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129



Swiss
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THE DAY-DATE II



Editor's Message

Hello readers,

Welcome to the 2011 edition of the S'Alphorn magazine! I was honoured when the Swiss Association's President, Angelina Bussinger, asked me whether I would like to take on the role as Editor of the magazine this year. The magazine has a very long history so I was a bit unsure as to whether I could continue the long-standing tradition and produce an interesting, quality publication that was annually cherished and anticipated by the Swiss community.

Nonetheless, I agreed and jumped right in. I drew upon my previous newsletter experience and added a few new ideas in the hopes of improving the magazine. You will see a 'Chef's Corner' where we have featured a delicious recipe of the favourite classic Swiss dish—Kase Kuchlein. There is also a column that features profiles of some of our Swiss Association members. Another column profiles jobs that are interesting and less conventional, and in this edition, we hear from a mid-wife based in Hong Kong.

We also wanted to take this opportunity to bring attention to the regular monthly events that the Swiss Association organizes for those that may not know about them. For starters, the Joint Monthly Luncheons co-hosted with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong have been a popular success. The topics chosen are compelling and timely and range from business to areas of personal interest. In this S'Alphorn, we have listed the 2010 luncheon topics so that you can get a sense of the scope and themes. The well-liked Swiss card game Jassen also has a club that holds monthly gatherings and there are monthly events for the Swiss Association ladies that enable them to explore and enrich their lives in Hong Kong.

Lastly, we would like to use this space to announce the launch of the new and re-vamped Swiss Association website. The navigating functions have been improved and it has a new look. Please do take some time to have a browse especially since a lot of time and effort have been put into the upgrade.

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 Rabbit!

Bianca Zee-Geissler
Editor

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The Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK), founded over 60 years ago, serves as a focal point for the local Swiss community to socialize, foster friendships, conduct business networking, and meet and engage in activities of common interest. Throughout the years, the SAHK has welcomed numerous Swiss nationals in Hong Kong and enabled them to maintain and share their heritage and cultural experiences while abroad.

All year round, 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, Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Swiss XI, Swiss Dragon Boat Team, Swiss Sedan Chair Race Team and Swiss Rifle Association.

The SAHK also maintains an active and friendly website that is regularly updated in order to inform you of the latest news. We publish a yearly magazine, 'S'Alphorn', which provides a montage of our annual events and well as other informative news from our members.

Membership in the SAHK is open to all and we currently have over 580 members. To learn more about us, feel free to send us an email info@swisshk.com or explore our website www.swiss-hk.com.

Welcome to Hong Kong!



School Committee
René Herrmann

rene.herrman@swiss-hk.com



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Introduction to our new Committee Members



1st Vice President | Ueli Geissler

I was born in New Zealand and at one years old, my father's job brought us to Hong Kong. We lived here until I was nine and then we moved to Switzerland. I remember how 'tough' it was going from being a coddled young boy in Hong Kong to the countryside in Watwil and having to pass by my braunny classmates who called me 'China boy' even though I was as blond as they were. I soon adjusted to the Swiss country life and spent the rest of my youth learning to love and appreciate the beauty and nature of my homeland. My family settled in St. Gallen and I did my architectural degree at ETH. I loved being in the 'big city' of Zurich and relished in the cosmopolitan university life while there.

The seeds of my childhood beckoned and I came back to Hong Kong 15 years ago with no expectations to stay and just a small suitcase in hand. It was an adventurous journey that has seen me go from being a bartender upon arrival in the city to working on some of the most interesting and diverse architectural projects in Asia. I never expected to stay this long but the buzz of Hong Kong keeps me captivated and it is here that I met my wife and where our children were born.



2nd Vice President | Peter Spirig

Wouldn't you be interested in getting involved with the Swiss Association of Hong Kong?" I clearly remember Stefan Basler asking me this question roughly a year ago after a SAHK-Swisscham luncheon event. Having lived in Singapore in the late 90s, and then in Sri Lanka for 5 years before moving to Hong Kong, we have always found pleasure in participating in Swiss Associations events. And we noticed that it welcomed additional hands on deck ... so I decided to get a bit closer and agreed to some committee-related work! Doris, Noemi (2 1/2), Michelle (quite new to this planet) and I thoroughly enjoy our new home in Hong Kong, with its cultural diversity, vibrant city life, great outdoors, and fantastic food.



Events Coordinator | Martina Kaeslin

We're originally from Zurich and my husband, our three boys and I spent the past ten years on the East Coast of the United States—six years in New York State on Long Island, followed by four years in south east Connecticut. The youngest of our three boys was born in the U.S. and the other two started and enjoyed the initial part of their school careers in primary and middle school there. We felt more settled then ever, accumulating two large dogs and six chickens. As probably always, exactly when we felt most at home, the opportunity hit to move to Asia!

We all had very different views and expectations about Hong Kong and certainly prepared ourselves for a very different lifestyle—more city life, less outdoors. Turns out all of us were very wrong. These days I spend many mornings hiking the great country parks that Hong Kong Island has to offer. On weekends, we are often spending our time in the country parks of the New Territories. After almost a year in Hong Kong, I can say with certainty that none of us would have ever guessed that we could find almost longer and equally beautiful (but different) trails in Hong Kong than what we were used to back in rural Connecticut!

Editor - Articles | Bianca Zee-Geissler

My parents are originally from Shanghai and they moved to Hong Kong in their youth. I was born here but my family left for Canada when I was only three years old. We first lived in a tiny town in Ontario before moving to Vancouver when I was nine. Canada in those days had very few Asians. We were the only Asian family in the small town and in Vancouver, I could count the number of Asians at my school on my hand. Hence, I grew up living a completely Canadian lifestyle save for having a traditional Chinese upbringing at home. I am a total hybrid of Western and Chinese influences and really know both sides well. Even though I consumed Chinese soup daily and diligently collected lai-see red packets every Chinese new year, I spent the rest of my time soaking in the fresh mountain air on the slopes of Whistler and playing beach volleyball.

Going full circle, I came back to Hong Kong 15 years ago. When I first stepped foot in the city, I actually experienced culture shock and wanted to turn back. Even though I somewhat knew the language, the values and lifestyle here were so different to what I knew back in my home city. It has been an amazing journey ever since. It is the place where I was able to develop my career in corporate communications, where I met my lovely Swiss husband and where our children were born. Hong Kong is really a vibrant, dynamic city where opportunities abound and I was able to start two businesses. These days, I spend my time juggling freelance writing work with my sun hat business (www.swoon.com.hk) as well as the children.

Website Coordinator | Nathalie Piers de Raveschoot

We are a very cosmopolitan family—my origins are Korean, I grew up in Switzerland, my mother is German, father Swiss and I married a Belgian! I guess travelling and living all over the world is part of my family story. I have lived for couple of years in Canada, moved to Munich where I met my husband. After living apart from each other for more than a year, we decided to finally live together - so another move was on and I moved to London. After eight years in London, we had the opportunity to move somewhere in Asia and experience a completely different culture. We had the choice between Tokyo, Hong Kong, or Singapore and after a lot of discussion, we are here in this vibrant and dynamic city.



