Stream of FIS - a considerable advantage, considering the long waiting lists at international schools in Hong Kong. To ensure that this benefit is not lost in the future, it is imperative to gain the support of Swiss companies in Hong Kong!

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## GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



GSIS German Stream  
Graduation 2011:  
Christian Seeholzer, Jennifer  
Ganz Tiffany Mattes,  
Sebastian Gross



GSIS English Stream  
Graduation 2011:  
Bianca Brown, Naomi  
Kilchhofer, Vanessa Heldner



FFIS Graduation 2011:  
Caroline Dubois, Augusta De  
Gunzbourg, Charlotte Guan,  
Louis Gosperrin

It is naturally very rewarding for us to see students graduating after their long, intensive studies from Kindergarten all the way to their final exams. To honour their significant achievement, the Swiss School Committee is present at the Graduation Ceremony with a gift and a handshake to congratulate the proud Swiss graduates.

The Swiss School Committee wishes all present students a truly successful time at GSIS and FIS, and to the graduates, all the best in their future endeavours. We would also like to thank the Swiss Community for all their help throughout the year and wish everybody a prosperous and successful 2012 in the Year of the Dragon.

On behalf of the Swiss School Committee

René Herrmann  
President Swiss School Committee  
Swiss Association of HK  
rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com  
www.swiss-hk.com

Francoise Killias-Zillweger  
Doris Spirig  
Thierry Dubois  
Daniel Aregger  
Thierry Gloor



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# Joint Monthly Luncheons

Every year, the Swiss Association organizes a month luncheon in conjunction with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. We usually select topics that are thought-provoking, interesting, and timely and we have developed quite a following for these luncheons. Here is a snapshot of the topics that were presented last year.



## “Insights on Friendships and Doing Business in China”

January 2011: Stephan Rothlin, Associate Professor of the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing and Secretary General of the Center for International Business Ethics, CIBE in Beijing

In his book, “Symbols of Friendship”, Mr. Stephan Rothlin shares a few insights on friendship and doing business in China. The context of doing business is very much different here in Asia than what we might be used to in Europe. His

profound knowledge on the subject is a welcome tool to chart the course more strategically.

## “Golden Rabbit Year of 2011: The Art of Placement - Feng Shui”

February 2011: Joseph Leung, Executive Director, Revenue, Ocean Park Corporation

Joseph worked for the clubs of the Hong Kong Police Force and has lectured to various organisations for achieving balance and harmony with major emphasis on Feng Shui. He has reconfigured the Master Layout Plan of Ocean Park’s new development while working for HK SAR Gov’t Chief Secretary for Administration’s office. Joseph was born in Hong Kong with Scottish heritage and served in the British Army for a number of years. As a CPA and Forensic Examiner, he has worked in various continents before joining Ocean Park in 2006.

## “Investment Outlook for 2011”

March 2011: Dr. Henri Leimer, CEO for Asia of LGT Bank in Liechtenstein AG and Markus Surber, Senior Portfolio Manager with LGT Investment Management (Asia) Ltd.

Henri has been in Hong Kong for over twenty years, originally with Swiss Bank

Corporation and since 1994 as CEO of LGT Bank. He holds a doctorate degree in business administration from the University of St. Gallen (HSG). Markus Surber is an Executive Director and Senior Portfolio Manager at LGT Investment Management (Asia) Limited in Hong Kong and has over 18 years of investment experience. He is a graduate of business economics at the University of Applied Sciences in Zurich.



## “Internal Fraud in China: how to avoid becoming a victim”

April 2011: Nathan Kaiser, founding partner of Eiger Law

Do you think your business in China is safe because you trust the CFO with whom you have worked for ten years? Do you think your subsidiary in China cannot be defrauded because you always make sure there is a Swiss person in charge? If you say “yes” to any of the above, your business is indeed at risk... Nathan Kaiser will provide a brief outline of what can go wrong, what often goes wrong, as well as why, based on over a decade of experience in legal practice in Greater China.



