

Newsletter

Schweizerische Botschaft in Hanoi

Schweizerisches Generalkonsulat in Ho-Chi-Minh-Stadt

Juli 2022

Grusswort des Botschafters / Message de l'Ambassadeur / Messaggio dell'Ambasciatore / Ambassador's message



Sehr geehrte Leserinnen und Leser,
liebe Schweizerinnen und Schweizer in Vietnam,

Der Ausspruch «die Zeit vergeht im Flug» ist ein Allgemeinplatz, der gleichzeitig in unserem Leben immer wieder – und oftmals viel zu häufig – treffend Anwendung findet. Ich schreibe das heute in meinem Grusswort an Sie nicht nur, weil bereits über ein halbes Jahr verstrichen ist, seit ich mich das letzte Mal an Sie wandte. Vielmehr gilt für mich nach einer viel zu kurz erscheinenden Zeit hier in Hanoi, mich nicht nur von Vietnam, sondern auch von der Schweizer Diplomatie zu verabschieden

In gut zwei Wochen beende ich mein Mandat hier in Vietnam und am 4. August 2022 werden meine Frau Gracita und ich zurück in die Schweiz fliegen. Während bis dann noch einiges ansteht, nicht zuletzt die Feier des Schweizer Nationalfests hier in Hanoi und – zusammen mit der «Swiss Business Association» – am 30. Juli 2022 in HCMC, ist auch der Zeitpunkt gekommen für eine Rück- und Ausblick.

Die knapp 3 Jahre, in denen ich die Schweiz in Vietnam vertreten durfte, waren hier im Land aber auch bei der Gestaltung unseren Beziehungen zu einem grossen Teil von der Corona-Pandemie und deren Auswirkungen geprägt. Davon, dass Vietnam die Pandemie trotz kritischen Phasen vergleichsweise gut meisterte, konnten auch wir alle im Land Wohnende profitieren. Gleichzeitig trug die gezielte Unterstützung Vietnams durch die Schweizer Regierung (erwähnt werden kann die Bereitstellung von medizinischen Hilfsgütern während der intensiven Ansteckungswelle vor einem Jahr) aber auch das Engagement der Schweizer Wirtschaft für eine breit getragene Krisenbewältigung und zur Vertrauensbildung in unseren Beziehungen bei. Und last but not least haben Sie alle – durch Ihre Flexibilität und Solidarität – entscheidend hierzu beigesteuert. Ich möchte hier auch meinen Kolleginnen und Kollegen an der Botschaft in Hanoi und im Generalkonsulat in HCMC herzlich für ihr Engagement und ihren professionellen Einsatz danken. Sie waren auch in schwierigen Zeiten immer verfügbar und haben sichergestellt, dass auch in herausfordernden Phasen unser Betrieb immer funktionierte.

Dies gibt mir auch die Gelegenheit, zwei meiner Kollegen die Vietnam diesen Sommer ebenfalls verlassen, besonders zu erwähnen. Zum einen ist dies Martin Maier, unser Generalkonsul in HCMC, der dieser Tage aus Vietnam abreist. Während seiner vier Jahre in Ho Chi Minh Stadt hat er sich engagiert und unermüdlich für die Schweizer Interessen, die schweizerischen Unternehmen und für Sie alle hier Vietnam eingesetzt. Unterstützt von einem hervorragenden Team im Generalkonsulat hat er das sehr erfolgreich getan. Ich möchte ihm zu seiner fruchtbaren Zeit in Vietnam gratulieren und ihm ganz herzliche danken. Und natürlich wünsche ich Martin, der ab Ende August das Schweizer Generalkonsulat in Mumbai, Indien, leiten wird, seiner Gattin Pai und ihrer Tochter Yipta für ihre berufliche und persönliche Zukunft viel Erfolg und Befriedigung.



Ausser Martin Maier wird uns Anfang September auch Sylvianne Maudonnet nach einer intensiven Zeit als Betriebsleiterin an der Botschaft Hanoi verlassen. Sylvianne kehrt zurück in die Schweiz, von wo sie in den nächsten Jahren «Troubleshooterin» innerhalb des EDA dort eingesetzt wird, wo «Not an der Frau» ist oder besondere Einsätze geleistet werden müssen. Ich möchte auch Sylvianne für ihr grosses Engagement und ihren ausgezeichneten Einsatz ganz herzlich danken und auch ihr für ihren nächsten Einsatz viel Befriedigung und Erfolg, sowohl beruflich als auch privat wünschen.

Ausser bei Martin Maier und Sylvianne Maudonnet sowie meinem ausgezeichneten Team möchte ich mich bei meinem Abschied aus Vietnam aber auch – und vor allem – bei Ihnen allen bedanken. Ohne Ihre Unterstützung, Ihren Beitrag zum weiteren Ausbau der schweizerisch-vietnamesischen Beziehungen aber auch Ihr ganz persönliches engagement, mit der Sie Brücken zwischen unseren beiden Ländern bauen, macht auch Sie alle zu Botschafterinnen und Botschaftern für unser Land hier in Vietnam. Ich durfte das ganz besonders während den Jubiläumsfeierlichkeiten zu 5 Jahrzehnten diplomatische Beziehungen zwischen der Schweiz und Vietnam im vergangenen Jahr, den Besuchen von Vize-Bundespräsident Cassis hier in Vietnam sowie dem vietnamesischen Präsidenten Nguyen Xuan Phuc in der Schweiz, aber auch bei meinen zahlreichen Kontakten hier im Land immer wieder erfahren. Und ich bin zuversichtlich, dass in der Nach-Covid Phase gerade diese bestehenden starken Beziehungen die ideale Basis für einen weiteren Ausbau unserer Zusammenarbeit mit Vietnam bilden werden.

