



2023 Annual Report of the Swiss Society of the Kansai

Kobe, end of January 2024

With Covid-19 a thing of the past, the SSOK is thriving at full speed. This is not only visible in the overall very high attendance of 464 at our 5 events held last year, but also in the increase of new members. In the last 2 years, we could add 18 new members, 14 of them alone in 2023.

The committee met on five occasions throughout the year in person to prepare new events and review past events. In-between there were numerous information exchanges on our LINE Group. One of the meetings was held at the residence of Dr. Felix Moesner, CEO of Swissnex in Japan and Head of Post of the Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka. Thank you for the hospitality and the delicious Raclette dinner.

The following events could not have been held without the unwavering and loyal support of my fellow committee member, their spouses, and the members, who always lend a hand during the events. You all rock! THANK YOU!

Annual General Meeting, Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, March 4

The event was held at the Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, same as in the previous year. The meeting went smoothly. All agenda items were approved unanimously. There was no change in the composition of the committee. The AGM, attended by 15 members, was followed by dinner with 30 participants. It was a delicious course menu of appetizer, soup, fish, meat, and coffee/dessert. The obligatory Swiss wines were also served.

Dr. Felix Moesner, CEO of Swissnex in Japan, informed about recent as well as upcoming events, in particular the opening of the new Consulate, scheduled in autumn 2023.

Spring BBQ, Okuike, May 13

The people came out in crowds at our Spring BBQ in Okuike. A whopping 101 people attended. Among them were Dr. Felix Moesner of Swissnex in Japan. The sumptuous buffet, including all the homemade desserts was complemented with Swiss style cervelats and bratwursts (thank you Andy Mueller, for arranging them) and the usual Swiss wines. A special 'thank you' goes to the Consulate of Switzerland, Swissnex in Japan and to Junya Morimoto, Vinum Helvetica for their donations of 12 bottles of Swiss wines each.

Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club, July 29

The party was held in the nicely decorated ballroom of the Kobe Club. 126 members and guests attended. We haven't seen such a high number in many years. Among them were HE Dr. Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to Japan, and Consul Felix Moesner of Swissnex in Japan. The Embassy generously donated 36 bottles of Swiss wines, in addition to Junya Morimoto's (Vinum Helvetica) donation of 12 bottles. Thank you!

The climax of the evening was the samurai performance "The Way of Samurai". It was breathtaking, and something to be talked about for a long time. Watching in awe the tantalizing sword fighting scenes close-up brought goosebumps to many arms. Thank you, Tetsuro Shimaguchi and your fellow artists to thrill us with a one-in-a-lifetime performance. This would all not have been possible without the organizational skills of our committee member Jacqueline Okuma-Teissier. She was putting everything into making this a success, and we look forward to her next 'project'.

Donations for our traditional tombola came from (in alphabetical order): Alcotrade, Appenzell Herbs Spirits, Daniel Aviolat, Hans Bieker, Herbert Bucher, Chopard Japan, Estate Wines Japan, Eurovin, Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk, Hinata Trading, Jackie & Partners, Keitty Co Ltd., The Kobe Club, Nestlé Japan, On Running Japan, Urs Pfenninger, Swiss International Air Lines, Swissôtel Nankai Osaka, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Osaka, Universal Studios Japan, Victorinox Japan and Vinum Helvetica.



Autumn BBQ, Okuike, October 14

Our Autumn BBQ took place at Okuike on an autumn day that was sunny, except for a brief sudden shower, when our tents came in handy! Attendance was 93 people, despite some no-shows. 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 the committee members and other attendants pitched in with a generous buffet of salads and desserts. Same as for the previous 2 events, we received wine donations from Swissnex in Japan and Vinum Helvetica. Thank you!

Raclette with a visit from Santa, Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club, December 3

Initial registrations for the event came in slowly, but shortly before the registration deadline we were flooded with them. A total of 115 signed up eventually (85 adults, 11 students and 19 children). It was an interesting event. Until very late, it was uncertain if we, the committee members, would need to prepare everything, as the chef of the KR&AC left shortly before our event. In the end, the office staff was able to provide the food service required, albeit with some hiccups, especially the long waiting time for the raclette, due to slow preparation of the potatoes. We will make sure to control the event better next time.

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 for their generous gifts of KitKats. Later all took part in the Raclette, supplemented with plenty of Swiss wine from our stores and a generous contribution of 24 bottles from Swissnex in Japan. Andy Mueller's gas operated Raclette machine has become legend by now, and we would not be able to cater for so many guests without it. The evening was concluded with the sumptuous dessert buffet, prepared mainly by the committee members and some contributions from members and guests.

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.

Respectfully submitted

Herbert Bucher
President