## “The Rise of the East and the Challenge of Global Rebalancing”

May 2011: Dr Katja Gentinetta, Deputy Director, Avenir Suisse

Asia’s, and especially China’s, power and influence are challenging the world – in economic, political and social terms. What is the West’s understanding of this process, and how will it meet the probable consequences? In the coming decade it will be all about rebalancing – between markets and states, growth and values.



## “West Kowloon Cultural District”

June 2011: Mr. Colin Ward, Partner, Foster + Partners

Colin Ward, architect and partner at Foster+Partners has been working in Hong Kong since 1997. F+P have recently been declared the winner of the West Kowloon Cultural District

(WKCD) competition. Colin will explain why the design changed compared to the winning single roof design approach submitted nearly ten years ago. He will show how it aims to be more than just an exemplar cultural district, but also a vision of a sustainable future for Hong Kong.



**“Swiss Banking in the 21st Century”**

July 2011: Mr. Patrick Odier, Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA)

Swiss Banking is challenged with regulatory changes, global financial crisis and scandals. Patrick will discuss the challenges and show how Swiss banking not only weathers the storm, but is also prepared to capitalize on the opportunities ahead. Patrick Odier is a Senior Partner at Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie, Geneva since July 2008 and took over as Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association on September 17, 2009.

**“Gemstones as Tangible Assets”**

September 2011: Professor Henry A. Hänni, director of GemExpert GmbH.

When dealing with gemstones, a proper identification is necessary in order to know the actual value of the stone. This is done in a gemological laboratory



where identification and authenticity tests are made in order to identify the origin of a stone. Professor Hänni, as the Director of SSEF Swiss Gemological Institute, has inspected the most beautiful and valuable gemstones and jewellery pieces.

**“From Reef to Restaurant”**

October 2011: Professor Yvonne Sadovy, The University of Hong Kong

Most Hong Kong residents enjoy seafood but few know where the fish they enjoy comes from or how it is caught. In particular, few know how their taste for fish affects coral reefs and the fishing communities that depend on healthy coral reef ecosystems. Prof. Sadovy’s talk explores the impacts of Hong Kong



on coral reefs and coastal communities and the work being done to make those links more sustainable and how seafood consumers can help.



**“When kids go online: An educator’s perspective on play in the digital age”**

November 2011: Assistant Professor, Dr. Christoph A. Hafner, Department of English, City University of Hong Kong

More and more children are ‘hanging out’ in online spaces and virtual game worlds where they can chat with their friends, play games, share pictures. Some people see such developments positively to foster the development of creativity, social competence, and collaborative problem solving abilities. Others, however, worry about problems of internet addiction, cyberbullying, and online predators. Christoph will present both sides of today’s children going online.

**“A life in limbo: working with refugees and asylum seekers in Chungking Mansions”**

December 2011: Ms. Heidi Shrimpton Senior Funding and Development Officer and Mr. Daniel Burns, Swiss Social Worker of the Chungking Mansions Drop-In Centre of Christian Action

Hong Kong has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and therefore, does not have the necessary institutions in place to receive asylum seekers and process their claims for protection under



international law. Despite that fact, the number of new arrivals is increasing by the day yet the Hong Kong government offers minimal assistance. Consequently, the missing asylum system creates a significant humanitarian gap that a few NGOs and the UNHCR try to bridge.

**“Violence against health-care workers in armed conflicts”**

December 2011: Mr. Yves Daccord, Director-General, International Committee of the Red Cross

“Health Care in Danger” is an ICRC initiative that aims to address the widespread impact of illegal and violent acts that obstruct the delivery of health care, damage or destroy facilities and vehicles in armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Yves Daccord joined the ICRC in 1992 and worked in Israel, Sudan, Yemen, the northern Caucasus and Georgia. He returned to ICRC headquarters in 1997 as deputy head of the Division for the Promotion of International Humanitarian Law. He was appointed director-general in 2010.