Meine Frau Gracita und ich werden nach einer tollen Zeit hier in Vietnam das Land mit zahlreichen schönen Erinnerungen und entsprechend mit schweren Herzen verlassen. Nach unserer Rückkehr in die Schweiz Anfang August schliessen wir dann unser letztes Kapitel im und mit dem EDA und der Schweizer Diplomatie ab. Den Ruhestand werden wir in der Schweiz geniessen, mit der festen Absicht, auf unseren geplanten Reisen auch zurück nach Vietnam zu kommen. Meine Stellvertreterin Frau Nicole Wyrsh wird bis zum Eintreffen meines Nachfolger Botschafter Thomas Gass Anfang Januar 2023 hier in Hanoi die Botschaftsgeschäfte leiten und ist natürlich auch für Sie da. Sie wird dabei zwischen September und Dezember von Alexander Hoffet unterstützt, der dieser Tage sein aktuelles Mandat als Schweizer Botschafter in der Slowakei beendet. Ihm und natürlich Botschafter Gass und seiner Gattin wünsche ich bereits jetzt viel Erfolg und eine spannende Zeit in diesem faszinierenden Land mit seiner herzlichen und gastfreundlichen Bevölkerung.

Sie alle grüsse ich an dieser Stelle zum letzten Mal. Ich wünsche Ihnen beruflich und persönlich alles Beste und viel Erfolg für Ihre Zukunft. Xin Cam On – und «Hopp Schwiiz».

Ihr Ivo Sieber

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Chères lectrices et chers lecteurs
Chères/chers compatriotes au Vietnam

L'expression "le temps passe vite" trouve toujours - et trop souvent - une signification pertinente dans notre vie. Si je l'écris aujourd'hui dans mon message de bienvenue, ce n'est pas seulement parce que plus de six mois se sont écoulés depuis la dernière fois que je me suis adressé à vous, mais il s'agit plutôt pour moi de prendre congé non seulement du Vietnam, mais aussi de la diplomatie suisse, après une période qui m'a semblé bien trop courte ici à Hanoi.

Dans un peu plus de deux semaines, je terminerai mon mandat au Vietnam et le 4 août 2022, ma femme Gracita et moi-même rentrerons en Suisse. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire d'ici là, notamment la célébration de la fête nationale suisse à Hanoi et avec la "Swiss Business Association" le 30 juillet 2022 à Ho Chi Minh Ville. Le moment est venu de faire le point et d'évoquer les perspectives.

Les trois années durant lesquelles j'ai eu le privilège de représenter la Suisse au Vietnam ont été en grande partie marquées par la pandémie de Covid19 et ses conséquences, tant dans le pays que dans l'organisation de nos relations. Le fait que le Vietnam ait relativement bien maîtrisé la pandémie malgré des phases critiques a été bénéfique pour nous tous qui vivons dans le pays. Conjointement, le soutien ciblé du gouvernement suisse au Vietnam (on peut mentionner la mise à disposition de matériel médical pendant la vague de contagion intense d'il y a un an), mais aussi l'engagement de l'économie suisse, ont



contribué à une gestion de la crise largement soutenue et à l'instauration de la confiance dans nos relations. Enfin, et ce n'est pas le moins important, vous y avez tous contribué de manière décisive grâce à votre flexibilité et à votre solidarité. Je tiens également à remercier chaleureusement mes collègues de l'ambassade à Hanoi et du consulat général à Ho Chi Minh Ville pour leur engagement et leur professionnalisme. Ils ont toujours été disponibles, même dans les moments difficiles, et ont veillé à ce que nos opérations fonctionnent toujours, même pendant les phases de défi.

Cela me donne également l'occasion de mentionner tout particulièrement deux de mes collègues qui quittent également le Vietnam cet été. Il s'agit d'une part de Martin Maier, notre consul général à Ho Chi Minh Ville, qui quitte le Vietnam ces jours-ci. Pendant ses quatre années passées à Ho Chi Minh Ville, il s'est engagé et a travaillé sans relâche pour les intérêts suisses, pour les entreprises suisses et pour vous tous au Vietnam. Soutenu par une excellente équipe au consulat général, il l'a fait avec beaucoup de succès. Je tiens à le féliciter et à le remercier chaleureusement pour son enrichissant séjour au Vietnam. Je souhaite à Martin, qui dirigera le consulat général de Suisse à Mumbai, en Inde, à partir de la fin août, ainsi qu'à son épouse Pai et à leur fille Yipta, beaucoup de succès et de satisfaction pour leur avenir professionnel et personnel.

Outre Martin Maier, Sylvianne Maudonnet nous quittera également début septembre après une période intense en tant que cheffe de gestion à l'ambassade à Hanoi. Sylvianne retournera en Suisse, où elle sera « agent de renfort » au sein du DFAE. Elle interviendra où il y a "urgence" ou des missions particulières à effectuer. Je tiens également à remercier chaleureusement Sylvianne pour son grand engagement et son excellent travail, et je lui souhaite beaucoup de satisfaction et de succès dans sa prochaine mission, tant sur le plan professionnel que privé.

En quittant le Vietnam, je tiens à remercier non seulement Martin Maier et Sylvianne Maudonnet ainsi que mon excellente équipe, mais aussi - et surtout - vous tous. Avec votre soutien, votre contribution au développement des relations entre la Suisse et le Vietnam, mais aussi votre engagement personnel pour jeter des ponts entre nos deux pays. Vous êtes tous des ambassadeurs et des ambassadrices de notre pays ici au Vietnam. J'ai pu m'en rendre compte tout particulièrement lors des festivités organisées l'année dernière pour célébrer les cinq décennies de relations diplomatiques entre la Suisse et le Vietnam, lors des visites du vice-président de la Confédération Cassis au Vietnam et du président vietnamien Nguyen Xuan Phuc en Suisse, mais aussi lors de mes nombreux contacts ici dans le pays. Je suis persuadé que, dans la phase post-Covid, ce sont justement ces relations fortes existantes qui constitueront la base idéale pour un nouveau développement de notre coopération avec le Vietnam.

