

Annual Report of the Committee for the Year 2011

As is traditional for our Society the first event of the year was the Annual General Meeting on March 12th which after many years of being held in Osaka returned to Kobe. The well attended meeting was held at the Kobe Club. After the meeting we enjoyed a buffet dinner and desserts provided by the members. While the meeting was nice it followed two serious events: on the previous day Japan had been hit by a large earthquake and tsunami; and more personally for us Hans Singer, our long term treasurer and one of the society's founding members, was forced to retire for health reasons.

On May 14th, we held our spring barbecue in Okuike, where nearly 70 members, friends and children gathered on a beautiful day to enjoy the friendly atmosphere, along with grilled sausages and meats, salads and other dishes, and followed by desserts. We also had a surprise visit by our consul Mr. Flückiger whose stay in Japan was coming to an end. Our sincerest thanks to all the members and guests who prepared the event and the delicious food.

While the Swiss National day celebration is traditionally held on the 1st of August, this year we celebrated it a day early, since our venue, the Kobe Club, is closed on Mondays. On a fine summer evening we were able to welcome about 70 guests to the party in the garden. The Embassy of Switzerland in Tokyo kindly sponsored the wine for the aperitif, but was unable to send a representative to the event. However we still had competent official representation handled by the Honorary Consul Mr. Dieter Sommerhalder who provided the official greeting. The buffet dinner included an assortment of Swiss and other dishes. Finally we were able to conclude the evening as usual with a tombola. We are grateful to all our sponsors for the generous prizes.

On October 15th we had our fall barbecue. The weather threatened, but ultimately held, and more than 50 members, guests and children were able to spend an enjoyable day in good company at Okuike. For our culinary needs we had sausages and meatloaf, bread and salads, followed by desserts, all provided by our members and excellent as always.

Finally our calendar of events came to a close on December 4th an event which seems to be getting ever more popular. Nearly 100 people, including many friends, and almost 50 children crowded into the Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club (KRAC) in Sannomiya, to tables decorated with nuts and mikan, Christmas cookies from Peter Labhard, as well as chocolate treats provided by Nestlé. After people had settled in, it was time for a visit from Santa Claus, who read to the children from his golden book in English, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish. Then the children received bags with treats from Switzerland kindly sponsored by Panalpina, and Grittibänz baked by our members. With the "official" part out of the way it was time to enjoy the raclette dinner, followed by an assortment of cakes and other desserts. We would like to send our gratitude to Panalpina for their generosity and thank once again all the members who helped us to prepare this event.

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 2012.

Swiss Society of the Kansai

The committee