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Welcome & Goodbye

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Walter Baumgartner
Andrea Witmer & Rolf Bertschi
Mark & Ines Bjertnes
Bettina & Alexander Blank
Jerome Blatter
Caroline Spahr & Tim Burns
Hyun Jeong Buser-Park & Peter Buser
Esra & Thomas Ciesielski
Lorenzo Della Croce & Tina Ng
Jean-Marc Dizerens
Pierre Donnet
Thomas Egloff
Hedi-K Ernst Schmid
Hansjoerg & Claudia German
Markus Grimm
Matthias Weschke & Rita Haemmerli-Weschke
Peter & Ruth Haslebacher
Christina Hellmann
Francois & Cecile Hora
Conrad Huber & Andrea Huber Edelmann
Ella & Magnus Huber
Heinz Kaeser
Martina & Dieter Kaeslin
Anita Po Yee Lau
Erwin & Diana Luethi
Martina Lulic
Barbara & Nicholas Martin
Tod & Barbara Mawhinney
Douglas Moser & Florence Schnydrig Moser
Oliver Muggli
Tobias Muster
Nathalie & Bruno Piers de Raveschoet
Werner & Renate Schoeb
Cyrill Schroeder & Jutta Lackner
Alessandro Schueli
Michael Schuerch
Julia Schnellhardt & Oliver Schuhmann
Kurt Johann & Hilary Ruth Schwartz
Pascale Imbach & Adam Singer
Erich & Kesang Spirgi
Karin & Christian Sticher
Sandro & Anna Treier
Oliver & Debbie Trueb-Chan
Jenny Tse & Christian Venetz
Eric Waldburger
Wenny Wu
Man Sau Camelia Yeung
Georges Zechin
Urs Paul Zimmermann

Resigned members

Priska & Juerg Mattli
Daniel & Beatrice Rogger
Stefan & Sandra Arnold
Francois & Christine Bauder
Severio & Maria Teresa Balice
Rolf & Kris Kambli
Steve & Viviane Seneque - Lowe
Christian & Corinne Lang
Antoine & Maria Marguerita Candiotti
Lisina & Niklaus Fingerhuth Leung
Lukas & Kathrin Staub
Priska Stirnimann
Thomas & Edith Lehmann
Andy & Sylvia Weber
Hans Roth
Reto Bleiker
Peter Emil & Tadesa Gaehwiler
Peter & Luise Triebel
Richard & Prudence Ann
Sophie Dumas
Mark Engler
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Patrick & Pamela Gutmann
Sandra Helbling
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*Dear Swiss Citizens
Dear Friends of Switzerland*

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the members of the Swiss Association.

My Family and I arrived in Hong Kong end of August, just in time for the beginning of the new school year. My two daughters (13 and 8 years old) go to the German Swiss International School.

I entered 1987 in the services of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and successively worked in the Swiss diplomatic and consular representations in Rome, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Bonn, Osaka and Dubai. In 2005, after having spent 18 years abroad, I returned to the Foreign Affairs Department in Berne as Deputy Head of Finances where I was in charge of the financial planning for the department.

My husband and I were looking very much forward to be posted again in South East Asia. The immersion in this busy city was instant, the learning curve is steep. We really enjoy ourselves here.

In 2011, the Swiss Consulate General is looking forward to a very busy year. Switzerland will participate the first time ever in the Hong Kong Flower Show in March. The Basle Chamber Orchestra will participate in the Arts Festival on March 5th, 2011. From April to August, the Einstein-Exhibition of the Historic Museum of the city of Berne will be hosted at the Hong Kong Science and Technology Museum. During these 4 months, we will have many different activities around the exhibition; we will keep you informed about these and many more events with our newsletter.

Within the Consulate itself there have been quite a few changes in personnel: Mrs. Anita Nahr took up her assignment as personal assistant to the Consul General in December last year. Molly Li, who worked for the Consulate for the last 20 years, will retire by the end of February. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her loyal services and wish her all the best for her retirement. As for her successor, Ms. May Siu, she started at the Consulate beginning of February. Last but not least, we regret that Michael Schweizer will leave Hong Kong this summer.

Looking forward to get to know this very active Swiss Colony, I wish the Swiss citizens as well as the friends of Switzerland an excellent 2011!

Best regards

Rita Hämmerli-Weschke

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Other Organisations of the Swiss Community in Hong Kong

Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)

Werner Heimgartner, President | werner.heimgartner@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.

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 Chamber of Commerce (SCC) www.swisschamhk.org

Serge G. Fafalen, 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 | bmrbr@gmail.com

The SCCHK Young Professionals organise regular social and networking events for the younger members of the SCC.

Jassen

Thomas Burkhalter | jass@swiss-hk.com

The Jass club meets once a month at the Bankers Club for 4 friendly rounds and dinner. Dates are announced on www.swiss-hk.com.

SWISS XI

Peter Klaus, president | pfifepapi@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 | aluedi@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.

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

Events Calendar 2011

January

- 10 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 14 Swiss Cocktail
- 16 Discovering Pokfulam with Marco Foehn

February

- 11 Bowling Night
- 14 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Joseph Leung
- 17 Monthly Golf
- 19 Raclette in the Park

March

- 04 Girls Night Out
- 05 SWISS XI Tournament in Manila
- 07 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Dr. Henri Leimer
- 13 Swiss Rifle Shooting
- 17 Monthly Golf
- 18 AGM
- 28 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

April

- 11 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Nathan Kaiser
- 18 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- 21 Monthly Golf
- 24 Easter Egg Hunt
- tba BBQ
- tba Movies Night

May

- 10 Dragon Boat Warm up Race at Stanley
- 16 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club: Katja Gentinetta
- 19 Monthly Golf
- 25 A night at the Races
- 30 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

June

- 06 Dragon Boat Race at Stanley Main Beach
- 13 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 16 Monthly Golf
- 27 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

July

- 21 Monthly Golf
- 25 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

August

- 01 National Day Party at the Jockey Club
- 08 Golf Week in Switzerland
- 18 Monthly Golf
- 29 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

September

- 05 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 15 Monthly Golf
- 26 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club

October

- 03 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 17 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- 20 Monthly Golf

November

- 07 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 13 Operation Mercury
- 17 Monthly Golf
- 28 Jass Evening at the Hong Kong Bankers Club
- tba Sedan Chair Race

December

- 05 Joint Monthly Luncheon at the Hong Kong Club
- 15 Monthly Golf

For updates on events visit SAHK's (see top)

Swiss Cheese Pie "Käseküchlein"



Contributed by Lisina Fingerhuth Leung

Base

1 puff pastry, ready rolled

Filling

300g grated mature Gruyere cheese

Topping

2dl Cream
2dl milk
2 eggs
1/4 teaspoon salt
pepper from the mill
nutmeg freshly grated

Lay the pastry in the form (either one big one or several muffin size).

Fill with grated cheese.

Mix the topping ingredients with fork and pour over cheese.

Bake for 30 minutes at 220 on lowest shelf in the preheated oven.*

Serve with salad as main dish or as appetizers on a cold evening. Drink with it: Apple Cider, beer or strong white wine like Aigle, Yvorne or St-Saphorin.

En Guete!

In the Spotlight: Our Members



PETER GAUTSCHI

Peter is one of our longest members in the Swiss Association and has been in Hong Kong since the 50s.

How long have you been in Hong Kong?
Since October 1956!

Which city are you originally from and where did you live before HK?