Ma femme Gracita et moi-même allons quitter le Vietnam avec de nombreux magnifiques souvenirs et le cœur lourd après y avoir passé un temps formidable. A notre retour en Suisse début août, nous clôturons notre dernier chapitre au sein et avec le DFAE et la diplomatie suisse. Nous profiterons de notre retraite en Suisse, avec l'intention de revenir au Vietnam lors d'un de nos prochains voyages. Ma suppléante, Mme Nicole Wyrsh, dirigera les affaires de l'ambassade à Hanoi jusqu'à l'arrivée de mon successeur, l'ambassadeur Thomas Gass, début janvier 2023, et sera bien entendu à votre disposition. Elle sera assistée entre septembre et décembre par Alexander Hoffet, qui termine ces jours-ci son mandat actuel d'ambassadeur de Suisse en Slovaquie. Je lui souhaite d'ores et déjà, ainsi qu'à l'ambassadeur Gass et à son épouse, beaucoup de succès et un séjour passionnant dans ce pays fascinant à la population chaleureuse et accueillante.

Je vous salue tous pour la dernière fois et vous souhaite le meilleur sur le plan professionnel et personnel et beaucoup de succès pour votre avenir. Xin Cam On - et "Hopp Schwiiz".

Ivo Sieber

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Cari lettori

Cari concittadini in Vietnam

Il detto "il tempo vola" è un luogo comune che, allo stesso tempo, trova sempre una giusta applicazione nella nostra vita, spesso troppo spesso. Dopo più di mezz'anno dall'ultima volta che mi sono rivolto a voi, vi scrivo questo saluto pure perché, dopo un periodo di permanenza ad Hanoi che mi sembra fin troppo breve, è giunto per me il momento di dire addio non solo al Vietnam, ma anche alla diplomazia svizzera.

Tra poco più di due settimane concluderò il mio mandato in Vietnam e il 4 agosto 2022 io e mia moglie Gracita torneremo in Svizzera. Sebbene ci sia ancora molto da fare prima di partire - la mia ultima celebrazione della Festa nazionale svizzera qui ad Hanoi e il 30 luglio 2022 a Ho Chi Minh City insieme alla "Swiss Business Association - è arrivato anche il momento di guardare indietro e avanti.

I quasi tre anni in cui ho potuto rappresentare la Svizzera in Vietnam sono stati in gran parte caratterizzati dalla pandemia di Corona e dai suoi effetti, sia qui nel Paese che nella definizione delle nostre relazioni. Tutti noi che viviamo nel Paese abbiamo potuto beneficiare del fatto che il Vietnam ha affrontato relativamente bene la pandemia nonostante le varie fasi critiche. Allo stesso tempo, il sostegno del Vietnam da parte del governo svizzero (si può citare la fornitura di aiuti medici durante l'intensa ondata di infezioni di un anno fa), ma anche l'impegno dell'economia svizzera, hanno contribuito a una gestione della crisi ampiamente sostenuta e alla costruzione della fiducia nelle nostre relazioni. Infine, ma non per questo meno importante, tutti voi - con la vostra flessibilità e solidarietà - avete dato un contributo decisivo. Vorrei anche ringraziare i miei colleghi dell'Ambasciata di Hanoi e del Consolato Generale di Ho Chi Minh City per il loro impegno e la loro professionalità. Sono sempre stati disponibili anche nei momenti difficili e hanno fatto in modo che le nostre operazioni funzionassero sempre, anche nelle fasi più problematiche.

Questo mi dà anche l'opportunità di fare una menzione speciale a due miei colleghi che lasceranno il Vietnam quest'estate. Uno è Martin Maier, il nostro Console generale a Ho Chi Minh City, che sta lasciando il Vietnam in questi giorni. Nei suoi quattro anni di permanenza a Ho Chi Minh City, ha lavorato duramente e instancabilmente per gli interessi svizzeri, per le imprese svizzere e per tutti voi qui in Vietnam. Con il supporto di un eccellente team del Consolato Generale, è riuscito a farlo con grande successo. Vorrei congratularmi con lui per il proficuo periodo trascorso in Vietnam e ringraziarlo sentitamente. E naturalmente auguro a Martin, che dalla fine di agosto dirigerà il Consolato Generale di Svizzera a Mumbai, in India, a sua moglie Pai e alla loro figlia Yipta ogni successo e soddisfazione per il loro futuro professionale e personale.

Oltre a Martin Maier, anche Sylvianne Maudonnet ci lascerà all'inizio di settembre dopo un intenso periodo come responsabile delle operazioni presso l'Ambasciata di Hanoi. Sylvianne tornerà in Svizzera, da dove per i prossimi anni sarà impiegata come "risolutrice di problemi" all'interno del DFAE, ovunque ci sia "bisogno di aiuto" o si debbano svolgere incarichi speciali. Ringrazio sentitamente Sylvianne per il suo grande impegno e per l'eccellente lavoro svolto e le auguro molte soddisfazioni e successi per il suo prossimo incarico, sia a livello professionale che privato.