## Christian Action

Whilst some expats and Chinese enjoy a fruitful lifestyle, living in nice homes with plentiful food, clothing and other creature comforts, there is another side of Hong Kong that is not so privileged and that many of us do not often see. Currently, 47% of Hong Kong Chinese live in dilapidated, public housing that is cramped and squalid. Imagine, if your family of four all lived in a flat the size of your living room, often with little ventilation and no air-conditioning?

Christian Action is a charitable organization that Swiss Association supports. It focuses on the groups such as ethnic minorities, local Chinese, orphans in China, new arrivals, exploited domestic workers and refugees and asylum seekers throughout Hong Kong and China. Christian Action offers services such as training, back to work schemes, advice and shelter.

We are delighted to announce that the Swiss Association has decided to sponsor a programme in 2011 and donated 50% of proceeds from the raffle ticket draw at the Swiss National Day dinner. The funds have been used for the Chungking Mansions Service Centre for refugees and asylum seekers.

Chungking Mansions Service Center is one of the only facilities for refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong.



Since 2004, the Refugee Programme has aimed to provide a holistic support system to refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong. Services particularly focus on children, teenagers, women and asylum seekers who are vulnerable, sick, traumatised and otherwise psychologically distressed.

If you would like to be involved further with Christian Action – Chungking Mansions Service Centre, then please email [hsd-hk@christian-action.org.hk](mailto:hsd-hk@christian-action.org.hk) or [ckmsc@christian-action.org.hk](mailto:ckmsc@christian-action.org.hk).

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# Interesting Travels: Ethiopia

by Barbara Rust

This past November, my husband, Heinz, and I decided to take a trip to a country that is not often visited by tourists—Ethiopia. To see all corners of the country, we chartered a private PC 12 (Swiss) in which Heinz and a partner were the trusted pilots and I, their confident co-pilot. The country was a delightful surprise for us and we found the people in the North were dignified, religious and always very approachable. We were met by our guide in Mekele, and drove to Gheralta Lodge in the heart of the Tigray, with its numerous stone carved semi-monolithic churches. We visited one of these, with its 500m ascent, climbing up almost sheer cliff faces and scrambling over large rocks, passing through narrow crevices, but with the reward of spectacular views and a Church with some beautiful frescos at the top.

We also took in an important religious festival, in which we were surrounded by white-robed people pouring into the church. The feeling was one of being transported into Biblical times and it was an amazingly fervent atmosphere around the church with the hundreds of people, like a sea of white, moving over the land. It was a very moving and

unforgettable experience.

We moved on to the Simien Mountains which sits at 3,200m and was formed by countless eruptions over millions of years which produced the dramatic jagged spectacular landscape with deep ravines.

Gonder has been the capital city for close to 200 years, from 1636, and being at the crossroads for three main caravan routes, it prospered and Emperor Fasiladas built The Royal Enclosure which encompasses 70,000sqm containing numerous palaces and castles, the oldest and the most impressive being the Fasiladas Palace.

Next, we flew to Lalibela, where legend has it that a dream a fabulous city of rock-hewn churches was revealed and God commanded that it be re-created, so with the help of angels by night and people by day, a second Jerusalem was built Lalibela!! The 11 rock-hewn churches here are monolithic, amongst them is one like a Greek Temple, said to be the largest rock-hewn church in the World 33.5 by 23.5m and 11.5 high. To be here at one of the important religious festivals, is to witness Christianity at its

most raw and powerful form, an awe-inspiring experience!

We then moved into Southern Ethiopia, close to the Kenyan Border, in the Omo River Area. We went straight to the Dimeka's Saturday market where the tribes come from all around the area to buy and sell. The Hamar tribe with their coppery-coloured tresses looked much like a stringy mop head and the women go around topless, requesting payment for any photos taken with them. We visited two more tribes, the Karo in Korcho village, who are famous for their body paint of strong white dot patterns, believed to inspire the guinea fowl, and live in clusters of huts surrounded by a thick high fence of branches. Being amongst the tribes peoples was like stepping into the pages of National Geographic magazine where everything had come to life!

