



Dear Friends,

Message from the President

Thanks to all of you who showed up at the Annual General Meeting last January 24 - a particular word of appreciation to the "Rembrandt" hotel for their excellent organization and superb International buffet dinner.

As you know the committee did not change much and the election process did not, as usual, create too much excitement - A call for volunteers to join this year's committee was also not met with a great wave of enthusiasm (!) from the floor.

I am however very pleased to welcome Ms. Danielle Schwaar and Mr. Markus Ruprecht as new committee members and we all remain committed to serve the Swiss Community in Bangkok to the best of our ability.

So it's back to work and it is our firm intention to continue being creative in the running of the Society and the organization of our events but we also realize that 1997 will be more challenging and we count on your support in the coming months.

Firstly, in the light of the very favorable feedback we have decided to continue with the publication of this newsletter and improve its layout and contents. However, as mentioned during the AGM it requires a financial commitment from the community to make it financially viable and I would now like to call on those of you interested in advertising in our "Swiss Echo" to contact any members of the committee whose name and phone numbers you will find on the last page of this publication - costs for a minimum of 4 issues is Bht. 15'000.- for the standard bottom page (18 x 4 cm) and Bht. 7'000.- for half the size.

We have also decided to give "Swiss Echo" a more helvetic flavor by encouraging articles in our national Languages and not only in English - so please feel free to contribute in Schwyzerdütsch, French, Italian or Romansch any articles, recipes, jokes, etc. that you wish to share with us.

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The first event of the year was a jointly organized with the Swiss-Thai Business Association and saw some 60

Photograph: ref.on page 2

persons attend the evening during which Minister Thomas Fuglister, Head of the Service for the Swiss abroad, addressed us on Issues and Policies affecting the Swiss abroad.

Many of you have expressed the wish that we organize a "Jass evening" and so you will be happy to know that this will be taking place on Saturday April 19. So "Jassers" out with the deck and get ready for action - this promises to be an evening of fun with lots of prizes -

In the meantime we wish you a very Happy Easter and hope you will enjoy the hot season (Be positive - Mango time) and a very Happy Songkran festival.

Sincerely,
Phil C Guinand
President SSB



New committee members 1997:



Danielle Schwaar
Committee member



Markus Ruprecht
Committee member

Titel Page

The picture shows from right to left:

Mr. Thomas Huber (Principal of Swiss School Bangkok)

Minister Thomas Fuglister (Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad)

H.E. Ambassador Blaise Godet

Mr. Paul Somm (President of the Swiss-Thai Business Association)

Editor's column

Dear readers,

This is now the fifth issue of the Newsletter "SwissEcho". As editor of "SwissEcho" I would like to take the opportunity to look back as well as looking into the future.

One year ago, the Committee of the Swiss Society decided to produce a small newsletter. With this newsletter, we wanted to inform our members about coming and past events, introduce people from the Embassy and from the Committee, announce new members, calendar of the Swiss School and much more.

We also made in our first issue a questionnaire to know more about your interests, so we can arrange functions you would favour. We also let you choose the name for this newsletter: Swiss Echo (Although one member suggested "Big Brother is watching you").

I am a computer freak and so I offered to make the layout, scan all the pictures and finally send the Disk to a print shop. This put me into quite a difficult and time consuming position - I'm not a professional, time is always too short and I had no experience with a print shop.

What came out? Newsletter 96/1 had terrible colour problems (one reader was right to tell me: "please improve the picture quality")

I changed the print shop - but as time is always the main problem - there were still problems. I went to the print shop to get some very helpful instructions - and in the 3th issue it seemed to be quite O.K.

I constantly try to improve Swiss ECHO - but please be patient. I'm always happy to get response from our readers and as the President put it: "it's our society." I say "It's our Swiss Echo." Your contributions, advertisements, pictures and comments will keep it alive! Do you want it?

I wish you a very wet Songkran

Albin

This could be your ads

Visit from Minister Fueglistner, Head of the Service of the Swiss Abroad



Mr. Fueglistner kindly accepted the invitation of "The Thai Business Association" and the "Swiss Society Bangkok" to address the Swiss Community in Thailand on the

subject of current challenges for Switzerland, issues and policies affecting the Swiss abroad.

On his way to the consular conferences in Singapore and Canberra he agreed to stop in Thailand to visit the largest Swiss Community in Asia and the Swiss-School (RIS Swiss-Section) which has been writing a success story for more than thirty years.

