



## 2025 Annual Report of the Swiss Society of the Kansai

Kobe, end of January 2025

2025 will be the year of the EXPO 2025 in the annals of Osaka, with Myaku-Myaku conquering the world and the "Ring" mesmerizing the visitors. Our SSOK can also hold its head high. 429 people joined our 5 events. Additionally, we broke through the 100-membership barrier by adding 13 new members. Our tally at the end of the year is 112.

The committee met on various occasions to prepare the various events. For the first meeting, Swissnex CEO Felix Moesner invited us to his residence for a delicious Fondue dinner. Thank you, Felix and Makiko, for the hospitality.

We were able to balance our income and expenses for the year and end with a cash balance of ¥1,071,597. A special thank-you goes to our treasurer Nelson Izquierdo, who continuously keeps our financials in perfect order.

Our activities could not have been run without my fellow committee member, their spouses, and the members, who are always ready to lend a hand. Other important backbones for our society are Swissnex in Japan as well as the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo. THANK YOU!

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM), Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka, March 1**

Same as the previous year, we held the AGM at the premises of Swissnex in Japan in Osaka. 20 members attended the meeting. All agenda items were approved unanimously. Swissnex CEO Felix Moesner acted as Election Chairman. He commended SSOK for the events, which he said keep getting better and better and extended his thanks to the outgoing committee and the auditor. All proposed new committee members, as well as the auditor, were approved unanimously. There was no change in the composition of the committee.

Consul Adrian Sieber, representative of the Embassy, gave our Society a clean bill of health. The old/new president Herbert Bucher thanked all participant for their attendance and closed the meeting just before 6pm.

The AGM was followed by a dinner at a nearby Izakaya. It turned out to be an excellent choice. Especially the selection of Japanese sake on offer was complimented!

### **Spring BBQ, Okuike, May 17**

This was a hardcore BBQ. It was very rainy from early on, and we had to set up protection with blue sheets. It was also rather cold, and quite a few guests inquired about our cancellation policy. But we held to our motto "rain or shine," and almost all parties came. We were pleased to see several old and new faces, and Consul Adrian Sieber came all the way from Tokyo.

The atmosphere at the BBQ was very good, and our guests were in high spirits, though the bad weather did not give us the opportunity to take a group photo as in previous events.

In addition to the many dishes prepared by the members, we had our usual Cervelats and Bratwursts, and a variety of delicious desserts. Nobody had to go home with an empty stomach! A hearty thank you goes to Swissnex in Japan for the wine donation.

65 people attended the event (44 members, 16 guests and 5 children). We made a loss of ¥47,011, but on the other side we have close to ¥50,000 in wine inventory.

### **Swiss National Day Party, Kitano Club SOLA, August 1**

Our event was very well attended with a total of 116 people (58 members, 45 guests, 9 students, 4 children). Due to the current redevelopment of the Kobe Club, the event was held at Kitano Club Sola. The food was very good. Sola gave us a very good selection, including Swiss specialties and a wonderful dessert buffet. We received many positive comments from guests,

Guests included newly arrived Ambassador Dubach, the Swiss parliamentarians Wehrli and Gugger with their families, as well as a group of consuls invited by Swissnex CEO Felix Moesner. The



festivities for the event included speeches by SSOK President Bucher, Ambassador Dubach, National Councilor Wehrli, the recorded speech from Federal President Karin Keller-Sutter, and a joint Kanpai from Ambassador Misawa and Swissnex CEO Felix Moesner. Musical entertainment was provided by a duo from Peru who regaled us with traditional music from the Andes.

We had a very splendid outlay of prizes for our Tombola. Prizes were provided by; Alcotrade, Appenzell Herb Spirits, Hans Bieker, Breitling, Herbert Bucher, Chopard, Estate Wines, Eurovin, Didier Hartmann, Maki Hattori, Hayakoma Meriken Park Cruises, Hinata Trading, Nestlé, Urs Pfenninger, Swiss, Swissôtel Osaka, Switzerland Tourism, Jacqueline Teissier-Okuma, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Osaka, Victorinox, and Vinum Helvetica. We sincerely thank all of them for their kind and generous contributions, helping to make our Tombola, and the event, a great success.

Income for the event was ¥1,114,000. An additional ¥13,000 in membership fees, and ¥20,600 in other income was collected. Expenditures were ¥989,689, resulting in a surplus of ¥157,911.

### **Autumn BBQ, Okuike, October 18**

This was another legendary BBQ. The weather was not perfect, but much better than the last 2 BBQs. In the morning, we had some drizzling rain, but it cleared in the afternoon. The number of guests was overwhelming with 123 participants (53 members, 41 guests, 15 students, 14 children) with many new faces joining us. Everything went like clockwork from the beginning, from marking our space with the usual flags, setting up the tables and tents, preparing the drinks, lighting the fireplace for grilling the sausages and other food, and finally the preparation of the food buffet by our well organized and efficient ladies. Everyone gave a helping hand!

We also were very pleased to be able to welcome many new faces at this event. Five of them became members (2 families, 1 single). And as always, our thanks go to Andy Mueller for making the reservation for the BBQ place and picking up the sausages from Rock Field (Iwate-san), and to Swissnex in Japan for donating 18 bottles of fine Swiss wines.

Financially we broke even and additionally collected ¥13,000 in membership fees.

### **Raclette with a visit from Santa, Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club (KRAC), December 14**

After we moved this event to the Kobe Club last year, to say farewell to the 'old' Kobe Club, we held it again at our traditional venue, the KRAC. They treated us well, both in terms of providing the food timely and at a good pace as well as the efficient bar service. Although we used only 3 Raclette ovens (2 electric, 1 gas-operated), the lines were not too long. As the guests lined up along the Raclette ovens, there was ample opportunity for the Raclette operators to chat with the participants. 105 people joined the event (40 members, 29 guests, 14 students and 22 children).

The children got to meet Santa in the adjoining bar. All kids were given a Santa bag with goodies, which included Swiss treats directly imported from Switzerland, as well as one of the legendary "Grittibänz", which were baked the day before by a few Committee Members. A big thank-you goes to Nestlé Japan for their generous donation of KitKats, Swissnex in Japan for the 18 bottles of fine Swiss wines, to Andy Mueller for letting us use his gas operated Raclette machine and to Urs Pfenninger, who hosted us for the Grittibänz baking.

The SSOK would not exist without YOU, the MEMBERS. Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at our events in 2026.

N.B: Congratulations to committee member Urs Pfenninger, who just achieved the incredible milestone of spending 50 years of his life in Japan. During that time, he served an astonishing 28 consecutive years as committee member!

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert Bucher  
President