Next, we flew to Addis Ababa and visited two museums including the National Museum with "Lucy", found in 1974, who shattered scientists' previous theories, by showing how she was walking upright with two legs, 3.2 million years ago! The other, the Ethnological Museum, set in the Palace of the former Emperor Haile Salassie. That evening we had a fantastic meal at the Castelli Restaurant, now third generation Italian owned and operated!

We ended the trip by purchasing some Ethiopian coffee which is so distinctly flavourful and aromatic that having a cup will always bring back memories of one of the most fascinating trips that we have ever taken!





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<p>Advertisement's film specifications</p> <p>Size: A5, W148mm x H 210mm</p> <p>Bleeding: 5mm</p> <p>Colour: CMYK</p> <p>Screen Line: 175</p>	<p>Advertisement's digital specifications</p> <p>Size: A5, W148mm x H 210mm</p> <p>Bleeding: 5mm</p> <p>Colour: CMYK</p> <p>Screen Line: 175</p> <p>File format: *.cdr, *.ai, *.psd, *.pdf</p> <p>Remarks: All fonts must be converted to curves</p>

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DIE AKTUELLEN "VORSORGE ZAHLEN" DER SCHWEIZ: DAS III-SÄULEN KONZEPT  
Schlüsselzahlen per 01.01.2011