Oltre a Martin Maier e Sylvianne Maudonnet, nonché al mio eccellente team, vorrei ringraziare - e soprattutto - tutti voi mentre lascio il Vietnam. Senza il vostro sostegno, il vostro contributo all'ulteriore sviluppo delle relazioni svizzero-vietnamite, ma anche il vostro impegno personale, con cui costruite ponti tra i nostri due Paesi, diventate tutti ambasciatori del nostro Paese qui in Vietnam. Ho avuto modo di sperimentarlo più volte, soprattutto in occasione delle celebrazioni per l'anniversario dei cinque decenni di relazioni diplomatiche tra la Svizzera e il Vietnam lo scorso anno, delle visite del vicepresidente Cassis qui in Vietnam e del presidente vietnamita Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Svizzera, ma anche durante i miei numerosi contatti qui nel Paese. Sono fiducioso che, nella fase post-Covid, saranno proprio queste solide relazioni esistenti a costituire la base ideale per espandere ulteriormente la nostra cooperazione con il Vietnam.

Dopo aver trascorso un periodo fantastico qui in Vietnam, mia moglie Gracita e io lasceremo il Paese con molti ricordi meravigliosi e, di conseguenza, con il cuore pesante. Dopo il nostro ritorno in Svizzera, all'inizio di agosto, chiuderemo il nostro ultimo capitolo con il DFAE e la diplomazia svizzera. Ci godremo la pensione in Svizzera, con la ferma intenzione di tornare in Vietnam durante i nostri futuri viaggi. La mia vice, Nicole Wyrsh, si occuperà degli affari dell'Ambasciata qui ad Hanoi fino all'arrivo del mio successore, l'Ambasciatore Thomas Gass, inizio gennaio 2023, e sarà ovviamente presente anche per voi. Tra



settembre e dicembre sarà affiancata da Alexander Hoffet, che sta concludendo il suo mandato di ambasciatore svizzero in Slovacchia. Auguro a lui, e naturalmente all'ambasciatore Gass e a sua moglie, di avere molto successo e di trascorrere un periodo emozionante in questo affascinante Paese, con la sua gente calorosa e ospitale.

Colgo l'occasione per salutare tutti voi per l'ultima volta con i miei auguri per il vostro futuro personale e professionale, carico di successo e nuove esperienze. Xin Cam On - e "Hopp Schwiiz".

Il vostro Ivo Sieber

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Dear Readers,
Dear compatriots in Vietnam

The proverb "time flies" is a commonplace. At the same time – and much too frequent – it catches up with all of us. When I revert to this truism in my message to you, I not only do so because more than half a year has already passed since I last addressed you. Rather, after an assignment here in Hanoi that seems far too short, it is time for me to say goodbye not only to Vietnam, but also to Swiss diplomacy.

In about two weeks I will end my mandate here in Vietnam and on August 4, 2022 my wife Gracita and I will fly back to Switzerland. While there is still a lot to do until then, not least the celebration of the Swiss National Day here in Hanoi and - together with the "Swiss Business Association" - on July 30, 2022 in HCMC, the time has also come for a look back and ahead.

The almost 3 years in which I was privileged to represent Switzerland in Vietnam were marked to a large extent by the Corona pandemic. Its effects were not only felt here in the country, but also shaped our two countries' relations. All of us living here were able to benefit from the fact that Vietnam in many ways coped well with the pandemic despite some critical phases. At the same time, the support extended to Vietnam by the Swiss government (the provision of medical supplies during the intense wave of infection a year ago can be mentioned) combined with the remarkable commitment of the Swiss business community contributed to a broad-based crisis management and to the strengthening of trust in our relations. And last but not least, all of you - through your flexibility and solidarity - have made a decisive contribution to this. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Embassy in Hanoi and the Consulate General in HCMC for their commitment and professionalism. They were always available even in difficult times and ensured that our operations always functioned even in challenging phases.

This also gives me the opportunity to make special mention of two of my colleagues who are also leaving Vietnam this summer. One is Martin Maier, our Consul General in HCMC, who is departing Vietnam these days. During his four years in Ho Chi Minh City, he has worked tirelessly and with dedication for Swiss interests, Swiss businesses and for all of Swiss here Vietnam. Supported by an excellent team, he has done so very successfully. I would like to congratulate him on his time in HCMC and thank him sincerely. And of course I wish Martin, who will be leading the Swiss Consulate General in Mumbai, India, from the end of August, as well as his wife Pai and their daughter Yipta every success and satisfaction for their professional and personal future.

In addition to Martin Maier, Sylvianne Maudonnet will also leave us for Switzerland at the beginning of September after a successful time as Operations Manager at the Swiss Embassy Hanoi. In her new function, she will be assigned as a "troubleshooter" within the FDFA diplomatic network wherever there is a "need for help" or where a special assignment has to be carried out. I would also like to sincerely thank Sylvianne for her dedication and excellent work and wish her much gratification and success for her next assignment, both professionally and personally.

In addition to Martin Maier, Sylvianne Maudonnet and the outstanding team here in Hanoi and HCMC, I would also like to thank all of you. Through your support, your contribution to furthering the development of Swiss-Vietnamese relations, but also your very personal commitment, you also help to build bridges between our two countries as ambassadors for Switzerland here in Vietnam. I was able to experience this



time and again, especially during last year's anniversary celebrations of five decades of diplomatic relations, the visits of Vice President Cassis here in Vietnam or the Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Switzerland, but also during my numerous contacts here in the country. And I am confident that in the post-Covid phase, it is precisely these existing strong relations that will form the robust basis for further expanding our cooperation with Vietnam.

After an amazing time here in Vietnam, my wife Gracita and I will leave the country with many wonderful memories and also with heavy hearts. After our return to Switzerland in early August we will close our last chapter in and with the FDFA and Swiss diplomacy. We will enjoy our retirement in Zürich, with the firm intention to return to Vietnam on our future travels. My deputy, Ms. Nicole Wyrsh, will be in charge of the Embassy here in Hanoi until my successor, Ambassador Thomas Gass, arrives in early January 2023. She will be supported between September and December by Alexander Hoffet, who is completing his current mandate as Swiss Ambassador to Slovakia these days. I wish him, and of course Ambassador Gass and his wife, much success and an exciting time in this fascinating country with its warm and hospitable people.

