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## 2022 Annual Report of the Swiss Society of the Kansai

Kobe, January 26, 2023

Life in 2022 was still impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This, however, did not prevent the Swiss Society of the Kansai (SSOK) to plan and run several events by observing common social distancing rules. The committee of the SSOK met on five occasions throughout the year to prepare new events and review past events. One of the meetings was held at the residence of Dr. Felix Moesner, head of Swissnex in Japan and Head of Post of the Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka. Thank you for the hospitality and the delicious, authentic Fondue.

Participation in the events in 2022 was invariably higher than in the previous year, which shows that SSOK has not lost its momentum to bring people together. This is the result of the great work of my 8 fellow committee members and their spouses who time and again are the real enablers of our successful events. THANK YOU!

### **Annual General Meeting, Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, March 12**

The event was held at the Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, same as in the previous year. Notable were the change of president from Philip Spaelti, who held this position for 12 consecutive years to the newly elected Herbert Bucher. Furthermore, Oscar Egli was elected as the new Vice-President and Jacqueline Okuma-Teissier as new committee member. The business meeting (19 members) was followed by dinner (33 members and guests) with a delicious 4 course menu of appetizer, soup, fish, and meat. The obligatory Swiss wines were also served.

### **Spring BBQ, Okuike, May 14**

Despite the cold and windy weather, the people came out in crowds at our Spring BBQ in Okuike. There seems to have been a pent-up demand for such a gathering after the Covid-19 restrictions in the last 2 years. The skies cleared up after lunch and 77 attendees enjoyed a sunny afternoon. Among them were Dr. Felix Moesner of Swissnex in Japan and Juerg Bono, Head of Consular Services at the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo. The sumptuous buffet, including all the homemade desserts was complemented with Swiss style Cervelats and Bratwursts and the usual Swiss wines.

### **Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club, July 30**

Held in the nicely decorated ballroom of the Kobe Club in Kitano-cho as has been the custom for the last few years; 77 members and guests attended. Among them were Dr. Felix Moesner of Swissnex in Japan and Juerg Bono, Consul in Tokyo. Three young Swiss were invited by the Embassy as part of their coming-of-age ceremony. A small formal side-event was held for that purpose. Swissnex in Japan made a generous donation of fine Swiss wines for the event. Entertainment was provided in the form of a flamboyant flamenco performance by Benito Garcia, organized by our committee member Jacqueline Okuma-Teissier.

Donations for our traditional tombola came from: Hinata Trading, Swissôtel Nankai Osaka, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Osaka, Swiss International Airlines, Alcotrade, Estate Wines, Eurovin, Vinum Helvetica, Appenzeller Herbs Spirits, Switzerland Tourism, Chopard Japan, Victorinox Japan, Kobe Club, OSM Herbst, Universal Studios Japan, as well as SSOK members Aviolat, Bieker, Bucher, Pfenninger and Teissier.

### **Autumn BBQ, Okuike, October 15**

Our Autumn BBQ took place at Okuike on a sunny autumn day. Attendance was 61 people. Our events have proved popular attracting participants new and old, some coming from far afield. Cervelats and Bratwursts could again be offered thanks to Kozo Iwata (Rock Field Co., Ltd.) and the organizational skills of Andy Mueller. Plentiful beer, wine and spirits were to be had, and members pitched in with a generous buffet of salads and cakes.



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### **Raclette with a visit from Santa, Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, December 4**

This year the inflatable Santa in front of the KRAC greeted the 114 persons who joined our event. There were 39 participants below 18 years of age. This is the generation that will take over the running of the SSOK in the not so near future. Our children got to meet Santa and received a Grittibänz and a bag with goodies, which included Swiss treats directly imported from Switzerland. We also thank Nestle Japan and Rokko Butter for their generous gifts of KitKats and Lindor balls respectively. Later all took part in the Raclette, supplemented with plenty of Swiss wine from our stores, and desserts brought by our members. Andy Mueller's gas operated Raclette machine is legend in the meantime, and we would not be able to cater for so many guests without it.

The SSOK would not exist without YOU, the MEMBERS. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you again at our events in the coming year.

Herbert Bucher  
President