Suhr/Graenichen AG school ...then worked in various Hotels in Montreux, Gstaad, Zurich, Ecole Hotelier in Lausanne, London, Basel, Australia, India and then, Hong Kong.

What brought you to the city?

A job as Assistant Manager of the Peninsula Hotel.

What line of work are you in?

Hotel Management and philanthropic activities

What do you love most about Hong Kong?

The excitement ,vitality, beauty and vibration of the most exiting and exotic city in the world.

What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

Golf, hiking and swimming and a meal in one of the fish restaurants on the outer islands. Enjoying and exploring Hong Kong with my camera.

Where are your three favourite places in Hong Kong?

Macau, Fan Ling and my home as well as countless exotic restaurants.

What do you miss about your home country?

The fresh air, the Grottos of the Ticino and the occasional ride on the SBB.

Peter at the opening of a Novartis School in Myanmar last year.

RITA HÄMMERLI-WESCHKE

Rita is quite new to Hong Kong and is the current Counsel General of Switzerland in Hong Kong.

How long have you been in Hong Kong?
We arrived at the end of August 2010.

Which city are you originally from and where did you live before HK?

I am originally from Berne. The last five years, we spent in Switzerland. Before that, we lived 18 years outside of Switzerland, just before Switzerland we were in Dubai and before that in Japan.

What brought you to the city?

My profession. I applied for the posting in Hong Kong and am very happy to be here.

What line of work are you in?

I am the Consul General of Switzerland

What do you love most about Hong Kong?

For official purposes, I really appreciate the easy access to the local authorities.

For private life, I love this unique mixture of a very busy city combined with peaceful nature.

What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

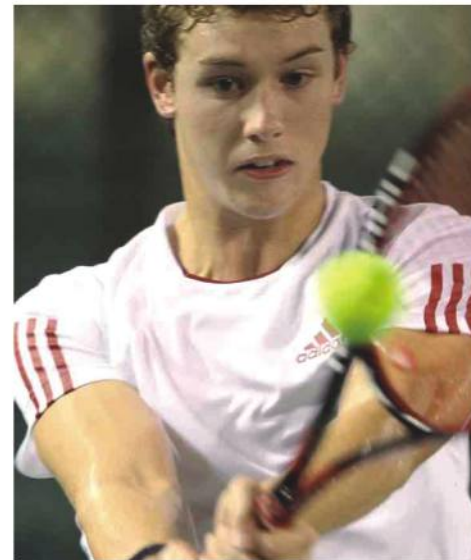
Discovering the "hidden" spots in Hong Kong.

Where are your three favourite places in Hong Kong?

The Peak, Stanley and Nan Lian Garden – but this will certainly vary in the future when I know more about Hong Kong.

What do you miss about your home country?

So far – nothing, just maybe sometimes a real 'Luxemburgerli'.



Janik was featured in the SCMP newspaper in September 2010.

JANIK BURRI

Janik is one of the Swiss Association's young members and is a champion tennis player.

How long have you been in Hong Kong?
I've been living in Hong Kong for 1 ½ years.

Which city are you originally from?

I was born in Switzerland and from there, our family moved to Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) when I was 3 years old and then to the U.S. (Amherst, New York), then back to Switzerland, and now Hong Kong.

What brought you to the city?

We came to Hong Kong because of my father's job and I currently live with my parents in Hong Kong, together with three other siblings.

What line of work are you in?

I am a passionate tennis player. I've been playing tennis as long as I remember but really got competitive when I lived in Switzerland from 2004-2009. I was a member of the Swiss National Tennis Team. I will finish school in 2012 and will then go to the U.S., hopefully with a tennis scholarship. I am in contact with some schools already and got two offers for a scholarship so far!

What do you love most about Hong Kong?

The local girls wanting to take pictures with me. :-)) The night life, my social life and everything is very convenient.

What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

On weekends I like to play tennis and go out with friends.

Where are your three favourite places in Hong Kong?

My favourite places in Hong Kong are the tennis courts, Central and Causeway Bay.

What I like about Hong Kong is that it is a safe city, it has a great public transport system, and the Chinese food. (but I don't mind burgers either!)

What do you miss about your home country?

I do not really miss much about Switzerland. I do miss the easy-going American lifestyle though and that is one of the reasons why I want to go back and study in the U.S. I have been to more than nine different schools in three different continents.

BRANDNER FAMILY

The Brandner family have been in Hong Kong for 14 years and are all well-versed in the Chinese language.

How long have you been in Hong Kong?

We have been in Hong Kong for 14 years with an interruption from 2007 to 2008, when we lived in Thailand. We arrived on August 23rd, 1996, after a three-week train trip from Zurich.

Which city are you originally from and where did you live before HK?

Both of us were living in Zurich when we met and got to know each other. Tobias grew up in the Canton Aargau and Gabi in Canton Schwyz.

What brought you to the city?

We came to Hong Kong because Tobias had a position with Basel Mission (today renamed as Mission 21) to serve as pastor in the prisons of Hong Kong.

What line of work are you in?

For the first 10 years, Tobias was mainly working as a prison chaplain, and in addition, he lectured at the Chinese University part-time. Since 2008,

Since 2008, he is working as prison chaplain part-time and as a full-time professor at the Chinese University, teaching theology. Gabi has been working as an event manager and later, in hotel management. She has now just finished her training as a yoga teacher and is teaching yoga part-time.

What do you love most about Hong Kong?

The warm weather, the mountains, the greenery, the sea, the vibrant city life, the food, and the people. Hong Kong is like living on the doorstep to China, at the same time it is part of Southeast Asia. It is a place full of opportunities and changes, offering constant surprises and opportunities to meet people from near and far.

What are your favourite weekend pursuits?

Our weekends usually only consist of Saturdays. As a pastor, Tobias is mostly engaged somewhere on Sundays, preaching in a local church or visiting prisons. The rest of the family usually goes to Kowloon Union Church and afterwards possibly to a recreation club nearby (USRC) or simply relaxing at home.

On Saturdays, we go hiking somewhere in the country parks as often as possible. Since living in Shatin, at Chinese University, it is very easy to go to the country side in the Sai Kung or Tai Po. With some pressure, we can convince our children to go with us.

Where are your three favourite places in Hong Kong?

Our second son's answer is 1) home, 2) school (as long as it is not the room for maths), and 3) Shatin New Town Plaza. Well, not quite the answers that would fit Gabi and Tobias! So, for Gabi and Tobias, it would be 1) Tai Long Wan, a remote beach in Sai Kung, 2) on a boat between Ko Lau Wan and Wong Shek Pier, 3) Shamshuipo, which is a place that likely preserves most of the charm of old and simple Hong Kong and where Tobias used to have an office.

What do you miss about your home country?

Friends and family, the clear air, the mountains and wilderness, the more relaxed life style.

From l. to r. Tobias and Gabi, Elia (12), Pina (9), Joel (14)

In the Spotlight: Interesting Jobs

Everyone would love to have a job that enables them to travel freely while continuing their profession. But did you ever think that a midwife could do just this?