I. Säule	<p><b>AHV / IV Alters-, Hinterbliebenen- und Invaliden-Versicherung</b> Ab dem 1. Januar 2011, gelten die folgenden Leistungen gemäss der "Renten-Skala 44" (volle AHV/IV Rente):</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Alters- oder Invaliden-Rente:</b></td> <td><b>Monatlich</b></td> <td><b>Jährlich</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimal Einzel</td> <td>CHF 1'160</td> <td>CHF 13'920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximal Einzel</td> <td>CHF 2'320</td> <td>CHF 27'840</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimal Ehepaar</td> <td>CHF 1'740</td> <td>CHF 20'880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximal Ehepaar</td> <td>CHF 3'480</td> <td>CHF 41'760</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>IV-Rentenstufen:</b> IV-Grad mind. 40% = Viertelrente, mind. 50% = halbe Rente, mind. 60% = Dreiviertelrente, darüber = voll</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Hinterbliebenen-Rente:</b></td> <td><b>Monatlich</b></td> <td><b>Jährlich</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minimal Witwen (-r) Rente</td> <td>CHF 928</td> <td>CHF 11'136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximal Witwen (-r) Rente</td> <td>CHF 1'856</td> <td>CHF 22'272</td> </tr> </table> <p>Die Mindest-Prämie pro Jahr beläuft sich auf CHF 475 (oder mit Ehegatte ohne Barlohn CHF 950) und die Beitragssätze für Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitgeber, betragen zusammen ca 13,1% des Lohns (AHV/IV/EO/etc.).</p> <p><b>Auslandsschweizer</b> zahlen 9,8% des Lohnes. Nichterwerbstätige CHF 904 bis ca CHF 11'000 pro Jahr. Zusätzlich werden 3% Verwaltungskosten belastet. Bei fehlenden Beitragsjahren werden sämtliche, oben genannten Zahlen, reduziert. Die individuellen AHV-Nummern, wurden per Juli 2008 geändert. „Alte“ Nummern sind weiterhin brauchbar.</p>	<b>Alters- oder Invaliden-Rente:</b>	<b>Monatlich</b>	<b>Jährlich</b>	Minimal Einzel	CHF 1'160	CHF 13'920	Maximal Einzel	CHF 2'320	CHF 27'840	Minimal Ehepaar	CHF 1'740	CHF 20'880	Maximal Ehepaar	CHF 3'480	CHF 41'760	<b>Hinterbliebenen-Rente:</b>	<b>Monatlich</b>	<b>Jährlich</b>	Minimal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 928	CHF 11'136	Maximal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 1'856	CHF 22'272
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II. Säule	<p><b>BVG Berufliches Vorsorge-Gesetz (Gesetzliches Minimum)</b> Auf Lohnbestandteilen von unter CHF 24'360 bzw. über CHF 83'520, brauchen keine Pensionskassen-Beiträge geleistet zu werden. Der <u>obligatorisch</u> zu versichernde Maximallohn, beträgt somit: 83'520 - 24'360 = CHF 59'160 Maximal anrechenbarer Jahreslohn minus Koordinations-Abzug (= maximale AHV-Rente, minus CHF 3'480)</p> <p><b>Obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohnanteil</b> (Minimaler versicherter Lohn: CHF 3'480 / Mindestjahreslohn ist CHF 20'880) Gesamtbeiträge: je nach Alter 10 - 24% des versicherten Lohns</p>																								
UVG	<p><b>Unfallversicherungs-Gesetz</b> - obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohn: Kein Minimum / Maximum = CHF 126'000</p>																								
AVIG	<p><b>Arbeitslosenversicherungs- und Insolvenzsicherungs-Gesetz / Änderung per 1.4.2011</b> Versicherter Lohn: kein Minimum / Maximum CHF 126'000 respektive 315'000</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Lohnbestandteile bis CHF 126'000</td> <td>2.2 Lohnprozente</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lohnbestandteile über CHF 126'000 bis 315'000</td> <td>1 Lohnprozent</td> </tr> </table> <p>Betriebsunfälle je nach Branche 0.17 – 13.50% für je nach Branche 0.68 – 4.87% für</p>	Lohnbestandteile bis CHF 126'000	2.2 Lohnprozente	Lohnbestandteile über CHF 126'000 bis 315'000	1 Lohnprozent																				
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MVG	<p><b>Militärversicherungs-Gesetz</b> Maximal versicherter Lohn = CHF 137'545</p>																								
III. Säule	<p><b>Privat: Gebundene und Freie Vorsorge</b> Für ein sanftes Alters-Ruhekissen, inklusive der Erfüllung von Extrawünschen oder einer frühzeitigen Pensionierung, reichen die ersten 2 Säulen nicht aus - insbesondere nicht für die Eintrittsgeneration (36 - 65-jährige). Damit es im Alter kein böses Erwachen gibt, bieten klare, massgeschneiderte Pläne individuellen Vorsorge-schutz und Sicherheit.</p> <p>Gebundene Vorsorge = Steuerlich begünstigt (<b>NUR mit Wohnsitz in DER SCHWEIZ</b>) Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Arbeitnehmer: CHF 6'682 p.a.</p> <p>Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Selbständige: CHF 33'408 p.a.</p> <p>Individuelle Vorsorge = <b>Weltweite</b>, steuerliche und erbrechtliche Begünstigung</p>																								

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German Swiss International School in Hong Kong  
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Lycee Français International de Hong Kong  
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Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Address

Floor/Apartment, Block, Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (required) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Fees \*

250HK\$ for individuals       450HK\$ for couples

### I/We would be interested in

- participating in committee work  
 helping to organize events, e.g. Easter Hunt, Samichlaus, sports, etc.

### Payment

Please complete this form and post it together with your crossed cheque, payable to "Swiss Association of Hong Kong", to the following address:

Swiss Association of Hong Kong  
GPO Box 9873  
Hong Kong

\* 30% of the fee will be contributed to the Swiss Benevolent Society



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The Swiss School Committee wishes to thank its 2011 sponsors for their continuous support. Hopes are high that previous sponsors will renew their valuable donations in 2012. The donors list is open to all and any additional contributions are more than welcome. Interested sponsors may contact the President of the Swiss School Committee, Mr René Herrmann at [rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com](mailto:rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com)



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