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you all for one last time. I wish you all the very best professionally and personally and much success for your future. Xin Cam On - and "Hopp Schwiiz".

Yours, Ivo Sieber

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Schweizerische Geschäftsleute besuchen Vietnam

Vom 27. bis 30. Juni 2022 besuchte eine hochrangige Delegation von Schweizer und internationalen Wirtschaftsvertretern unter der Leitung von Dr. Philipp Rösler, vietnamesischer Honorarkonsul in Zug und ehemaliger deutscher Vizekanzler Vietnam. Mit Unterstützung der vietnamesischen Behörden, der vietnamesischen Botschaft in Bern, sowie der Schweizer Botschaft in Hanoi traf sich die Delegation in Hanoi und HCMC nicht nur mit diversen vietnamesischen WirtschaftsvertreterInnen. Auf dem Programm standen unter anderem Treffen mit den fachzuständigen Ministern für Äusseres, Industrie und Handel, Finanzen, Information und Kommunikation, sowie Wissenschaft und Technologie. Nach gut zwei Jahren Covid-bedingter Reisebeschränkungen unterstreicht dieser Besuch das Interesse auch von Schweizer Unternehmen an einer Intensivierung der Wirtschaftsbeziehungen mit Vietnam.

Swiss Bank Executive Training, Swiss BET

The launch of the application process for the Swiss Bank Executives' Training (Swiss BET) Program has been a highlight of the Swiss economic development cooperation with Vietnam in the first half of 2022.

The Swiss BET Program is a top-notch executive education program designed for senior executives of Vietnamese commercial banks. It covers state-of-the-art training on key topics related to bank management, banking strategy and operational concepts as well as regulatory matters. The training will be provided in Vietnam (parallel in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) in 12 modules over 18 months.

The Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) located in Zurich, which is a center of excellence in research, training and knowledge exchange in banking and finance, will implement the program and deliver the training. Trainers will be high level experts with profound practical and teaching experience.

During a visit to Vietnam, the project managers of SFI have worked together with the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) to finalize the curriculum, set-up the timeline for the training modules, and identify the venues for the training in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. With the preparation now close to completion, everybody is looking forward to the start of the first module on September 26 in Hanoi.

Until mid-June 2022, close to 100 applications from executives from some 15 Vietnamese banks have been submitted, showing the high interest among banks and executives. The Swiss BET Program will improve bank management capacity and strengthen the financial sector in Vietnam. In addition, it is also an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Swiss banking in Vietnam.



Caption: 77 bank executives attended the Phase II of the Program (2015 – 2017)

« Tim » Aline Rebeaud, Director Maison Chance

I, Aline Rebeaud, was born in Switzerland on April 11th, 1972. At the age of 20, I arrived in Vietnam, where I founded Maison Chance to take care of the less fortunate.



The story begins when I met a little boy in a mental healthcare center who had suffered from a number of critical illnesses, the most serious of which being heart disease. I went to the center's director and insisted that he be taken to the hospital.

I took care of him until he regained his health after three months in the hospital. When we were leaving the heart hospital, the doctor and patients showed me the word "Tim" on the signboard. Since then, I've been known as Tim, which means "heart" in Vietnamese.

In 1993, I rented a house in a city suburb to provide a home for the boy. My new home welcomed even more abandoned children and the disabled in 1994.

In 1995, I bought that rental house and rented another for nearly 30 people. All the members were illiterate, so I hired a teacher to teach them. After that, I taught them how to paint and learned more about suitable jobs for wheelchair users. Following the painting, I opened a sewing room and an IT room.

In 1996, I returned to Europe to establish the Maison Chance Association in Switzerland and France, which would allow the organization's activities in Vietnam to be legalized.



In 1998, Maison Chance was officially registered as a non-governmental organization in Vietnam.

Maison Chance had roughly 60 beneficiaries at the time, which made the house a little cramped, so I began to consider a new project.

In 2005, the Take Wing Center, which provides vocational training to over 300 people, was opened.



Some of the beneficiaries had fallen in love, so I organized weddings for them. However, wheelchair users found it difficult to integrate into society. So, the third project in 2010, Village Chance has 33 wheelchair-accessible apartments, was born. The new complex includes a primary school, an in-house restaurant, a bakery, and a pool.

In 2012, I traveled to many provinces and ended up in Dak Nong Province to open the fourth center to care for the elderly disabled, and local disadvantaged ethnic minority children.



In 2016, the new center was built and opened its doors with 123 less fortunate children two years later.

In 2019, the number of people who benefited reached nearly 200. At Maison Chance Dak Nong, you'll find organic vegetable gardens or some kinds of livestock. Animal-assisted therapy and aqua therapy are available for beneficiaries. A restaurant and guesthouses were also opened to raise income for the center.

Currently, Maison Chance cares for around 700 people in need, with an annual budget of more than \$1 million. Over the past 28 years, thousands of less fortunate people have benefited from vocational training, education, and social integration. I'll continue to do this work until the end of my days to make a difference in their lives.

3 young Vietnamese female laureates – winners of the “Earth Prize 2022” in Geneva

On 22 April, Ambassador Ivo Sieber hosted a briefing at his Residence to present to local media the three Vietnamese winners of the Earth Prize 2022 (<https://www.theearth-prize.org>).