Karin Siegler, founder of Wellness & Birth, has done just this, traveling from Germany, to Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Iran before settling in Hong Kong. "In countries where it is difficult to get good healthcare, people don't see you as a backpacker but as the provider of an invaluable service. I had a small clinic in each country," said Karin. Being a midwife enabled Karin to take her medical kit with her, serving people in their homes, without need of a hospital. "I met so many people and made good friends, I felt engaged in their society and was always taken care of. It was great for me and for my clients – who had a home service," continued Karin.

After a planned two-week trip that became a year of traveling and working, Karin returned to her native Germany before marrying and moving to Moldova, where she had her son. She opened her own clinic there, offering pre and postnatal checkups, pregnancy gymnastics and advice about breastfeeding as well as homeopathic care and aromatherapy.

In time, Karin and family moved to Iran, which became one of her favourite places. "Tehran is quite a dirty city with nearly 17 million people, but the other cities such as Persepolis are like a dreamland – with the old mosques, tea houses and coloured stones, it's very relaxed, it's like a fairytale," said Karin. Strict laws and the division between men and women makes Iran a safe place for lone woman to travel. Living in Iran gave Karin an Arabian Nights experience she will never forget – and working there was completely different. In the Islamic country where women always remain covered and wear headscarves, her experiences were governed by tradition and law, making it harder for her to practice. "The government would send women pretending to be pregnant, to check my premises and my practice! But I did manage to help some disadvantaged women there," said Karin.

Moving to Hong Kong, Karin found more changes in the way she worked, because families play a large role in the care of a child. "I was surprised by how modern the city is, compared with pregnancy healthcare, which is very conservative", said Karin. She admires the strong bonds between generations, understanding the need for family tradition, but warns of receiving out-of-date advice from elders. "In Hong Kong, pregnant women rely on the hospitals and every check up is something to worry about. They seem nervous and insecure, but pregnancy is not a sickness – it should be enjoyed." Karin was surprised to learn that a high number of clients could use their health insurance for the one-to-one service at home. "I'd really like to work with more Chinese families and modernize the attitude here," she said.

Karin offers a range of private pre and postnatal care services catered to your needs.

Tel: +852 9022 1779; Email: wellnessandbirth@yahoo.de



Dragonboat Team - A Call to Arms

The call to arms first came in November. Just six months had passed since the Swiss Dragons had turned in the best results ever – seventh place out of 132 teams in the 2009 Stanley Dragon Boat Championship. In charge again for the 2010 race was Christian Lang as Captain (and organizer) with Werner Heimgartner as coach (and drummer and slave driver). Fifteen bold souls scorned the inhospitable cold and windy conditions and signed up for the winter training.

At the end of February 2010 came the summons for the Swiss to turn up in earnest – to join the winter-hardened veterans. Grim determination to beat the 2009 results and leave Lorelei (the German team had challenged us and lost in 2009) in their wake showed in their faces as their eyes held focus on the goal.

So it was, on the morning of March 13th, the crew gathered for their first training session. The taskmasters surveyed those who had responded to the call. Their keen eye could tell that many of the 2009 stalwarts were absent and that there were quite a few who were new to the sport. As their eyes took in the 13 women and 16 men of various shapes and sizes, they hatched a plan.

Over the next 8 weeks, Captain and Drummer worked the paddlers focusing first on stamina and rhythm – long periods of rowing at less than full strength. Then came the training on the starts. Long, deep strokes to lift the heavy wooden boat followed by fast, short, powerful strokes to propel the boat, and then speed maintenance strokes with enough reserve for an explosive finish if need be.

The team was shaping up. They were working together and less than 8 weeks after that first arduous training was our first test. On Sunday, May 9th 24 paddlers turned up for the Deep Water Bay races. They would row 500 meters (longer than the 270 meter Stanley race) in fiberglass boats (that were lighter and held more crew). Lack of race practice showed. Our result in the first race was 2:39:00. Firmness of resolve also showed: results for races 2 and 3 were 2:30:50 and 2:30:18!!



Over the following four weeks, the plucky Swiss Dragons modified their start technique and put every ounce of effort into their practice. Over and over again they repeated the drills and responded to calls for POWER when really all that was left to give was heart. Thus it was when race day dawned on June 16. It was now time for the Dragons to go for Gold!

Go for gold they did: winning their first race by a huge margin in a time of 1:22:81. In the second race they were pitted against other first and second place finishers and came second with an improved time of 1:22:01 and qualified for the big event – THE GOLD CUP. In the last race we improved on our time and finished the race in 1:21:33 and placed 10th overall (out of 130). And Lorelei? They finished 25th! In just 12 short weeks, we had come close to our goal.

All of this would not have been possible without the sponsors: Bally, Chopard, Victorinox, Migros, Spiaggio Restaurant, Dine at Home, and Guido Churubini. Our thanks also to the support of the well wishers who turned up to cheer us on; and to Stefan and Inge Herzog for their delicious food which kept us in the best spirits; and to Werner, the only slave driver I know who has a heart of gold; and last but not least to our Captain, Christian Lang who sadly for us will be moving out of Hong Kong. Chris, you will always be remembered fondly.

Do come and row with us in 2011. The sound of the drums, the smell of the sea, the surge of the boat is an experience you will love.

Vishnu Murthy





Team Spirit Prevails

The past season of 2009-2010 was a very difficult one for the team and the last match day, we had to decide which team would be relegated. It was a nail-biting last round – full of tension to the last second. Though the Swiss XI had won the game, the other team in danger of relegation scored more goals than in most of their previous games together! In the end they still lost which kept our team in the first division!

In May, we lost our very good friend and supporter Wayne Beer. He was a great man showing up at most games, together with his wife Sigi, and on many occasions he spoilt the team and other supporters with fine food and drinks. The SwissXI will always remember Wayne.

The new season started in September. While we lost the early games against the four top teams, we turned around our fortunes and started to score goals and win games. We have improved all along and have a motivated team under the leadership of Juerg Niederberger.

MANILA TOURNAMENT 20./21. 2011
Once again, we had a strong team travelling to Manila for the yearly six-a-side tournament. Unfortunately, the size of our team was on the small side which did not allow the necessary, frequent changes. On the first day we had three games (SwissXI – Hongkong Krauts 2:1, SwissXI-FC Oranje 4:2 and SwissXI – XP Cebu 1:2). As the best placed third team we were automatically through to the ¼ final where we beat the team Mongdoo 4-1. The semi-final was next which we won convincingly 5:1 against Carnegie Taipei. We were in the final which, after a very hard fight and a bit of help by the referee, we lost against Manila All Japan 2:3.

GO AWAY TRIP 2010
At the end of May, the players and supporters (well over 20 participants) travelled to Koh Samui to celebrate the end of the season. As usual, we played a game against a local side, a mixture of expatriates and locals. We lost the game, not least because our average age was considerably above that of our opponents. Another tradition is the Hash run, always organized by our Hon. President Albert. It took us through parts of the island most tourists, and possibly even locals, have never seen. One more highlight was the soccer golf. The only difference to the real golf is that both the ball and the holes are much larger – there are par 3's, 4's and 5's. There are also 18 holes in a beautifully landscaped setting, under mature coconut trees. It is a par 66 course and the winning score was 12 under par. Three hole-in-ones were recorded by Albert, Tony and yours truly.

El Presidente



Golf in Switzerland

A Nostalgic Week



20 golfers, who either lived or are still living in Hong Kong, met on 1st August 2010 in Switzerland to foster old friendships and play golf. As usual, the week was very well organized by our friend Alex Hirt. Stationed in Bex, we played in Montreux (2x), Aigle, Sion, Sierre and Crans Montana.

