



## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

First of all, in the name of the Committee of the Swiss Society Bangkok, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Swiss Society Bangkok has had a rather difficult year due to low attendance of its members at most of the organised functions, probably partly due to the bad economic situation in 1998, thus leaving the Committee with worries and hesitations in organising events. Nevertheless, many functions took place, and we were rewarded with positive feed backs in most of the cases. The first of August celebration was a success, as well as the Raclette Evening and the Dinner Talk with Khun Mechai Viravaidya, which was something totally new for the SSB. Other events attracted too little attention from the members like the Bowling night, Shooting Competition, Khao Yai outing as well as the trip to Pattaya. The Samschtigs Jass was a real deception for the organising committee as very few attended. As a result, the Singha Beer Outing and the Weekend in Chantaburi were cancelled.

These put apart, I would like to thank all those who supported the SSB by attending the different events last year and hope that your support will continue in the future. I also would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Ambassador, HE. Bernard Freymond and the Swiss Embassy as a whole for their continuous support. The same goes to the numerous individuals and companies who supported us throughout the year, by sponsoring major events and /or by supporting the Swiss Echo. Once more,

thank you from the committee and myself.

For me personally, I enjoyed working closely with the committee members and I do realise that everyone has been working really hard. I do thank you all and appreciate your efforts and dedication. It was great to be part of the team, and I had a most memorable year.

As you all know by now, the Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday the 12th February 1999 at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit. Please do attend the meeting and join for the dinner. We hope that many will come up with suggestions and innovative ideas, and we need new people to join the committee in order to improve the quality of your SSB.

So see you on the 12th February and thank you in advance for your participation in making this AGM profitable to the SSB.

Best regards and best wishes to all.

Philippe Chassot Balankura MD.  
President, SSB.



### In This Issue

Message from the President	1
Portraits of Swiss companies	2
Editor	2
International Jass Game	2
Christmas at RIS Swiss Section	3
Raclette evening at the Embassy	4/5
The Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce	6/7
Santa Claus at Khao Yai	7
Auslandschweizer Kongress	
Our members	8



### Editor's Column

Swiss Echo will publish portraits of Swiss / Thai companies here in Thailand in open sequence, as available. We welcome all contributions, ideas and reports. If you know a company which should be mentioned here, please inform our team. This companies (big or small) are always happy to get support from fellow countryman / women and will provide you with Swiss quality Service.

We start the series with **Gallus Bakery** under the Management of Khun Wannalux and Mr. Michael Schwager.

### Gallus Bakery

Michael Schwager, his wife Wannalux and their 5 year old son moved from Switzerland to Thailand at the beginning of last year. Goal: to set up a Swiss Bakery, providing the community with bread, cookies, pastry items with the same quality, taste etc. as used at home. That this will be hard work and not only fun was clear from the beginning. Finding the way through the administrative jungle for legal registration; evaluating sites for the 2 story baking oven and establishing the necessary clean and efficient baking rooms, getting the high power connection to fire the oven and also to source the necessary ingredients took quite a while.

Then ca. in midyear 98 the first products were baked and distributed for sampling and tasting. Now it was time to develop our product range, starting with simple bread, white and dark in different forms and sizes, to cookies of all kind, then expanded to cheese cakes, nut rolls, Christmas cookies, ham rolls and sandwiches. The emphasis always placed on quality, taste and reliable home-delivery, the customer base grew from month to month. Not only Restaurants, shops and embassies, but also many offices and households get now daily fresh bakery items and enjoy the products.

The newest addition to the product range are the Swiss Fasnachts-Chuechli or Chneublaetz; a delicious skin-thin omelet with icing for the carnival season.

The well organized daily distribution (Monday to Saturday) to all areas of metropolitan Bangkok ( + some areas outside Bangkok) allows to serve any household with orders big or small.. With the continued support by the



Gallus delivery service.

existing customers and their recommendation to new ones, in 1999 Gallus plans to make even more products available through the

More Information and the order-sheet / price list is available at Gallus,  
Tel + Fax: 426 3180

### swiss association of hong kong

The Swiss Association of Hongkong was celebrating their 50th anniversary.

There was an international Jass Game

Res Zihlmann, Member of the Swiss Society Bangkok participated this enjoyable event - and - what a surprise!

He won as runner up.



<<< On the picture:  
Happy Res, with the beautiful cow bell.  
Congratulation Res !

