Swiss National Day with melodic notes

On 31/07 the official Swiss National Day celebrations took place in the beautiful gardens of the Swiss Ambassador’s residence in Pretoria. 200 guests attended the event.

A sophisticated construction by Oasis, partner of Nuesli International Ltd, a Switzerland based expert in temporary event buildings, covered the pool. A tent, decorated with the Swiss flag and matching red and white flower bouquets, offered shade and a welcoming venue. In his address, Ambassador Baerfuss highlighted the excellence and the cordiality of the Swiss – South African relations. He recalled the many promising joint ventures between our two countries, the most successful probably being Roger Federer, son of a South African mother and a Swiss father. As one of the currently running and successful projects between Switzerland and South Africa, Ambassador Baerfuss mentioned the Swiss – South African Cooperation Initiative SSACI, a public-private partnership in development. Being the first of its kind, it is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), on the one hand, and Swiss private companies trading in South Africa, on the other hand. It provides financial and technical support to vocational skills training and job creation projects for disadvantaged young South Africans. Since its inception in 2001, SSACI has funded over 50 development projects. By June 2009, this had resulted in 4 700 youths being enrolled for training. 3 500 of these youths, i.e. 92% of those, have graduated up to now.

Deputy Minister of Justice Andries Nel was the guest of honour. He conveyed the congratulations of the South African government and thanked Switzerland for its assistance with regard to the so called small claims courts.

From the left: Deputy Minister of Justice Andries Nel, Beatrice Baerfuss, Stella Mendonça, Ambassador Rudolf Baerfuss.

The soprano Stella Mendonça, a native Mozambican on her way to acquiring Swiss nationality, added a warm musical note to the celebrations: She sang the Swiss and the South African national anthems in the different official languages that are used by the two countries, thus pointing to a common feature of Switzerland and South Africa, which is the diversity of our societies united in our respective states.

These courts were created to settle minor civil disputes in an informal manner.

The ASR Report

The Swiss in South and Southern Africa were represented at the inaugural ASR Meeting and 87th Annual Congress from 7–9/08/ in Luzern by your re-elected delegates Rolf Schudel and Peter Muller.

The previous President Jean-Simon Egli was re-elected as President. He delivered his President’s Report on the activities of the ASR and the Secretariat with Dr Ruedi Wyder as Director. The shortfall of CHF 500,000 for producing the 6 issues annually of the Swiss Review was again highlighted. Furthermore the world-wide information platform produced for amongst others the Auslandschweizer by Swiss Info, has also had a massive cut in budget. It is ironic that the theme of this year’s congress was the importance of the Auslandschweizer for Switzerland, yet at the same time the Swiss Government has seen fit to reduce the.

Continued overleaf...

Goodbye to Erwin Lüthi

Erwin Lüthi, Head of the Swiss Business Hub South Africa, will be leaving shortly to take up new responsibilities at the Swiss Consulate General in Hong Kong. During his tenure the Swiss Business Hub was officially opened by Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard (Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs) on 7 May, 2007 becoming the 16. Swiss Business Hub to be set up worldwide. Since then Osec’s new export promotion strategy has been successfully implemented and a number of Swiss companies have shown interest in investing in South Africa. Amongst numerous other activities organised by the SBHSA, the network office has compiled a directory of over 200 Swiss companies operating in SA and produced a newsletter to keep them and Switzerland informed about what is happening in the region. Both publications have received overwhelmingly warm responses. The SBHSA regrets that Mr Lüthi is leaving, but wishes him all the best in his new position and we are sure that he will handle those responsibilities as competently and effectively as he has done here in South Africa. Mr Lüthi’s successor will be taking over in November.

Dinner with Saki Macozoma

At a dinner of SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter, Liberty Life Chairman, Saki Macozoma, was invited to deliver the keynote address. His topic centered around the regime change in South Africa and the impact of the global economic crisis on the local economy.

From the left: Deputy Minister of Justice Andries Nel, Beatrice Baerfuss, Stella Mendonça, Ambassador Rudolf Baerfuss.

Saki Macozoma

New members of SwissCham are: BCC Pharmaceuticals, Deloitte & Touche, Eikendal Wineries, Friedland Hart, International Coffee Equipment (Jura), Juerg Schalch Consulting, Mark Daniels Commodities, Lonrho, Novartis, Pannonia Precision Engineering, Safin, Sicpa and Swisafern.

