

**MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE SWISS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE, 24 FEBRUARY 2016**

**UBS AUDITORIUM, ONE RAFFLES QUAY, 49TH NORTH TOWER, SINGAPORE 0484**

**Present:**

Committee

PRESIDENT	Janine Bachmann
TREASURER	Laurie H. Khan
SECRETARY	Gaelle Laurent
FUNDRAISER	Roel Simons
WEBMASTER	Yamuna Betschart
VICE-PRESIDENT	Laura Buhler
EVENT COORDINATOR	Susanne Cifuentes
EVENT COORDINATOR	Clémentine Grand
EVENT COORDINATOR	Melanie Brunner

**Members**

A total of 48 voting members, including one of the two auditors: Mrs Laurence Chehab-Fabry

**Guests**

A total of 2 guests were present (Vanessa and Yves Saint-Marc Girardin)

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**Welcome**

The President Mrs Janine Bachmann welcomed the members and 2 guests to the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Association of Singapore (SAS) and thanked everyone for coming.

She also thanked Ambassador Thomas Kupfer for attending the AGM and for everything he has done for the SAS including invitations to special official event and giving legitimacy to the association through his strong support at the Embassy.

Ambassador expressed his appreciation and thanked the Committee members for all the events organized.

President Mrs Janine Bachmann has enjoyed her role since she took over in March 2015. With over 90 organized activities and events it was a busy but very enjoyable year. She took this occasion to thank the great team spirit, commitment and effort of the whole SAS committee with who she had a lot of fun working together and she is now looking forward to her second year as President of Swiss Association Singapore.

## **Approval of the Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting held on 23 March 2015**

The adoption of the minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

## **Objectives 2015**

### **Increase the number of events and organize more activities on the weekends and evenings**

What SAS has achieved:

An increased number of events by more than 50% and over 90 events organized during the year. An additional monthly after work event introduced. Since mid-2015, one Ladies' Night and one After Work Drink have been organized every month. A more diverse range of activities offered (Language classes, sport and job seeker events).

### **Strengthen the collaboration between SAS and the Swiss Pillars in Singapore**

Events have been co-organized with the Swiss Club and SAS was able to offer Swiss Club events to the SAS members. Furthermore SAS has been using the Swiss Club facilities more often for our events.

### **Increase SAS visibility in order to attract more members and participants**

Quarterly SAS newsletter is re-introduced which is now handed out by the Embassy to all new registering Swiss Nationals. More active on Facebook to promote upcoming activities and share small reports and photos of past events

## **Committee**

It was fortunate to maintain a full team throughout the biggest part of the year. This helped SAS to achieve his goals and increase the number of organized activities.

SAS tried his very best to maintain the balance between representatives of the Swiss German and Swiss French part, with also the hope to attract some Italian representatives. In reality everybody is welcome as long as he is keen to share some time and commitment with the community, making language barriers become secondary.

## **Members**

In January 2016, SAS had 303 members, 10% of the total number of Swiss registered in Singapore.

The Embassy plays an important role in informing our compatriots about us. Still, many Swiss are unaware of our existence or that the association might be of interest to them. SAS must continue to increase its visibility and promote SAS among the international community in Singapore.

### **Treasurer's comments and approval of 2015 accounts**

SAS finished the year with a **profit of over \$4'000.**

There was no need for big investments over 2015. The new website that was implemented in 2014 and works well and there is no need for improvement in the near future.

Due to the larger number of events, both the event profit and the event expenses are higher than last year.

Based on the above, SAS is confident that 2016 will again be a profitable year. Besides some advertising and merchandising material, no big investment is planned.

Even though the SAS notebooks are relatively outdated (Webmaster notebook bought in 2011 and Secretary notebook in 2012) no new equipment is planned since most of the committee members are using their own computers. Although the number of members doesn't increase, the number of events should again ensure a steady income throughout the year.

### **Pricing policy**

Pricing policy for events:

- SAS Margin from \$5 to \$15 for members. Average supplement of \$10 for non-members.
- PayPal fees need to be added to all paid events.

### **Committee expenses**

As per SAS Committee Income & Expense guidelines, committee members, who have volunteered for a minimum of 6 months, are reimbursed a pro rata single membership fee each year after completing a full term or when leaving the committee.

### **Membership fee**

1. As of last year, 2015 membership fees was reduced for new joining members after the Welcome Back Cocktail. There was a sufficient number of events from October to December to encourage potential members to register.
2. As approved at the last AGM, the membership fees will be as follows from January 2016 :

**Single \$70 (\$10 increase)**  
**Couple \$120 (unchanged)**  
**Family \$140 (unchanged)**

## **Sponsoring**

In 2015, SAS was incredibly fortunate to be able to count on the strong and generous support of: Huber's Butchery, UBS, Swiss Embassy, Globaleye, Swissotel Merchant Court, Moevenpick and Swiss International Air Lines which allows the association to offer more activities, competitive event rates and/or more attractive venues.

In 2015 there was a new fundraiser role in the SAS committee. SAS was able to find new sponsors and offer more attractive members benefits. Sponsorship is key to the survival of SAS who is looking forward to new collaborations in 2016.

## **Events**

In 2015, SAS organised 97 events including free monthly Coffee mornings, Jass evenings, Ladies' nights and After Work Drinks.

Monthly events are the perfect opportunity to meet other members. Frequently attended by long standing members who are well established in Singapore, it is also a vital source of information and support for any newcomers.

## **Other events**

There is a wide range of events and activities for all. In 2015, SAS organized historic tours of Singapore, cooking classes, yearly welcome back cocktail, language courses, different sport events, Jass evenings as well as family events such as the Easter picnic or the Santa Claus afternoon at the Ambassador's residence and many more.

## **Services**

SAS offers the following services:

- Organizing a wide range of events.
- Providing a social platform for Swiss nationals in Singapore.
- Information to Swiss willing to settle down in Singapore and support newcomers.
- Promoting Swiss entrepreneurs in Singapore in making their business known to the Swiss community.

## **Pillars**

Quarterly, Ambassador Kupfer invites the Swiss Institutions in Singapore to meet and exchange information and synergies.

The pillars are: Swiss Club, Swiss School, Swiss Business Association, ASO/OSE and SAS. SEC Singapore ETH Centre, Swiss Tourism, St. Gallen Institute and the Swiss Consulate and Embassy are also part of these meetings.

The adoption of the President's report was unanimously confirmed.

### **Election of two Auditors for the year 2016/2017**

### **Election of the SAS Committee for the year 2016/2017**

Ms Bachmann then proceeded to nominate the committee members standing for election and reelection:

President Janine Bachmann  
Vice-President Laura Buhler  
Secretary Gaelle Laurent  
Treasurer Laurie H. Khan  
Webmaster Marina Schaefli  
Event Coordinator Stephanie Furrer  
Event Coordinator Susanne Cifuentes  
Event Coordinator Marina Schaefli  
Fund raiser Roel Simons

### **Thank you and farewell to 2015 Committee**

Mrs. Bachmann thanked the outgoing committee for their hard work during this year. She also thanked Karin Vo Van who helped for the events and gave a special thanks to Ryan Huber for his wonderful and generous service to the Association.

Mrs. Bachmann then closed the meeting and invited everyone to attend the cocktail catered and sponsored by Huber's Butchery.

Singapore, 24 February 2016