Rank 1	Rogger Daniel	(3952Pts.)
Rank 2	Zihlmann Andreas	(3822Pts)
Rank 3	Eisenhut Peter	(3817Pts)



THE  
SWISS  
LODGE

*Café* SWISS  
RESTAURANT

THE SWISS LODGE

THE AUTHENTIC SWISS CHALET EXPERIENCE  
3 Convent Road, Silom, Tel 233 53 45  
e-mail: info@swisslodge.com  
OPEN DAILY 06.30 - 23.00







## Christmas Celebration at RIS Swiss Section



This year's Christmas Celebration at the Swiss School on Wednesday, 16th December, was a huge success. School only started around noon so that both students and teachers could sleep enough to be able to enjoy a long evening.

At five o'clock the buffet, traditionally prepared by Otto, was opened. While some people were enjoying their meal, many of the children from the kindergarten (up to grade four) were already in an excited mood. They were beautifully dressed in

Thai style and their faces had been painted for the show by their parents and the dance teacher.



At six o'clock, in front of a big audience, they presented in a graceful manner what they had learned during their weekly Thai Dance lessons in the past half

year.

Afterwards, André Niedermann from the Rembrandt Hotel announced the lucky winners of the drawing competition which had taken place during the exhibition "Swiss Highlights". The prizes were not awarded only to individual students but to the class as a whole and included eating ice-cream for everybody or an entrance to the Dusit Zoo for thirty people.

At 7 pm there was the Christmas Celebration which began outside in the theatre with two songs, played and sung by the seventh and eighth grade. This was followed by a short welcome-speech of ref. Father Dieter Kanduth.

For many years the festivities had not been enriched by as much music and as many songs as this year. Music-teacher Karsten Schulz had organized an impressive programme together with all his music-classes.

The Christmas Story as well as some contemplative reactions to it were performed by different classes. The funniest version, I suppose, was offered by the fifth grade. The large scenery they had prepared was fitted out with holes through which they stuck their heads and told the spectators the Christmas Story from the point of view of various people. The sudden appearing and disappearing of the heads at different places provoked several bursts of laughter in the audience.

Many parents, students and teachers took pleasure from the remain of the evening by sitting together comfortably for many hours. Their conversations were at last interrupted when everybody took leave from each other for the three week-break, or for good, as some of our students left the school to return to Europe or to go somewhere else together with their families.

Students from the 6th grade went around with nicely decorated donation boxes and got quite a big response from all the guests.

They collected 23,720 Baht. The money will be donated to the Sparrow Home.

Esther Kaufmann, member of the Committee of the Swiss Society, and one of the original founders of the Sparrow Home, will take care and we are all convinced that this donation will light up some candles and make many children happy.

A Happy New Year to everybody from us at RIS Swiss Section!



## Fasnacht in der Schweizer Schule!

Wie schon im letzten Jahr, so soll auch 1999 an der Schweizer Schule wieder Karneval gefeiert werden. Eingeladen sind diesmal aber nicht nur die Schüler/innen und die Eltern, sondern alle, die gerne beim närrischen Treiben mitmachen wollen



Also dann,..... ran an die Nähmaschine oder hin zum Schneider, und dann werden wir ja sehen, wer bei der Kostümpremierung die Nase vorn hat.

Stattdessen wird der ganze Spass am 19. Februar 1999 im Schulhaus der Schweizer Schule. Beginn ist um 15.00 Uhr mit dem Kinderfasching, einem Umzug, Vorführungen der Kinder, Spielen, u.s.w. und um 19.03 Uhr fällt dann der Startschuss für den Faschingsball der "mittelalterlichen Narren"

# HosenTraeger

Restaurant & Chuegaeli Bar

THE "THUNDERSTORM GASTRONOMY"

HANSPETER (HANS) SCHWANINGER

จิรเดช ทรัพย์สินมั่งคั่ง

1/9 SOI 24 SUKHUMVIT ROAD

BANGKOK 10110 THAILAND

Tel : 258-8636, 259-6295

Fax : 259-5098

Mobile : (01) 621-4327

E-mail: tharhosentraeger@hotmail.com



# Raclette evening at the Swiss Embassy Bangkok



A raclette evening took place on the 19th november 1998 on the grounds of our embassy, thanks to the generosity of our ambassador, HE. Bernard Freymond and madame.

The event was attended by around 140 persons who were first invited by our ambassador to cocktails in the gardens of the embassy which were decorated with flags and colored light in an atmosphere of festive.

There was plenty of swiss wine, beer and the rest. The trio band was playing light music including some swiss themes. Later on, we then proceeded to dinner which was arranged by the amari watergate hotel under the close supervision of Mr. Rafael Renz and were served a nice entree prior to the raclette followed by a nice dessert. The music was by then louder and lot of people started dancing until nearly mid-night resting only to have more wine and schnaps.

The SSB would like to sincerely thanks our ambassador, madame Freymond, as well as all the staff of the embassy for this lovely evening. A big thank also goes to Mr. Rafael Renz, vice president operations, Amari hotels and resorts, and the staff of the Amari Watergate hotel.

We sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the evening.

Your committee.

**TRINA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**TRINA Management (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**

**Thomas Gerber**  
Managing Director

La Cascade 8A, #1/7 Soi Charoenmitr (Ekamai 10)  
Sukhumvit 63 Road, Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
Tel. (662) 714 4177-8 Fax : (66 2) 714 4179  
E-Mail : trina@ksc15.th.com

**TRINA Management (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
offers the following services:

- Human Resources Management
- Recruiting Services (Thai & Foreigners)
- Management on Time
- Marketing & Sales Support
- Project and Joint Ventures (Manufacturing Industry)
- Translations (Thai - English - Japanese - German - French)





## THE IDEAL SUNDAY BRUNCH

Exceptional alternatives for a Sunday Treat.

Enjoy a splendid International Sunday Brunch Buffet with live Jazz music at The Dining Room.

Or, a delightful Italian Sunday Brunch Buffet accompanied by live Guitar music at Spasso.

For reservations: please call 254 1234.

Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok 494 Rajdamri Road Bangkok 10330





## The Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok

has started to operate at the beginning of 1999. It will follow in the footsteps of the Swiss-Thai Business Association. The new status will give the SwTCC the legal basis to qualify as a Member of the Board of Trade, and to deliberate with the Government on behalf of our Members through the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce and Trade Organizations.

### Who are we?

We are a group of businessmen and businesswomen involved in Commerce between Switzerland and Thailand. Our Members represent over 100 Companies active in manufacturing, trading, insurance, banking, in services, such as hotel business, tourism, management and legal consulting, etc. Represented, as Individual Members, are additionally businessmen of high repute who are closely related to the Thailand economic scene. Our Members are friends of Thailand and have great respect for His Majesty the King, the Royal Family, the Thai Government Institutions and the Thai People.

### What are our Objectives?

- To build goodwill and friendship amongst our Members.
- To co-operate with Governments, Authorities and Trade Organizations of both Thailand and Switzerland.
- To promote business between Thailand and Switzerland.
- To strengthen recognition of Swiss-Thai enterprises.
- To contribute through our activities to the objectives of our Host Country.
- To maintain good contacts with Government Departments on whose services we depend.
- To contribute with our activities to the objectives of our Host Country.
- To abide by the laws of Thailand.

### What do we do for our Members

We keep in contact with our Members.

We disseminate information of interest to them.

We organize functions with guest speakers of interest to our Members.

We support or take part in trade promotions involving Swiss-Thai business.

We play host to important visitors from Switzerland.

We represent the interests of our Members through participation in the Board of Trade, the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce, various Trade Organizations and Committees.

We provide assistance to our Members within our means and capacity.

We guide Non-Members in their quest for information and recommend professionals from among our Members.

The Executive Committee of the Board works on a voluntary basis as a service to the Swiss-Thai Business Community.

### Memberships

We accept Corporate Members, Individual Members or Associate Members. The membership fee is

Bht 2500 per year for Corporate Members

Bht 1500 per year for Individual or Associate Members.

The one-time entrance fee is Bht 1000.

Members are invited to regular monthly functions, to Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce events, to receptions in honour of important Thai Government representatives, or of special visitors from Switzerland.

Members will find easy access to the Swiss-Thai Business Community.

Above all, they will benefit from the combined experience of our Board of Directors.

สวสไทยแข็งแรง  
ดื่ม  
ไอวอลล์





## Board of Directors of the Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce

elected at the Statutory Meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

### Honorary President:

H.E. Bernard Freymond Ambassador of Switzerland

### President:

Paul Somm, Mr. Somched & Co., Ltd., Managing Director

### Vice-President:

Terawat Tishabhiramya, Mr. Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., Managing Director

### Senior Directors:

Coley Thomas, Mr. Nestle (Thailand) Ltd., President

Odermatt Bruno, Mr. Thai Metropole Zurich Insurance Co., Ltd., General Manager

Petruzzi R., Mr. Diethelm & Co., Ltd., General Manager

Vierstraete Luc, Mr. Roche Thailand Ltd., General Manager

Waltenberg D., Mr. F.E. Zuellig (Bangkok) Ltd., Executive Director

Wiesner Peter, Mr. Swiss Air Transport Co., Ltd., General Manager

### Executive Directors:

Ansermet Francois, Mr. Nestle, Vice-President Manufacturing Services

Bachofner Dieter, Mr. Rembrandt Hotel, Resident Manager

Ganz Martin, Mr. Desco (Thailand) Ltd., Managing Director

Gerber Thomas, Mr. Trina Management (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Managing Director