The weather was not really on our side as we had quite a bit of rain and low temperatures. After the game, the bleak weather was forgotten and the talk was on golf, old times in Hong Kong and fine food and wines. Highlights included:

- a guided tour through the old town of Sion – by a previous president of the city council, followed by an Aperio in the "Stadthauskeller"
- visit of the fortification at Cindey (remarkably well preserved, interesting and for some a bit claustrophobic!)
- Raclette im Chateau de Ville in Sierre

Another highlight was the competition named after the original sponsor, Hardy Diethelm, i.e. Coupe Hardy. It is a combination of golf scores, throwing dices and darts. The trophy is a very heavy, bronze duck and it found a new home for one year at Peter Klaus' place in Switzerland—incidentally just one block away from its previous home/winner.

In 2011, the golf week will take place from 8th – 12th August somewhere in the vicinity of Basle.

Peter Klaus



Melchterli Cup 2010

Golf at its Finest

12 keen golfers assembled on the 23rd November to play for the coveted Melchterli Cup which was donated by Consul General Jaccaud in 1970. We had three keen participants flying in from Singapore and a number of newcomers who had never participated before. It is reflective of the interest in this competition and there is hope that next year, we might have a bigger crowd when two new, young Swiss golfers will organize the tournament, naturally with the support of the organizer who has done the job since 1989!

After four hours of play, the players assembled on the Veranda of the Shek O Golf and Country Club to talk about their experiences and enjoy the wonderful view of green and blue (fairways and sea).

After a deserved shower, everybody assembled in a cosy room and enjoyed the delicious food with a prize presentation afterwards. The results are as follows:

1st Christine Bokhari 39 stableford points
2nd Ute Hesse 34
3rd Hans-Gerd Hesse 32

Ute Hesse longest drive ladies
Vishnu V. Murthy longest drive men
Roli Schaerer closest to pin

Special thanks go to the sponsors of prizes including LGT Bank in Liechtenstein and Victorinox.

Peter Klaus



Sedan Chair Race 2010

Stealing the Show

The Swiss Team met at about 8:00 am at the Matilda Hospital on the Peak to get prepared for the Sedan Chair race. This year, the race took place on Sunday November 1st, right after Halloween Day. The organizer, therefore, wanted all teams to come up with something related to Halloween Day.

The Swiss team decided to dress up as Bankers from Lehman Brothers, awakened from the death. We 'sold' thousand of Minibonds on that beautiful Sunday morning to all the crowds alongside the race course.

The team made quite an impression and was covered in the press and on TV—in fact, it was the only photo of the event in the SCMP. The Swiss Team stole the show on that day and once again, made history on the Peak! We won 1st prize of The Joyce Smith Founders Trophy: Team that best captured the spirit of the event.

Sedan Chair Race is not only about fun. The organizer, Sedan Chair Charities Fund, and all participating teams collect money in 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. We collected about HKD 28,000 which goes directly into the Charity Fund of Sedan Chair Charities Fund 2010.

Werner Heimgartner



Raclette Stand at GSIS Bazaar

Welcome Back Beach Party



A Fragrance to Remember

You could smell the intense yet comforting fragrance of the cheese long before you even arrived! And that is something that gives Inge and Stefan Herzog great delight each year when they set up their stand at the GSIS Bazaar. In keeping with tradition, their raclette stand took pride of place at the buzzing bazaar with the usual long queue winding throughout the piazza of the school. After one sampling, most go back for seconds...or even thirds or more! Thank you to Inge and Stefan for enabling the Swiss community to hark back to their homeland with the delicious treat that they know and love.



Perfect End to a Hot Summer

This year, the Welcome Back Beach Party, held on September 18th, was the perfect gathering after a long and hot summer break. The turnout was fantastic and many families enjoyed themselves at the lovely Middle Bay Beach. It was an ideal location for the event—quiet, private, and picturesque—reminding us all about the beauty in nature that Hong Kong has to offer. While the adults caught up on their summer vacations, the little ones frolicked and played on the fine, white sand. Everyone then retreated to the Bauhinia restaurant and nibbled on delicious tapas while gazing out to the sea. We were even treated to some special Swiss music artists who performed for the group. It could not have been a more perfect day! Hope to see you next year.

Swiss National Day

Home Away from Home

Since I was new in Hong Kong, I wondered what to do on the 1st of August? I was fortunate enough to have the chance to help out at the Swiss Association's Swiss National Day Celebrations which were held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club in Happy Valley. It was an incredibly fun and festive event where we celebrated the 719 years of unity in Switzerland since the 'Rütlichschwur'.

The theme this year was 'Pink' which represented the unity of red + white. All guests were resplendent in their pink attire and the ballroom was aglow with every shade of pink imaginable.

The MC's, Michael Schweizer and Winnie Kan had the crowd roaring with laughter with their 'Think Pink' quiz which generated quite a competitive spirit as participants anxiously sought out replies amongst their table guests.

Guests also proudly sang the Swiss National anthem in 4 languages helped along by the Hong Kong Bach Choir.

Consul General Hans J. Roth said a few words of farewell to the Swiss community, after which Serge G. Fafalen presented him with a joint farewell gift from the SAHK and SCC: Forget-me-not cufflinks.

The food was something to behold. Although it was much too hot outside for raclette, I was completely sold upon my first morsel and it was just as delicious as if it was a cold, winter day! The buffet was a true feast, rich in color and taste, and just a perfect piece of the Swiss kitchen that I



I've been asked to thank the following people for their generosity and support:

- The 1st August Committee members, Angelina Bussinger Lee, Ashley Lau, Emily Chaw, Fabian Kleemann, Felix Ng, Irene Lo, Michael Schweizer, Philippe Spielhofer, Stefan Basler, Thomas Rechtsteiner, Winnie Kan
- The volunteers at the registration desk, selling Pro Patria pins and raffle tickets:
- Dagmar Winkler, Eugenie Choy, Hannes Weibel, Ines Reichlin and her mum, Michelle Kwok, Patricia Bussinger Pizi, Patrick Meyrat, Reto Bleiker, Sibylle Nanzer
- Andrea Ragazzo, for the design of the invitation, programme and smart pink shirts.
- Our Consul General Hans J. Roth for the white wine aperitif.
- Max Burger for sponsoring the entertainment.
- Fritz Sommerau and the staff at the HKJC.
- Daniel Wettling for the drawing on the invitation.

The evening could not have been better organized and I could feel that everyone had a wonderful evening together with family and old and new friends. I'm already looking forward to the next 1st August event in Hong Kong.

Fabian Kleemann

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

Gold Sponsors

Chopard, DKSH Hong Kong Ltd., Lindt & Spruengli, SWISS International Air Lines, Victorinox

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and all the companies and individuals who contributed to the raffle prizes as **Bronze sponsors**.



Family Hike in Saikung

Exploring Hong Kong's Wilderness

The Sai Kung Peninsula is renowned for its scenic beauty and on November 14th, we ventured to this rare treasure for a sample. Situated on the east coast of the Sai Kung Peninsula, Tai Long Wan is flanked by two magnificent beaches, Ham Tin and Tai Wan. The Hong Kong Tourist Board describes Tai Long Wan as 'the jewel in the peninsula's crown' with 'an expansive bay with long, white sand beaches ringed by hills and headlands'. Big words indeed but the description is spot on!

