

Minutes of the General Assembly

PHZH Zürich, 6th of June 2009, 10-12 am

Participants:

Bratschi, Dieter
Fankhauser, Meret
Frei, Marianne
Gähwiler, Brigitte
Gähwiler, Franz
Gilg, Nadine
Güller, Peter
Hösli, Hanspeter

Huber, Charles Erik
König, Erwin
Külling, Werner
Menk, Julia
Moser-Kamm, Peter
Reinhardt, Ernst
Roder, Theres
Rohrbach, Christian

Rüegg, Ueli
Scartazzini, Claudia
Stauffer, Piroška
Stern, Otto
Tshering Dechen Wangmo
Vogel, Patrick
Widmer, Walter

Excused:

Biland, Thomas & Susan
Fehr, Mario
Guenat, Dominique
Huber-Hotz, Annemarie
Mottet, Christian
Treier, Hannes

Dreifuss, Ruth
Frei, Christof & Marie-Nöelle
Hoch, Steven G.
König-Schweizer, P. & M.
Rüegg, Käthi
Zingg, Claudio

Engi, Christian & Sigrid
Frey, Richard & Rosmarie
Hoch-Von Schulthess, Lisina
Loppacher, Peter & Esther
Schmidt, Toni & Suzanne
Zürcher, Dieter

Agenda:

1. Welcome Address by the Chairman
2. Annual Report by the Chairman
3. Accounts 2008 & Budget 2009 – 2010
4. Changes of Bylaws
5. Nominations & Elections for the period 2009 – 2010
6. Strategy of the SSB
7. Further Activities
 - Book Publication
 - Introduction of the SSB-Network
 - Webpage
8. Annual Meeting 2010
9. Aperitif & Lunch
10. Film presentation „Happy journey” - Introduction by Lisa Rösli

Notice:

All important aspects and decisions of the assembly have been translated into English.
Personal German statements of participants remain in German.

1. *Welcome Address by the Chairman*

- Address of welcome
- Nomination of the Vote Counters and the Keeper of the minutes
 - Vote Counter: Claudia Scartazzini
 - Minutes Taker: Julia Menk
- Brief information of the extraordinary assembly, held the 8th of May 2009 in Olten.
 - The taken decisions will later be explained by Dieter Bratschi
 - The minutes of the extraordinary assembly may be downloaded from the homepage of the society: http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pdf/minutes_09-05-09.pdf
- The plenum has no request for any other business.

2. *Annual Report by the Chairman*

A SSB-newsletter with useful information has been published in April 2009.
http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pdf/newsletter_april-09.pdf

The society's book "*Far apart and close together*" got briefly reviewed. The book is presumed to be of a high quality as well as professionally convincing. It can be seen as an important contribution to the literature of the development of Bhutan in collaboration with Switzerland. Over 50% of the book edition (ca. 1800 books) has been distributed (326 ex. for free + 1500 ex. sold).

Even though the approved cost could be kept, the earnings are lower than budgeted (due to discounts & less sales to the SSB-members, RGOB, members of development programs, other Bhutan societies etc.).

That's why the sale of the remaining books will still be an important issue for 2009/2010. One step toward this goal will be the campaign for the benefit of the Ministry of Education.

The Culture Tour 2008 in Bhutan was a big success. About 5000-8000 Bhutanese have participated to several concerts and were delighted. Thus this music trip will remain in good remembrance for SSB as well as for the Bhutanese.

Both projects, the book as well as the Culture Tour are completed on schedule and in line with the budget.

Strategy 2009

The Board has redefined the strategy of the SSB. Further details will be presented by Erwin König.

Outlook 2009 / Work Schedule 2009

- DVD production with inputs of and about the SSB is foreseen. Therefore fund-raising is needed. About 4000.- CHF are required for this film project.
- Further selling efforts for the SSB book.
- Building up the SSB-Network.

Decision 1:

All remarks of Patrick Vogel are unanimously approved.

3. *Accounts 2008 & Budget 2009-2010 – presented by Dieter Bratschi*

- Revenue and expense are in accordance with the following list: http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pdf/ea-GA_09-05-09.pdf
- The 1200 books that were at stock were considered as writing-off-spends in 2008. So the assets of 82'800 CHF are now treated as nil.
- The amount of debits of *Bookworld* remains by 20'000 CHF.
- To sell the residual books the SSB has promotion spends of 2000 CHF in the budget. An annual return of 5000 CHF is expected (about 73 books).
- The net profits for 2009 and 2010 will mainly be used to pay back the debits.
- Any projects and activities out of the budget of the society are to be funded by sponsors/donors.
- Patrick Vogel and Ernst Reinhardt committed, that if necessary the duration of their loan may be prolonged or the loan may be amortized by the equivalent of books (max. 3'200 CHF).
- The SSB will not be able to pursue its projects nor programs if the annual net income remains 10'000 CHF. Thus in the medium to long term, the activities of the SSB have to be financed by third parties (sponsors, earmarked funds, donations). That's why the SSB will strengthen both the member community and the fund raising.