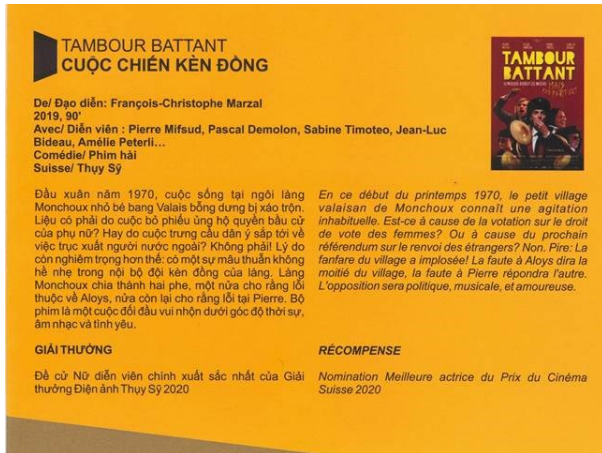
The Vietnamese team “Adorbsies”, made up of 3 high school students from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City: Bùi Tú Uyên (17 years), Lương Anh Khánh Huyền (17 years) and Trần Quỳnh Anh (16 years), competed with more than 650 teams from 516 schools in 114 countries. And they became the winners of the first edition of this new award.

Launched by The Earth Foundation in September 2021, the Earth Prize is a global \$200,000 environmental sustainability competition for students between the ages of 13 and 19. The prize rewards the teams, whose projects have the biggest potential to contribute to a better environment and sustainable world.

Team “Absordies” presented its promising project - making biodegradable sanitary pads out of dragon fruit peel - at the Inaugural Villars Symposium from 21 to 24 June. We wish them good luck!



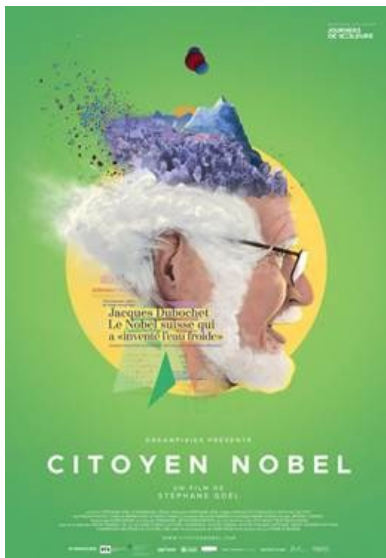
12^e Festival du film francophone à Hanoi (24-27 mars 2022)



Après avoir été reporté l'an dernier en raison de la pandémie du Covid, le 12^e Festival du film francophone à Hanoi a finalement eu lieu du 24 au 27 mars dernier. Le Festival qui était un des événements phare pour célébrer le 20 mars, Journée internationale annuelle de la Francophonie, s'est aussi tenu à l'occasion de la visite officielle au Vietnam de Mme Louise Mushikiwabo, Secrétaire générale de la Francophonie. L'Ambassade de Suisse avait pu présenter "Tambour battant", un film-comédie enjoué et drôle qui se déroule dans une petite commune valaisanne.

Organisé chaque année par le GADIF (Groupe des ambassades, délégations et institutions francophones au Vietnam), le Festival réunit bon nombre de cinéphiles francophones, mais aussi non francophones. Encore une fois, le film suisse a figuré parmi ceux qui ont attiré un public nombreux.

Documentary Film Festival



The Swiss Embassy, with partners of EUNIC-Vietnam and the National Documentary and Scientific Film Studio, participated in the 12th European-Vietnamese Documentary film Festival in Hanoi.

With "Nobel Citizen", a documentary film by Stéphane Goël, the Embassy introduced to Hanoi's audience the portrait of Nobel Prize winner Jacques Dubochet, an advocate of science and big supporter of young climate change activists in Switzerland.

When receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2017, biophysicist J. Dubochet did not simply rest on his laurels, but wondered what to do with his newly gained fame. And he decided to use his voice to stand up with young people in their fight against the climate change.

Like the Festival du film francophone, the European-Vietnamese Documentary Film Festival has become an annual cultural meeting point, welcomed both by Hanoi's public and foreign audience.

Swiss Artist Nikola H. Mounoud at REC Tour in Vietnam in July 2022

From 8-22 July 2022, Nikola H. Mounoud (known under his moniker •••), Swiss composer, live performer and sound artist born in Montreux, is taking part in the 2022 National Tour [•REC] Vietnam with several events in a number venues in Central of Vietnam.

Nikola creates his sound works through the process and constraints of analogue, digital and hybrid feed-backs to produce unique, powerful and highly dynamic live performances. In doing so, he creates an infinite range of noises, unexpected dense sonic blasts, surprising non-sense and deep irrationality meets and merges to allow the audience to absorb the raw beauty of unleashed frequencies wrath and live action.

With nothing pre-recorded, all in real-time, each of his public appearance are unique *in situ* creations and rarely, if ever, repeated.

After his first part of shows in Kon Tum, Buon Ma Thuot and Da Lat, Nikola continues his tour in Nha Trang, Ganh Da Dia, Quy Nhon, Tam Ky and Hoi An, with details as follows:



- 17.07.2022 Lang Nho, Nha Trang
- 18.07.2022 Lang Nho, Nha Trang
- 19.07.2022 Mövenpick, Nha Trang
- 20.07.2022 Mövenpick, Nha Trang
- 21.07.2022 Ariyana Hotel, Nha Trang
- 22.07.2022 Da Dia Farmstay, Ganh Da Dia
- 23.07.2022 Seagull Hotel, Quy Nhon
- 24.07.2022 Haven Vietnam, Quy Nhon
- 25.07.2022 ICISD, Quy Nhon
- 26.07.2022 Tam Tanh Beach, Tam Ky
- 27.07.2022 Soul Kitchen, Hoi An
- 28.07. 2032 Wild Garden, Hoi An

Tickets can be bought on the venue, or reserved on REC Tour's official website: www.recvietnam.net



Retirement / Farewell / Arrival of new staff members at the Embassy / Consulate General

HANOI

Retirement

Nguyen Quang Bao, cleaner



After 31 years working with the Swiss Embassy, Mr. Bao is now enjoying a well deserved retirement.