Many eager hikers turned up ready for a day of hiking, swimming, exploring, and dining. We climbed up the valley between Sharp Peak and Tai Mun Shan where we were rewarded by the spectacular panoramic view of Tai Long Wan and its beaches. In no time at all, we found ourselves on the powdery sands of the middle beach, Ham Tin Wan, taking a plunge into the cooling sea. After the refreshing dip, we relished in the delicious home-cooked Chinese lunch at a small café on the beach. Nearby, a village lady tried to sell one particular cute little black dog which had all the kids trying to convince their parents to buy the critter. In the end, they were happy to head back home with the mascot of the day, Oscar the Saint Bernhard, who pulled his weight and trekked to the end along with everyone else!



Samichlaus Party

Night at the Races

First Class all the Way

It was a first-class event from start to finish! After the regular routine of the day, it was nice to arrive to the buzz of excitement at the Happy Valley racecourse, step into the sanctuary of the private box arranged by the Swiss Association, and relax with a perfectly chilled glass of wine. The delicious smell of food wafted throughout the room and soon drew me over to a smorgasbord fit for a royal feast. The endless selection of appetizers, entrées, and desserts were beautifully prepared and mouth-wateringly tasty.

In the luxury of the private box, every whim was catered for by the helpful staff and there were no noisy distractions. It enabled me to really focus on which strategy to deploy for my bets—either randomly by name or lucky numbers or both? I ended up choosing a technique that combined names, numbers, and even the jockeys' silk shirts.

Some of the guests went down to the pre-race paddock to get up real close to those strong and powerful creatures and their jockeys. Alas, my strategy did not make me wealthier than when I started. Nonetheless, it was a memorable and tremendously fun evening of meeting people and watching the world, I mean horses, pass by.

Hope to see you on May 25th, 2011 for the next 'Night at the Races' organized by the Swiss Association of Hong Kong!

Angelina Bussinger

Fun For All, Naughty or Nice

On a lovely Sunday afternoon under sunshine and blue skies, our beloved Samichlaus journeyed to the shores of Hong Kong to see an eager and enthusiastic group of children. He was greeted by the sweet voices of the children singing an old favourite, 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. It was so warm this year that he decided to shorten his beard but there was no mistaking who he was. The children all clamoured to meet him up close and hear his yearly 'review' of their good behaviour and behaviour that needed improvement. Each child listened intently and Schmutzli rewarded all afterwards with a goody bag filled with special home-baked treats. Everyone enjoyed a feast which consisted of delectable gourmet contributions from our members and included organic Swiss beer of which some of our young adults had numerous and generous samplings. The children crafted beautiful lanterns that were certainly put to good use when we tried to find our way out of the park under a dark, nighttime sky. Many thanks to Claudia Buffoni and Regula Waegeli for organizing the "Bastelecke" for the kids.

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Jassen Evenings

Every last Monday of each month, an enthusiastic group gathers at the Bankers Club in Central for the game of Jassen. 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, rounded out by a scrumptious dinner prepared by chef Daniel Wettlin. So, whether beginner or seasoned pro, come and join us for a round!

Thomas Burkhalter

	Name	Year Total	Average	Name	Year Total	Average	
1	BURKHALTER Thomas	12,665	3,166	11	VOGELSANGER Andreas	10,520	2,630
2	STEINER Urs	12,404	3,101	12	CHERUBINI Guido	10,512	2,628
3	HUG Stephane	12,078	3,020	13	SARGENT Yvonne	10,367	2,592
4	JEAN-RICHARD Pius	12,011	3,003	14	RUEST Heinz	10,362	2,591
5	DALI Niklaus	11,971	2,993	15	HERZOG Stefan	10,355	2,589
6	DOERIG Leo	11,953	2,988	16	FRAUCHIGER Peter	10,166	2,542
7	NEUMANN Nancy	11,600	2,900	17	LANG Christian	9,890	2,473
8	GROSSRIEDER Charles	11,367	2,842	18	RECHTSTEINER Thomas	8,683	2,171
9	HAAS Daniel	11,347	2,837	19	MILEWSKI Damian	8,401	2,100
10	JEAN-RICHARD Dominic	10,981	2,745	20	KUENZLER Martin	8,313	2,078

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Swiss School Committee

The Swiss Association does not only organize social events. It is also composed of different subcommittees, including the Swiss School Committee. Some of you may have never heard of the Swiss School Committee before so here is a message from its President, René Herrmann, who gives us an overview of the role of this committee.

Dear All,

In April and May this year, the Swiss School Committee (SSC), in collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland, implemented a survey to find out where our Swiss children are schooled and what problems the parents may have encountered finding the right school for their children. What was this survey all about?

Let me start by introducing the Swiss School Committee first. The Swiss School Committee (SSC) is a sub-committee of the Swiss Association of Hong Kong (SAHK). Currently, there are five of us in the SSC who voluntarily work with the goal to:

- Safeguard the cultural and educational interests of the Swiss community with the German Swiss International School (GSIS), the French International School (FIS) and the Swiss government.
- Act as a contract party to the GSIS and FIS.
- Organize and collect donations / contributions to support the GSIS and FIS.
- Maintain a direct liaison with the relevant Swiss government offices.

The Swiss Federal Office of Culture with its financial contribution and the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) are supporting the Swiss Community in Hong Kong. This means that our focus is to organize fundraising in the Swiss business community in order to qualify for subsidies from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture. With the funds raised locally and the subsidies received from the Swiss government, our committee supports the two schools that teach in one of our national languages. In return, the schools hire three teachers at GSIS and one at FIS.

Fundraising during the present times is never easy especially when we see that the incentive of getting the Swiss children into GSIS or FIS is becoming less attractive. In reality, Swiss companies in Hong Kong are increasingly employing other nationalities and/or Swiss Citizens without children. The number of Swiss children attending either GSIS or FIS are only a small percentage of the Swiss children living in Hong Kong.

Therefore, we wanted to find out what the Swiss community in Hong Kong prioritizes in terms of education and if there were any financial issues related to the choice of the school. With the assistance of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, we created the survey and hope to use the information to streamline the support of the future education for Swiss children in Hong Kong. Other various projects are in discussion such as Swiss languages and Swiss culture and liaisons with other international schools.

To view the results of the Survey, please visit the Swiss Consulate website at:
<http://www.eda.admin.ch/hongkong> where you will find a link on the right hand side of the page.

René Herrmann
President, Swiss School Committee
rene.herrmann@swiss-hk.com

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2010 Luncheons at a Glance

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 glance back at the topics that were presented last year.

January 2010: Mr Yonghao Pu – Head of Wealth Management Research Asia-Pacific and Chief Investment Strategist, UBS

“Asia in 2010: Nurturing the roots of growth”

Asia has been leading the global economic recovery in 2009, helped by its own solid economic fundamentals and stimulus policies. While the region is in a much better shape, it is facing critical challenges in 2010. With a depressed labor market in the West and the policy tightening firstly in this region, questions remain whether Asia will be able to nurture its fresh roots of growth amidst sluggish global demand and rising energy prices, and whether Asian stock markets will mount to a sustainable recovery.