In his speech he explained first, what exactly his task is: The Service for the Swiss abroad, within the Department of foreign affairs is dealing with the policy of the Federal Government with respect of the Swiss abroad, as it is embodied in the Swiss Constitution.

He talked about Economy and the

relationship of Switzerland with the European Union and the very pressing subject of the role of Switzerland during the Second World War.

He then gave details about The revision of the Law on Citizenship, the voting



Mr. Paul Somm

right for the Swiss abroad, the project to change the optional pension scheme (AHV/IV) for the Swiss abroad and the new Law on Health Insurance.

There was a vivid discussion about the changes in the tenth revision of the state old-age and survivors'



H.E. Ambassador
Blaise Godet

pension scheme which came in force on 1st Jan. 1997.

These essential information's concerning the Swiss living abroad were most appreciated by the audience.

A big hand for Minister Fueglistner.

Esther Kaufmann

New at the Swiss Embassy:



Kurt Beatrice
Consular stagiaire



Maier Martin
Consular officer
in charge of AHV/AVS, old-age, survivors and disability insurance scheme and visa matters



Schneeberger Rene
Consular officer
in charge of chancery matters (registration, passports, births, marriages, divorces, death etc.)

Annual General Meeting 1997

Happy that the year is over



Or.....
Happy to be re-elected



AGM
1997



Good food



Moi,
Je veux vous dire
Ceci!





Girl Talk?



Welcome home - Young member



Pretzel Mask

AGM
1997



We rather not know what they are talking about





Swiss- Thai Business Association - Stamm

In the evening of the first Thursday of every month, members of STBA and their guests meet from 6:30pm onwards at the 'Schnurrbart Restaurant' conveniently located near Sukhumvit Soi 23 (green way to Soi 31). There is always enough parking in the premises and it is free.

The objective of this gathering is to foster contact and friendship among members and exchange views and opinions in a casual and non-formal manner. Ever since the beginning of the Stamm in August 95, it has enjoyed strong following.

We would like to encourage members of the Swiss Society Bangkok to join as well and meet old friends and create new relationships.

For further information, please contact any of the STBA committee members or Martin Ganz at Off. Tel 718- 3611-5, Fax 7183610

If you have something to sell, rent or offer - we put it here (For members free of charge)

ASO News

• Das Team des Auslandschweizer-Sekretariats umfasst jetzt 16 Personen. Neu dazugekommen sind eine Mitarbeiterin und ein Mitarbeiter der Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer: David von Steiger (Geschäftsführer) und Tatjana Matic.

• Eine neue Stimme empfängt Sie auch am Telefon: Sandra Bigler ersetzt Barbara Erni am Empfang und im Sekretariat des Jugenddienstes. Einen Fünftel ihrer Arbeitszeit stellt Sandra Bigler dem Komitee für Schweizerschulen im Ausland zur Verfügung.

• Wieder ein Rekord bei AJAS, dem Verein zur Förderung der Ausbildung junger Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer: 1996 hat AJAS 1258 neue Anfragen beantwortet (Vorjahr: 1217). Die Ausbildungsberatung gehört zu den begehrtesten Angeboten des Auslandschweizer - Sekretariats. Weitere Informationen über AJAS liefert der Jahresbericht 1996, der ab April bei folgender Adresse bestellt werden kann: AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Bern 16.

• Ebenfalls immer häufiger sind Anfragen von Schweizerinnen und Schweizern, die sich mit dem Thema Auswandern befassen. Zusammen mit anderen in diesem Bereich tätigen Institutionen und Unternehmen prüft die Auslandschweizer - Organisation daher im Moment, ob die Auswanderungsberatung als eigener Dienstleistungszweig aufgebaut werden soll

Auslandschweizerrat: Neuwahlen

Mitte 1997 läuft die Amtsdauer des gegenwärtigen Auslandschweizerates aus. Die Neuwahl der Auslandmitglieder ist zwischen Herbst 1996 und Frühjahr 1997 anlässlich der Versammlungen der zuständigen Dachorganisationen bzw. anderen Institutionen fällig. Die neugewählten Ratsmitglieder müssen dem Auslandschweizer - Sekretariat bis spätestens zum 30. Juni 1997 gemeldet werden.

Interested persons please contact our president Phil Guinand



Pottery..... Pottery..... Pottery.....

United Siam Overseas Ltd., Part.

59/5 Soi On Nut 59, Sukhumvit 77 Road, Pravat, Bangkok 10250
G.P.O. Box 2301, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. Tel. 7216320 (5 lines)



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"Samschtig - Jass"**"Jass - Tournament"**

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that our next event will be a "Jass-Tournament" with great prizes to win (including Swiss-wine and gift certificate's)!