New local employee

Thi Hong Nhung Nguyen



Ms. Nguyễn Thị Hồng Nhung joined the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi on 1st June 2022 as assistant and translator.

She has a bachelor degree in International Communication from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. Ms. Nhung has a few years of experience supporting the consular and administration divisions at different embassies in Hanoi.

With her expertise, she will be able to assist several sections of the Embassy.

In her free time, she loves riding bicycles and travelling.



Rotation staff

Departure

Vanessa di Giorgi, diplomatic candidate



Arriving to Hanoi in the middle of the most virulent COVID-19 wave in summer of 2021 was not exactly ideal timing but allowed me to witness first-hand how countries like Vietnam perceive and react to global pandemics and what the implications of such an approach can be. Thanks to its successful vaccination campaign and willingness to adopt to a new normal a few months into my stay, everyday life changed and I was able to more practically explore this fascinating country both personally and professionally. Conducting my diplomatic stage at the Swiss representation in Hanoi allowed me to delve into the breath of activities Swiss diplomats abroad are engaged in as I was involved in political, human rights, economic, consular and development cooperation tasks. Whilst looking forward to my next post in Bern, I am looking back at my Vietnam experience as enriching and rewarding, with countless beautiful encounters along the way and a glimpse at a country whose natural beauty is just stunning!

Sylvianne Maudonnet, Head of Finances, Personal and Administration



After more than 20 years abroad and 8 different countries, it's time to go back to Switzerland ! From October 1st, 2022, I will be an reinforcing agent for the Swiss representations abroad.

Unforgettable are my trips to different regions Vietnam from North to South, the warmth of its people, the incredible variety of food, the beautiful sceneries. My walks around the Old Quarter in Hanoi brought me so much joy. Behind each small streets, there is a hidden jewel to be discovered. It is the charm of Vietnam.



Arrival

Alexander Hoffet, Minister



Herr Alexander Hoffet, wird die Schweizer Botschaft ab dem 1.9.2022 für eine Uebergangszeit bis zur Ankunft von Herrn Botschafter Thomas Gass in Hanoi während 4 Monaten übergangsmässig unterstützen.

Seit 2018 bis diesen Sommer war Herr Hoffet Botschafter in Bratislava, der Slowakischen Republik.

Zuvor war er Generalkonsul in der 26-Millionen-Stadt Shanghai beim Schweizerischen Generalkonsulat.

Thomas Gass, neuer Schweizer Botschafter ab Beginn 2023

Herr Botschafter Thomas Gass wird als neuer Schweizer Botschafter in Hanoi sein Amt zu Beginn 2023 übernehmen.



Seine jetzige Funktion als Vizedirektor und Chef des Bereichs Südzusammenarbeit der Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA) in Bern führt Herr Gass seit dem 1. Januar 2018 aus. Herr Gass verfügt über eine umfangreiche Erfahrung in der bilateralen und multilateralen Entwicklungs-zusammenarbeit.

Von 2013 bis 2017 war er Beigeordneter Generalsekretär in der Hauptabteilung Wirtschaftliche und Soziale Angelegenheiten im Sekretariat der Vereinten Nationen in New York, von 2009 bis 2013 Chef der Schweizer Mission in Nepal. Dort errichtete er die Botschaft, überwachte die Durchführung des Entwicklungs-programms und leitete die Gebergruppe des Nepal Peace Trust Fund, des wichtigsten Instruments für die internationale Unterstützung des Friedensprozesses in Nepal.

Maria Washabaugh, Head of Finances, Personal and Administration



Ms. Maria Grazia Washabaugh will join the Embassy on September 1, 2022 as the new Head of Finances, Personal and Administration.

In this role, Ms. Washabaugh oversees the financial and logistical activities of the representation as well as the human resources section. Prior to joining the Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam, Ms. Washabaugh worked as Head of Administration and Consular Affairs at the Embassy of Switzerland in Costa Rica, supervising the consular activities of the Regional Consular Center for Central America. Before that, she worked as Head of Visa Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in Kosovo. Ms. Washabaugh is accompanied by her husband to Hanoi.



HO CHI MINH CITY

Departure

Martin Maier, Consul General

After four years in Ho Chi Minh City, it is time to leave Vietnam and to head to my next posting in India. My family and I had a rich, intensive and very positive experience in HCMC and we thank all who accompanied us on this lag of our journey. Despite, or partially even because, the Covid related challenges during the last two years, we will treasure the memory of our time here in Vietnam and think always back fondly of the many impressions we collected and especially of the people we had the chance to meet. As often, the departure comes with one crying and one laughing eye but we will miss our life amongst the Swiss and Vietnamese community here.



Arrival

Werner Bardill, Consul General

Beginning of August, together with my wife, I will take up a new assignment as Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City.

In my previous function as Deputy Head of Mission at various embassies, I focused on a wide range of topics in bilateral relations, especially in the field of economy and trade.

I got a first glimpse of the country and its potentials, some years ago, when I did an audit in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The last five years in Kuala Lumpur have given me the opportunity to know Vietnam better, especially in a regional and ASEAN context, but also in terms of its history, culture and, above all, its dynamic economic activities.

Vietnam has remarkably managed to establish itself as a competitive investment and trade partner in the region. I look forward to following these progresses directly on the ground and to gaining a broad view and a better understanding.

Over the past two years, Covid has impacted almost every aspect of our lives as well as the business world and tested our resilience on many occasions. Now, that the borders have reopened, it is up to all of us to get engaged with renewed vigor.