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The newly constituted ASR debated a catalogue of objectives for the period 09-13. Undoubtedly, the exercising of the political rights of the Swiss Abroad, as well as maintaining a strong information flow, remain top priorities.

Next year's congress will be in St. Gallen from 20-22/08/10.

Peter Muller

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**IMPRESSUM**

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Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

JOHANNESBURG

PORTELIA
Swiss Embassy 012 402 0205, Swiss Society Algeria, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 021 347 8310, C 021 551 0022, swissch.alger@bluewin.ch, Secretary: swissch.alg@bluewin.ch

On 1 August we celebrated Swiss National Day at our usual venue at Fountain Valley in Portelia. We were invited by the Ambassador of Switzerland and his wife, Mrs. Mögle. On a sad note we have to inform you that our member Tony de Klerk passed away after being admitted to hospital. His wife, Alexandra de Klerk has decided to return to Switzerland. Our thoughts are with her in this difficult time.

Cape Town
Swiss Consulate General T 021 428 3465 Swiss Social and Sports Club, Nick Eggenberger, Micky Rodrigues T 021 278 1579, membership secretary: eggen@bluewin.ch, www.swissch.co.za Negotiations for the new Club building are well on the way. The club will be situated next to the Union Park on the Green Point Campus. We should be able to move in by April, 7/11. All over 70 and their partners are invited to join the Swiss Choir for their Annual Tea Party at the Photographic Club. Please RSVP to the Secretary under 7/1/1, on 021 278 3166. 9/1/1, Gemütlichkeit des Vereins will be visiting Switzerland.

SWISS CLUB KUALA
Hanspeter Giubert, T/F 031 360 2463, C 030 360 6305, hansi@kualski.com

18.10.96 GREEN BOWLING, Hollander Crescent Hall, morningside ski Sports Club, Dinner; 14.11. 19: SWISS CULIURUM THEATRE, Wollertown, 11.12. 20: MUSIK UND GESANG, Westville, 16.12. from 11:00, ANRGEERING-BAHL, Circus, Horse Party, Cape Ridz, 21.12. 10:30 FISI BOWLING, Pavilion, on Westville, 21.12. 18:00 CELEBRATING THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY, ENDEAVOUR, BRAAI 14.10 18:00 AD:- LUNCH, versus E.A.S. SWISS ON SENTE. We meet every 2nd Friday of the month at 180, Mewellie Bowling Club House near the old Mewellie Civic Centre, William Lester Rd off Buckingham Terrace Rd, TAKEIT SHOOTING PRACTICE ON PRACTICE at the Union Rifle shooting range, Bettysheim Rd/KZN Midrand; 22.8. from 16:00, Final chance Dicktayoschwilten and St-Gallenlandesk- schweizer Fernsehprogramm; 26.9.-24.10. from 16:00, Internet tournament: "individual practice," 30.9.-10.10. 16:00, CTN Publikumsmeisterschaft, Kapstadt; 28.11. 16:00, Annachten: Rapid Shooting Cup.- 4.-5. 12. Rotterdam Rifle Club, Christmas Show.

SWISS CLUB EASTERN CAPE
Port Elizabeth
Walter Médland, President T 041 944 1008, Correspondent Nick Rodzig C 041 304 3187 Enrich the 041 385 046, t 041 367 4122

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH
Paul Thomas, PO Box 348, Malebo 0400, C 082 354 3078 Garmany 051 556 5990 DUARABIA
Hon. Conrad X. Neerenschwander, Virocne Strain 2, Ludwigsburg, PO Box 9794, Dorst/Windhoff, T 021 61 255 114, F 024 51 253 010 Schwanen Club, Peter Hess, T 024 51 276 943, C 024 51 124 8880, phess@bluewin.ch, Boshqouf/Bosra, 24.-25.10. Facilitexts Treffeldsch- bart 21.11. Schauabend "Eine Reise", Polytechnic, 7/1.1, Chessrosely/Grillknob, ZIMBABWE
Swiss Club, 35 Onepath (Representatives Angola, Mohuren/Zambia), T 0763 6 703 997, F 0763 6 704 915, vonrethy@bluewin.ch
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