The tournament will be held:

Date: Saturday, 19 th April 1997

Time: 17:00 - 20:00 Jass - Tournament
20:00 onwards Dinner Buffet (Family are welcome)

Venue: Amari Boulevard Hotel (Sukhumvit Soi 7)
Panorama Meeting Room 4th Floor, Siam Wing
Dinner at Peppermill Restaurant

Menu: International Dinner Buffet
Beverages served during tournament and dinner are specially priced and charged as per consumption by the Hotel)

Price: THB 390.- (payable at the evening)

The presentation of the prizes to the winners will take place after the dinner.

Please book not later than Wednesday, April 16th, 1997:

- by telefax to Mrs. Esther Kaufmann 711-2936 or tel.: 711 29 62 / 381 12 57

The booking(s) are binding; no-shows will be charged THB 390.-/person

Shooting competition May 1997



It is a long standing tradition of the Swiss Society Bangkok to arrange for an annual shooting event. As it has been for many years in the past, we wanted to hold this event again in the Hua Mark shooting range.

Due to rebuilding the shooting range, it will be impossible to hold

this event in Bangkok.

So we got a new Idea:

We combine this event with a family outing to Ayuthaya! As we are still planing, the following details are liable to change.

Saturday May 31

7.00am	Leaving Bangkok by Bus
9.00am	Shooting competition
	Family outing around the ancient city of Ayuthaya for those who do not participate

1.00pm	in the shooting competition
	Departure on the ORIENTAL QUEEN
	Lunch on board
6.00pm	Arrival at Bangkok Oriental Pier

This would be an absolutely superb and unforgettable trip. Ayuthaya, the ancient city, then cruising leisurely down the Chao Praya. First admiring nature and the tranquil life of the riverside, then watching thousands of storks returning to Wat Pai Lom. Then as we cruise towards the skyline of Bangkok, the sun will set behind the golden roofs of uncountable temples and the palace.

To make this outing possible for many members of the Swiss Society, we decided to subsidise it substantially.

The cost will be approximately 1000 Baht (only for members - none members have to pay the full calculated price)

Please make a prebooking, so we get approximately the number of participants as soon as possible.

The final booking slip will be sent in the next newsletter.

This could be your ads



Swiss School calendar 97

28.3.97 - 15.4.97

Th 1.5.97

Fr 2.5.97

Mo 5.5.97

Tu 20.5.97

Easter Holiday

May Day

Swiss Section Holiday

Holiday Coronation Day

Holiday, Visaka Bucha

21.6.97 - 12.8.97

Summer Holiday



Swiss Society on line

Our Home Page:

[http://ksc.goldsite.com/](http://ksc.goldsite.com/~risswiss/ssb.html)

[~risswiss/ssb.html](http://ksc.goldsite.com/~risswiss/ssb.html)

Please visit us!

Appenzeller Witz

Ammene schöne Moäge ischt annere Frau de Papegei uuschoo. Innere Puurehäämet hocket de Vogel of en Bomm ue. De Puur ischt graad verosse n am Weäche ond tenkt, wäär doch gfreut, wanner de Frau ond de Goofe en dertig schöne Vogel chönnt hääbringe. Wädli holt er d Läätere ond schtiigt ganz oordelig döruuf.

Er ischt scho am Vogel zoe ond hed en graad wele neh, doo sääd de Papegei ase hääserezügs:

«Goete Taag!»

De Puur ischt ase vechlopft, das er noochzoe d Läätere n aab gcheit ischt ond wonner si wider echli erholt gchaa hed, lopft er de Hoet ond sääd:

«Tönd Si vilmol entschuldige, i ha halt gmäänt, Si sejid en Vogel»

Aus dem Buch von Ida Niggli: "Ond s Ander a Mönz..."

New members

Mr. & Mrs. Christian & Anna Trutmann

Mr. Andreas Bruegger

Good news from our member Hanspeter Schwanninger!

He accepted the position as the General Manager of the "Holiday Inn Chiang Mai"

For any special price offers, please do not hesitate to contact Hanspeter Schwanninger directly.

We from the Swiss Society wish Hanspeter all the best!

Impressum:

The Swiss Echo is a publication of the Swiss Society Bangkok

4 issues yearly

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Advertisements: Markus Ruprecht

Print shop: Bernd Mueller

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our Home Page: <http://ksc.goldsite.com/~risswiss/ssb.html>

สวัสดีปีใหม่
ดี
ใจดี