Together with my team at the Consulate General, I am poised to exchange ideas with you and to identify potential for further co-operation. I hope that my commitment to representing Switzerland's interests in HCMC will bring mutual benefits to both countries.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon.





Burçin Jauner, Candidate Consular Specialist

I started my internship as a consular specialist at the beginning of 2022 June and I am very happy to be part of the team at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hô-Chi Minh City for the next four years. Before that, I worked in the private sector and in the Swiss Federal Administration, including at the State Secretariat for International Financial Matters SIF and the Federal Office of Energy SFOE. I first got in touch with my current position in 2015 when I worked in the Management Secretariat of the Directorate for Resources FDFA. After completing further education in marketing and leadership and seven years in self-employment, I found my way back to the FDFA. Learning foreign languages and discovering new cultures and countries have always fascinated me. I am accompanied on this exciting path by my husband and our four-year-old son. We already feel at home here and are happy to be able to experience and explore the uniqueness of this fascinating country every day.



Consular Information

[Registration and deregistration, change of address](#)

You have chosen to live abroad. Swiss representations abroad (embassy or consulate) will be your first point of contact for all administrative matters (registration, passport, civil status, voting rights, etc.) and when you find yourself in difficulty.

You have elected residence in the consular district of the Swiss representation of this country. Regular contact between Swiss expatriates and the relevant Swiss representation can be very useful for both parties. Registration is mandatory for all Swiss citizens domiciled abroad. A register of the Swiss abroad is maintained for this purpose.

[Swiss Abroad Act](#)

On these webpages you will find information on registration of the Swiss abroad, reporting a change of address, and returning to Switzerland.

Online desk

With the online desk you have the possibility to access consular services, such as registering in the Swiss Abroad Register, notifications of changes of civil status, changes of address.

[Online desk](#)

The **[Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City](#)** is at your disposal for any further information

1. August 2022 / 1er Août 2022

Am ersten August dieses Jahres wird auch hier in Vietnam der 731. Jahrestag der Gründung der Schweizer Eidgenossenschaft gefeiert. Nachdem diese Feierlichkeiten pandemiebedingt in den vergangenen zwei Jahren nicht stattfinden konnten, organisiert die Botschaft dieses Jahr den traditionellen Nationalfeierempfang wieder in persona. Der Anlass, zu dem neben den vietnamesischen Behördenvertretern und dem diplomatischen Korps auch die in der Grossregion Hanoi registrierten Schweizerinnen und Schweizer sowie Freunde der Schweiz eingeladen sind, findet auf Einladung im neu renovierten Kulturzentrum an der Hang Buom Strasse in der Altstadt Hanois statt.

Auch die «Swiss Business Association SBA» führt dieses Jahr ihren jährlichen Nationalfeierempfang wieder im traditionellen Rahmen durch. Er findet am 30. Juli 2022 im Hotel Sofitel, 17 Le Duan, Distrikt 1 von 18:00 bis 21:30 Uhr statt und steht allen Interessierten offen. Anmelden kann man sich bei der «SBA». Die Anzahl Plätze ist beschränkt und Mitglieder der SBA werden prioritär berücksichtigt.

Le 1^{er} août 2022, on fêtera au Vietnam le 731^{ème} anniversaire de la fondation de la Confédération Suisse. Ces deux dernières années, ces festivités n'ont pu avoir lieu en raison de la pandémie. L'Ambassade organisera à nouveau la traditionnelle réception de la fête nationale en présentiel. L'événement, auquel sont conviés non seulement les représentants des autorités vietnamiennes et le corps diplomatique, mais aussi les Suisses et les amis de la Suisse enregistrés dans la grande région de Hanoï, aura lieu sur invitation uniquement au centre culturel récemment rénové de la rue Hang Buom, dans la vieille ville de Hanoï.

La "Swiss Business Association SBA" organise également cette année sa réception annuelle de la fête nationale. Elle aura lieu le 30 juillet 2022 à l'hôtel Sofitel, 17 Le Duan, District 1 de 18h00 à 21h30 et est ouverte à toutes les personnes intéressées. Il est possible de s'inscrire auprès du "SBA". Le nombre de places étant limité, les membres de la "SBA" seront considérés en priorité.

Swiss Business Association SBA



Founded in 1999, the Swiss Business Association Vietnam has been an integral part in connecting Swiss, be it long-term residents or new arrivals, as well as those with relations to Switzerland, be it of private or business nature. The Swiss Business Association not only organizes special social events such as 1st of August, Wilhelm Tell Games or the monthly "Stamm" but also business events such as visits to factories and business luncheons and in doing so closely cooperates with the Swiss Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City as

well as with the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi.

Visiting our Facebook and Instagram pages will give you a small overview of the events that we organize through some pictures and also videos:

www.swissvietnam.com -  [Swiss Business Association Vietnam](https://www.facebook.com/Swiss-Business-Association-Vietnam) -  [sbavietnam](https://www.instagram.com/sbavietnam)

At present the association has about 100 members, individual and corporate, and we hope to welcome you, too, soon to the SBA.

For questions or membership registration please contact

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Phone +84 83 416 9374
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Swiss Alumni Association in Vietnam SAAV



The Swiss Alumni Association in Vietnam (SAAV) is the largest and most diversified network of individuals with a Swiss education

background in Vietnam. With over 6'000 members including Vietnamese, Swiss, and many other expatriates currently living and working in the country, SAAV offers not only an extensive and supportive network, but also an exclusive and unique blend between the Swiss and Vietnamese culture.



If you are looking for business collaboration opportunities and advices, recruiting talents who understand the Swiss culture, or simply occasions to explore the city with the new friendships, check out SAAV at <https://www.facebook.com/vietnam.thuysi/> or contact us at external@saav.vn.

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