February 2010: Max Gehrig – CEO of Eugster/Frismag, Shenzhen

“Selling the same but different: Marketing strategies with OEM products”

Market strategies and brand management are key success factors once it comes to the retailing of OEM manufactured products. OEM production as a form of contract manufacturing provides the market with the unique situation of having various vendors selling the same product differentiated only by design and brand. The variation of success in selling products is astonishing and led to the disappearance of market leaders and rocket up no-names.

March 2010: Raymond Lo - popularly known as “Fung Shui Lo”

“Predictions for the Year of the Tiger”

The Year of the Tiger, is symbolized by two elements – metal sitting on top of wood. According to the cycle of birth and destruction, metal is the destroyer of wood and so they are on the destructive cycle and have a conflicting relationship. Unfortunately, this means the year 2010 will not be peaceful with more international conflicts coming up. Economy-wise does the tiger carry the seed of the fire element and so is there a strong chance of a more substantial economic recovery with stronger optimism starting from the spring season?

April 2010: Joseph Leung – Executive Director of Revenue, Ocean Park

“Managing Edutainment: Insights from Ocean Park”

Ocean Park develops its appeal with a unique business concept combining education, entertainment, and environmental conservation into a single park experience. Unlike zoos, Ocean Park plans interactive learning activities involving visitors, animals and nature and provides entertainment through exciting experiences of the natural environment for individuals, peer groups and families. Despite the emergence of other theme parks, Ocean Park continues to attract increasing numbers of visitors.

May 2010: Paul Husband - Founder of Husband Retail Consulting

“Exploring Asia’s Love Affair with Luxury”

Paul Husband is managing director of Husband Retail Consulting and a co-author of “The Cult of the Luxury Brand”, the first book describing the explosion in luxury goods consumption in Asia and now in its fourth print run. Paul has lived in Hong Kong since 1985 and worked for Swire Properties as marketing manager for Pacific Place for 10 years and founded Husband Retail Consulting in 1998. The company advises shopping centre developers on the planning and leasing of their retail centres and advises on projects throughout Asia. Paul will share his views on why people in Asia aspire to own luxury goods so enthusiastically and provide his personal insights into the different luxury goods markets in the region, their unique characteristics and their future potential.

June 2010: Dr.Simon Ogus - CEO of DSGAsia Limited

“Sustainable Recovery or Bubbles Interrupted”

When the greatest credit Ponzi scheme ever seen started to implode in 2008, the world was staring into the abyss. Fortunately, we pulled back from the brink but has the “solution” to the problems caused by too much debt just been to create even more debt, and is this really the basis for a sustainable recovery? The shock appears to have belatedly propelled the region into embracing policies of domestic demand re-orientation. Can these flourish even in the absence of a robust and sustainable recovery in external demand, and can Asian policy makers head off the burgeoning risk of local asset market bubbles and busts?

July 2010: Patrick Odier - Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA), Senior Partner, Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie.

“The Swiss Financial Centre: Well-Equipped for the Future”

After finishing his studies in economics at the University of Geneva, Patrick Odier graduated with an MBA from the University of Chicago. He joined private bankers, Lombard Odier Darier & Cie, in 1982 and completed his training in Zurich, New York and Montreal before becoming a Managing Partner of the bank in 1986. He has been Senior Partner of Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie since July 1, 2008. Patrick Odier took over as Chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association on September 17, 2009.

September 2010: David O’Rear - Chief Economist, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

“Recent Developments and Prospects for Hong Kong, 2010-2011”

David O’Rear, Chief Economist at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, last spoke with us two years ago, just as the global recession was getting underway. At that time, he said, “recession is the least of our worries,” and warned that the multi-faceted combination of financial upheaval, real estate collapse and unsustainable levels of both household and public debt would finally put to rest the notion that East Asia could somehow decouple from the world’s wealthy economies. What ensued was the worst global economic crisis in many decades, one whose recovery is even now threatening to stall.

October 2010: Robert Broadfoot - Managing Director, Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd.

“Asia: Horizon Gazing”

Robert Broadfoot is the Founder and Managing Director of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy, Ltd. (PERC). A US citizen, Bob graduated in economics from Oberlin College in the United States in 1972. Upon graduation, he joined a Swiss consulting group that specialized in analyzing foreign exchange and capital control risks in developing countries including Asia. He moved to Hong Kong in 1975, when he founded PERC to help banks and multinationals identify and manage country risks in Asia. He utilizes scenario-planning techniques to help companies understand the parameters of uncertainty they face and signposts to gain a competitive advantage through early recognition of changing dynamics between countries.

November 2010: Mr. Wong How Man - Founder and President of China Exploration & Research Society

“From Exploration to Conservation: A 21st Century Outlook for a New Generation

Wong How Man began exploring China in 1974 as a journalist. He is Founder and President of the China Exploration & Research Society (www.cers.org.hk), a non-profit organisation specialising in exploration, research, conservation and education in remote China. Prior to starting his own organisation in 1986 in the U.S., Wong had led six major expeditions for the National Geographic. Wong has authored over a dozen books, among these, “From Manchuria to Tibet” won the prestigious Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Award in 1999. His book “Islamic Frontiers of China” was published in the UK in 1990, long before the topic became of worldwide interest.

December 2010: Tobias Brandner - Prison Chaplain of the Correctional Services Department Hong Kong and Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

“Life and Faith Behind Prison Bars”

Do not miss this chance to hear firsthand the experiences of Tobias Brandner (Th.D. University of Zurich, Switzerland), an ordained minister of the Swiss Reformed Church, who has learnt to understand Hong Kong from a perspective his work brings him close to. After having worked in prisons in Switzerland, he has for the past 13 years been working in prisons in Hong Kong. His encounters have touched many inmates and caused spiritual changes. Besides his ministry as prison chaplain, he works as Assistant Professor at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, teaching Western church history, missiology, and ecumenism.

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- A | Front cover - inside
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DIE AKTUELLEN "VORSORGE ZAHLEN" DER SCHWEIZ: DAS III-SÄULEN KONZEPT

