

March 4, 2023

## **Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of the Kansai**

held at the Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, Kobe on Saturday, March 4, 2023, 18:00

Herbert Bucher, President of the Swiss Society of the Kansai (SSOK) opened the meeting at 18:07. He thanked everyone for coming.

Quorum was determined as followed: the Society has 76 members—54 family members from 27 families, and 22 individual members. Present at the meeting were 15 members—2 individual members and 13 members from 10 families. Thus quorum (20% of members) was reached.

The president informed the members that the Annual General Meeting was called by invitation, together with the agenda, 4 weeks before the date set for the assembly, as stipulated in the Statutes of the SSOK. He then proceeded with the ordinary business of the 44th AGM.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

As there were no comments to the minutes of the 43rd AGM, President Bucher proposed to approve them.

→ The Minutes of the 43rd (2022) AGM were approved by acclamation.

### **2. Approval of the 2022 Annual Report**

The President read the annual report for 2022. The report had been distributed to all members. Below is a short summary:

Five (5) planned events were during 2022. The attendance was as follows:

- AGM (March 12) 33 members and guests
- Spring BBQ (May 14) 77
- Swiss National Day (July 30) 77
- Autumn BBQ (Oct 15) 61
- Raclette/Santa Party (Dec 4) 114

The report also thanked everyone for their support in 2022.

Member movements in 2022 were as stated below. We started the year with 68 members — 26 families with 52 members and 16 individual members. Incoming this year were 3 families with 6 members and 8 individual members, outgoing were 2 families with 4 members and 2 individual members, resulting in a new total of 76 members — 27 families with 54 members and 22 individual members.

#### New Members

- (1) Becker Yann (Spring BBQ)
- (1) Bissig Cindy (website)
- (1) Clement Tristan (Spring BBQ)
- (2) Dutoit Cedric & wife (Spring BBQ)
- (2) Fagundes Guy & Stella (Spring BBQ)
- (1) Fukai Masahiro (Spring BBQ, lapsed, renewed)
- (1) Date Chieko (Swiss National Day)
- (1) Muramatsu Aya (Swiss National Day)
- (2) Matsunaga Matthias (website)
- (1) Ruf Philippe (Autumn BBQ)
- (1) Walter Mark (website)

#### Outgoing Members

- (1) El-Safty Jasmine (no attendance in the last 3 years)
- (2) Ishiharada Akemi (no attendance in the last 3 years)
- (2) Schneider Philip & Aya (no attendance in the last 3 years)
- (1) Tatsuta Keiko (no attendance in the last 3 years)

→ The Annual Report for 2022 was approved by acclamation.

### **3. Approval of the 2022 Treasurer and Auditor's report**

SSOK treasurer Nelson Izquierdo informed the membership that 2022 was a successful year in terms of the events. After two difficult years due to the pandemic, we were again able to hold all events as scheduled. There was however some imbalance in terms of the finances.

The year 2022 ended with a deficit of ¥121,504, lowering the assets of the Society to ¥970,847. Nevertheless, we are still quite solid.

Mr. Andy Mueller (Auditor, excused) confirmed in writing that he had checked all the financial records and that he found everything to be in perfect order. He thanked Mr. Izquierdo for taking such good care of the finances of the SSOK.

The president gave a special thanks to Nelson for his hard work.

→ The Financials report and the auditor report for 2022 were approved by acclamation.

At this point Treasurer Izquierdo explained that the 2023 budget. The proposed budget foresees equal income and expenses.

It was proposed that membership dues remain unchanged as follows:

- ¥5,000 for family membership
- ¥3,000 for individual membership
- ¥1,000 for student membership.

→ The membership fees and the budget for 2023 were approved by acclamation.

#### **4. Election of an Election Chairman**

President Bucher proposed Consul Dr. Felix Moesner as Election Chairman.

→ Dr. Felix Moesner was elected as Election Chairman.

Dr. Moesner thanked the Society for their work in the community. He expressed his hope that in these times of war (Ukraine), inflation, among other difficulties for many families, that the situation would improve, and return to normality. He thanked the Society for their events; the BBQs, the Swiss National Day celebration, and the Raclette/Santa Claus.

He also took the opportunity to report on several recent events of particular relevance to the Swiss community in the Kansai.

In particular he mentioned the recent visits to Osaka, one by the Swiss President, and one by a delegation of Swiss parliamentarians. These visits were held in view of the next World Exhibition 2025, which will be held in Kansai and have a Swiss Pavillion.

He also emphasized the connections with Japan being made through Swissnex and the opening of a new consulate in Midosuji Osaka which should be completed in the running year, and its role in the preparations for the World Expo, all as part of the 160 year anniversary of diplomatic relations with Japan.

#### **5. Discharge of the outgoing Executive Committee**

Dr Moesner thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and the Auditor for their dedication and time spent for the Society throughout the last year. He proposed to discharge the Committee.

→ The Executive Committee and the Auditor were discharged by acclamation.

#### **6. Election of the new Committee**

The following members were proposed as Committee Members and Auditor for 2023:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • President        | Herbert Bucher   |
| • Vice President   | Oscar Egli       |
| • Treasurer        | Nelson Izquierdo |
| • Secretary        | Philip Spaelti   |
| • Committee Member | Urs Pfenninger   |
| • Committee Member | Eduard Herbst    |

- Committee Member Carlos-Felipe Correa
- Committee Member Jacqueline Teissier-Okuma
- Auditor Andy Mueller

→ All proposed Committee members and the Auditor were elected, one-by-one, by acclamation.

The re-elected president thanked Dr. Moesner for his service as election chairman. He also thanked Dr. Moesner and Swissnex for their support to the Society.

(Dr Moesner informed that he will continue to join the committee meetings if his schedule allows and would act as Honorary Committee Member.)

### **7. Budget and Annual Membership Dues for 2023**

[This point was covered under 3.]

### **8. Approval of the General Directives for 2023 for the activities of the Swiss Society**

President Bucher mentioned that alphorn player Lisa Stoll will again be coming to Japan this year. We will look into the possibility of again inviting her to Kobe as well.

The president presented the line-up of events for 2023. The proposed events calendar is as follows:

- March 4 (Saturday) AGM, KR&AC, Kobe
- May 13 (Saturday) Spring BBQ, Okuike
- July 29 (Saturday) Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club
- October 14 (Saturday) Autumn BBQ, Okuike (place & date tentative)
- December 3 (Sunday) Raclette & Santa Claus Party, KR&AC Kobe

→ The events calendar for 2023 was approved unanimously.

As there was no other business brought forward, President Bucher thanked all participants for their attendance and closed the meeting at 18:44. Kobe, March 4, 2023.

Philip Spaelti, Secretary of the SSOK