Renz Raphael, Mr. Amari Hotels & Resorts, Vice-President Operations

Von der Luehe Nandor, Mr. Metropolitan Jewelry Manufacturing Ltd., Managing Director

Yoonaidharma Dhira, Mr. Hutter & Partners Ltd., Partner

### Substitute Directors:

Biondi Bruno, Mr. GGK, Managing Director

Fritz Hans, Mr. Novartis, Country Head and Head Pharma

Hoerndli Hugo, Mr. Bell-Indo Co., Ltd., Managing Director

## Santa Claus at Khao Yai



FioTec (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
#6A Kamol Villa No. 5  
Ekamai Soi 2, Sukhumvit 63  
Bangkok 10110

Tel: (02) 387 1060  
Fax: (02) 387 1061  
E-mail: fiotec@loxinfo.co.th

We are a Thai company under Swiss management with its own representative office in Switzerland. We work together with a Thai partner experienced in special machinery and with its own workshop. If you are looking for a reliable partner for your project on following fields, please contact Mr. Mirco Fiochi.

System integration - industrial automation

Process engineering (Converting industries, solvent recovery, process heat generation)

Revamping of existing systems (Computer controls, PLC, process visualization, manufacturing process optimizing)



Assembling of complete converting system including process heat, solvent recovery and dryers for filter paper factory in South Korea

Engineering, manufacturing and commissioning of complete computer control systems.





## Auslandschweizer - Kongress 1998

Dear friends,

The basic themes of Congress of the Swiss living abroad was Migration yesterday, today and tomorrow and 150 years Modern Switzerland. Once more we were told how important the so called 5<sup>th</sup> part of Switzerland is and how much our motherland cares about us. Once more and quite many times we were called Ambassadors, representing our country abroad.

Swiss Emigrants (and tourists) are indeed somehow on a stage: Switzerland becomes real for the one who gets in touch with a Swiss.

A year before we had to fight for the surviving of Swiss School abroad. The message were understood: nor the Swiss Schools in Europe neither the ones in other Continents will be dropped. It is up to us to repeat yearly how important influence and input of good Swiss School in foreign country is. We have to repeat that gentle and sweet words are oft sufficient, but we need real financial support. We know, maybe better than many Swiss living at home, about the importance to support foreign pupils and students in Switzerland, refugees and others. We claim a similar support for Swiss children living abroad, an additional support would be justified for Swiss folk living in countries which languages are not used worldwide.

However we are most grateful to his Excellency, Federal Counselor Arnold Koller and his colleges for not dropping the subventions of Swiss School abroad.

Another topic was the AHV. The administration has realized that some errors might have happened when reflecting the In and Out of AHV money to and from Switzerland. The extreme negative balance is mainly due the many Swiss going to live abroad after retirement. However this problem is far from being solved. We have to follow carefully what will be decided and have to interfere immediately, if some change in disfavor of the Swiss living abroad risks to happen.

A new President was elected Mr. G. Stucky will take over from Mr. J.J. Cevey.

The Congress was held in Canton Aargau. I believe that all of the participant have been impressed by the perfect organization and the lovely and interesting program.

I like to thank the Committee and to all the Aarau folk for the warm and friendly reception.

MARKUS RUPRECHT

## New members

Dr. Wolfgang & Mrs. Gesine Munzinger  
Mr. Rudolf & Mrs. Assia Wyss  
Mr. Dikran & Mrs. Jilda Demiryan  
Mr. Roland Bruhin  
Ms. Kirsten Hohnke

## Outgoing members

Mr. Hans & Mrs. Ana Hauser  
Mr. Alan Bron  
Mr. Christian & Mrs. Ursula Bühler  
Ms. Beatrice Kurt



Mr. & Mrs. Rueger have a Boy named  
**SANDRO - DANIEL - CHANON**

## New at the Swiss Embassy



Sandra Gantenbein  
Mrs Gantenbein is  
temporarily replacing  
Mrs. Karin Rüger

### Contact for Information and membership

our president, Dr. Philippe C. Balankura (Tel: 236-1389 Fax: 236-1401)

our secretary, Esther Kaufmann (Tel: 711-2962 / 381-1257; Fax: 711-2936)

or at the Swiss School Albin Ruffner (Tel: 518-0340; Fax: 518-0341; Email: ruffnera@ksc.net.th)

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



THE USO POTTERY LAND  
PRODUCES BEAUTIFUL  
POTS FOR HOUSE AND  
GARDEN

**UNITED SIAM OVERSEAS LP Co.Ltd.**

279/18 PB PENTHOUSE,  
SOI MEESUWAN, SUKHUMVIT 71 RD BANGKOK  
TEL 711 05 75 FAX 711 05 77