Schlüsselzahlen per 01.01.2011

I. Säule	AHV / IV Alters-, Hinterbliebenen- und Invaliden-Versicherung	
	Ab dem 1. Januar 2011, gelten die folgenden Leistungen gemäss der "Renten-Skala 44" (volle AHV/IV Rente):	
	Alters- oder Invaliden-Rente:	Monatlich Jährlich
	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
	IV-Rentenstufen:	
	IV-Grad mind. 40% = Viertelrente, mind. 50% = halbe Rente, mind. 60% = Dreiviertelrente, darüber = voll	
	Hinterbliebenen-Rente:	Monatlich Jährlich
	Minimal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 928 CHF 11'136
	Maximal Witwen (-r) Rente	CHF 1'856 CHF 22'272
	Die Mindest-Prämie pro Jahr beläuft sich auf CHF 475 (oder mit Ehegatte ohne Barlohn CHF 950) und die Beitragsätze für Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitgeber, betragen zusammen ca 13,1% des Lohnes (AHV/IV/EO/etc.).	
	Auslandsschweizer zahlen 9,8% des Lohnes. Nichterwerbstätige CHF 904 bis ca CHF 11'000 pro Jahr. Zusätzlich werden 3% Verwaltungskosten belastet.	
Achtung!	Bei fehlenden Beitragsjahren werden sämtliche, oben genannten Zahlen, reduziert.	
	Die individuellen AHV-Nummern, wurden per Juli 2008 geändert. „Alte“ Nummern sind weiterhin brauchbar.	
II. Säule	BVG Berufliches Vorsorge-Gesetz (Gesetzliches Minimum)	
	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)	
	Obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohnanteil	
	(Minimaler versicherter Lohn: CHF 3'480 / Mindestjahreslohn is CHF 20'880)	
	Gesamtbeiträge: je nach Alter 10 - 24% des versicherten Lohns	
UVG	Unfallversicherungs-Gesetz - obligatorisch zu versichernder Lohn:	
	Kein Minimum / Maximum = CHF 126'000	
AVIG	Arbeitslosenversicherungs- und Insolvenzschiadigungs-Gesetz / Änderung per 1.4.2011	
	Versicherter Lohn: kein Minimum / Maximum CHF 126'000 respektive 315'000	
	Lohnbestandteile bis CHF 126'000	2.2 Lohnprozente
	Lohnbestandteile über CHF 126'000 bis 315'000	1 Lohnprozent
		je nach Branche 0.17 – 13.50% für Betriebsunfälle
		je nach Branche 0.68 – 4.87% für
MVG	Militärversicherungs-Gesetz	
	Maximal versicherter Lohn = CHF 137'545	
III. Säule	Privat: Gebundene und Freie Vorsorge	
	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.	
	Gebundene Vorsorge	= Steuerlich begünstigt (NUR mit Wohnsitz in DER SCHWEIZ)
		Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Arbeitnehmer: CHF 6'682 p.a.
		Steuerlich begünstigter Maximalbeitrag für Selbständige: CHF 33'408 p.a.
	Individuelle Vorsorge	= Weltweite , steuerliche und erbrechtliche Begünstigung

Wuenschen Sie nähere Informationen oder Erläuterungen, kontaktieren Sie bitte

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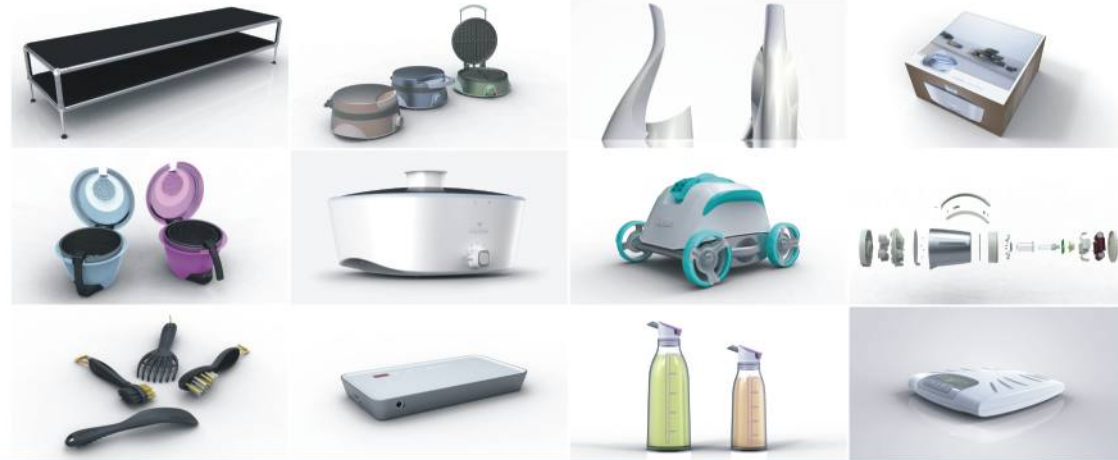
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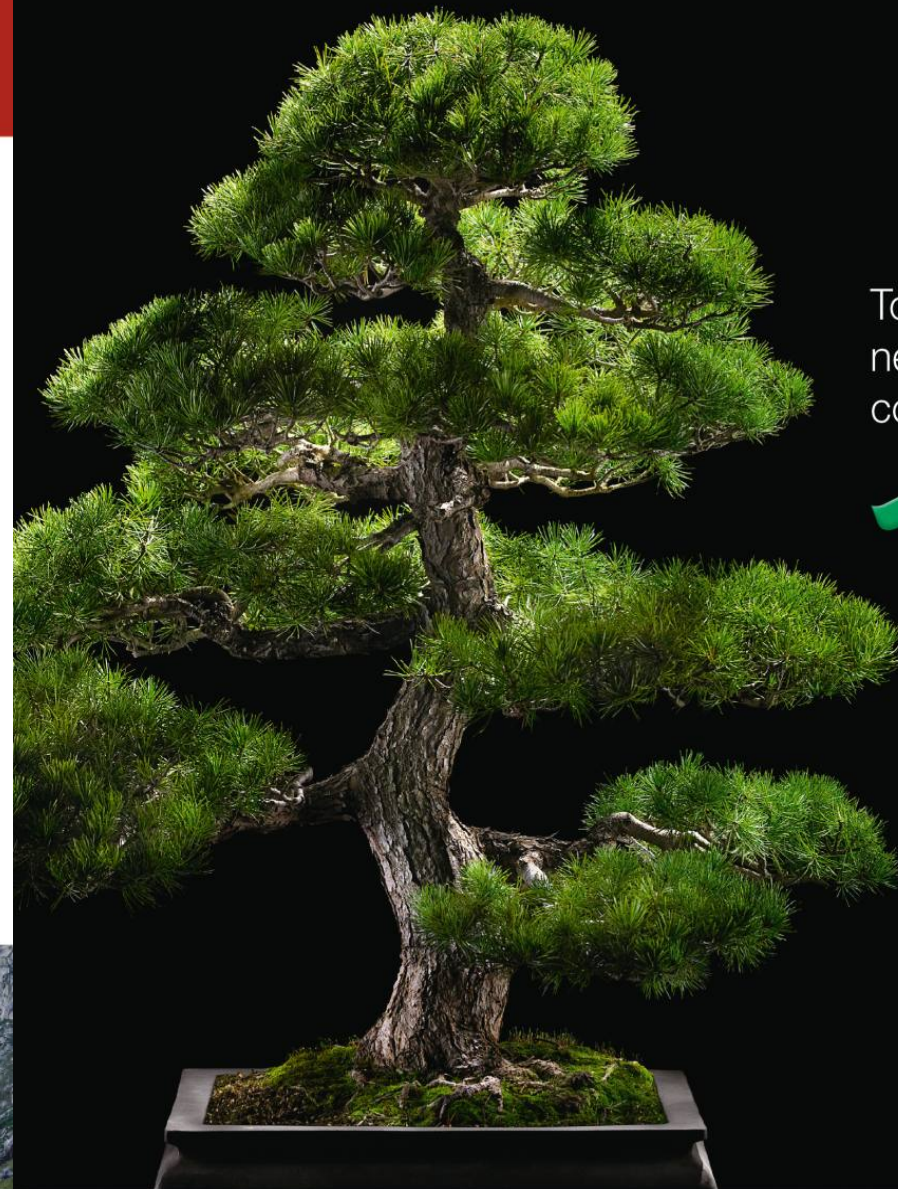


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