

Annual Report of the Committee for the Year 2012

This year started with a bang, as we joined together with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, the Kansai Association Switzerland Japan, and the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo to organise a *Swiss Day in Kansai* on March 8th, 2012. This event, which was also part of the 30th anniversary celebrations for the SCCIJ, took the form of an all day event across several locations in the Kobe area. Our organisation's primary contribution was to organise a dinner reception at the Kobe Club. A cultural highlight for this evening was the biwa (Japanese lute) performance by Sylvain Guignard. Among the many guests for this event from both Switzerland and Japan we were happy to welcome Ambassador Urs Bucher.

Due to this event our Annual General Meeting was held slightly later than usual, on March 30th at the Swiss Chalet Restaurant in Kitano-cho in Kobe. Embassy representative Consul Jürg Metz was able to join approximately 30 members to hear the official reports, followed by a fondue dinner.

Our spring barbecue in familiar Okuike on May 19th was attended by 70 members, friends and children. The menu of grilled sausages and meats, salads and other dishes, wine and beer, was followed by a buffet of cakes and desserts, which disappeared all too quickly. Our warmest thanks to all the members who tirelessly provide us with their delicious contributions.

The Swiss National day celebration returned to its traditional date of 1st of August. As has become customary we were able to celebrate this event in the garden of the Kobe Club. The weather threatened, but good luck prevailed. We were joined on this summer evening by about 45 guests, as well as Mr. Edgar Dörig the official representative of the Embassy of Switzerland in Tokyo, which again kindly sponsored the wine for the aperitif. We also had a special visit from the young pilot and adventurer Carlo Schmid on his record-attempt flight around the world in 80 days. The buffet dinner was followed as always by a tombola. Our most sincere thanks to our sponsors for the generous prizes.

A beautiful October 20th was host to our fall barbecue, once again in Okuike. Approximately 60 members, guests and children gathered and enjoyed meat, sausages, bread and salads, followed by desserts.

On December 2nd we had our Raclette evening in the Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club (KRAC) which included a visit from Santa Claus. The attendance topped 100 people, with over 40 children. Everyone gathered around the tables decorated with nuts and mikan, cookies and generous amounts of chocolate treats kindly provided by Nestlé. Santa Claus made his customary visit and gave each child a bag filled with treats from Switzerland and a Grittibänz. We would like to give a very special thanks to Panalpina for their generous support of this event, sponsoring and shipping the beautiful bags. This year the raclette dinner was made especially enjoyable by the generous contributions from our longterm member Andy Müller. Andy's 'super' gas-powered raclette grill—which came complete with cheese and a raclette chef team of Alex and Momoko Müller!—provided relief from our increasingly unreliable electric machines. The evening was wrapped up by the dessert buffet, with a generous selection of cakes and other goodies.

This year again we enjoyed very good attendance at all our events. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to all our members and guests for their active participation, and we look forward to welcoming many of you again in 2013.

Swiss Society of the Kansai

The committee