Remarks and requests of the SSB members (in German):

Peter Güller:

- Die Zeitspanne der Darlehensrückzahlung soll verlängert werden.
- Ferner sollte die Spannweite der Mitgliederbeiträge als Solidaritätsakt, entsprechend dem Einkommen der Mitglieder, über einen gewissen Zeitraum vergrößert werden.
- Der Zins der Darlehen von Patrick Vogel und Ernst Reinhardt soll 2% statt 3% betragen. Dies ist näher an der marktwirtschaftlichen Realität.

Dieter Bratschi:

- Der Vorstand hat das Einverständnis der Darlehensgeber, dass der Tilgungsplan, sofern dies als notwendig erachtet wird, auch über eine längere Frist abgehalten werden kann.
- Wenn sich die Mitglieder engagieren wollen, sollen sie das Buch kaufen statt durch Erhöhung der Mitgliederbeiträge verpflichtet werden.
- Den Zinssatz anzupassen macht fast nichts aus. Darauf kann also verzichtet werden.

Claudia Scartazzini:

- Die Beiträge zu erhöhen, ist heute nicht möglich. Man müsste hierfür die nächste GV abwarten.
- Es ist besser, an den Goodwill der Mitglieder im Sinne von Bratschi zu appellieren statt die Mitglieder zu verpflichten.
- Keine Staffelung/Anpassung der Mitgliederbeiträge an das Einkommen, da die Mitgliederbeiträge an sich gar nicht so hoch sind.

Ernst Reinhardt:

- Wenn jedes Mitglied 2 Bücher kauft, ist die finanzielle Lage der SSB wieder ausgeglichen.
- Der Buchhändler in Bhutan (*Bookworld*) hat bis dato am meisten Bücher gekauft und 20'000.- CHF bereits gezahlt.

Hanspeter Hösli:

- Die Bilanz mit Aktiva und Passiva sollte den Mitgliedern der Transparenz wegen als E-Mail zugeschickt werden.

Patrick Vogel:

- Die Mitgliederbeiträge zu erhöhen entspricht nicht der Meinung des SSB-Vorstandes. Stattdessen sollten Bücher gekauft werden.

Peter Güller:

- Budgetierte Gelder sollten nicht zweckentfremdet eingesetzt werden.

Ernst Reinhardt:

- Das ist so auch nicht geschehen, das ist ein Missverständnis.

Decision 2:

The remarks about the budget 2009-2010 are concordantly approved without any abstention.

Decision 3:

Without any abstention the SSB board is unanimously discharged.

4. *Changes of Bylaws*

No written requests.

5. *Nominations & Elections for the period 2009 – 2010*

- Mr. Patrick Vogel - resignation as chairman – re-election as board member
- Mrs. Marianne Frei – election as president
- Mr. Ernst Reinhardt – election as vice-president
- Mr. Dieter Bratschi – re-election as board member
- Mr. Dominique Guenat – re-election as board member
- Mr. Erwin König – re-election as board member
- Ms. Julia Menk – re-election as board member

- Mrs. Rosmarie Frey – re-election as chartered accountant
- Mrs. Catarina Rüegg – re-election as chartered accountant

Remarks and requests of the SSB members (in German):

Ueli Rüegg:

- Ueli Rüegg sieht Ernst Reinhardt eher als Vorstandsmitglied statt als Vizepräsident.

Marianne Frei:

- Marianne Frei sieht sich durchaus in der Lage, Präsidentin der SSB zu sein. Jeder Präsident brauche aber auch einen Stellvertreter. Marianne Frei sieht die Zusammenarbeit mit Ernst Reinhardt als synergetisch: beide schätzen die gute Arbeit des anderen. Sie bevorzuge diese Situation statt die eines Ko-Präsidiums, da in dieser Konstellation nicht jedes und alles miteinander abgesprochen werden muss.

Dieter Bratschi:

- Es ist ok, dass ein Präsident einen Stellvertreter hat. Ernst Reinhardt ist darum gebeten worden Vizepräsident zu sein. Der Vorstand ist froh, dass er zugesagt hat.

Patrick Vogel:

- Es ist auch statutarisch vorgesehen, dass die SSB einen Vizepräsident hat, auch wenn diese Möglichkeit bislang nicht wahrgenommen wurde.

Decision 4:

Marianne Frei has been elected unanimously and without any abstentions as president of the SSB.

Decision 5:

Patrick Vogel has been elected unanimously and without any abstentions as member of the SSB board.

Decision 6:

Rosmarie Frey and Catarina Rüegg have been re-elected unanimously and without any abstentions as chartered accountants.

Decision 7:

All other members of the SSB board have been re-elected unanimously and without any abstentions.

6. Strategy of the SSB – presented by Erwin König

Main aim of the Strategy:

“Developing and strengthening enterprising people as the main drive of socio-economic well-fare and stability in Kheng/Shemgang, one of the poorest regions of Bhutan”

More details about the new strategy of the SSB may be found on the SSB-homepage.

Remarks and requests of the SSB members:

Franz Gähwiler (Program Coordinator Nepal & Bhutan, Helvetas):

- He considers the project area *Kheng/Shemgang* as a good choice. In this region a growing dynamic can be noticed, due to the construction of roads and other infrastructure facilities. So it's good to get in there. But still it is important to enter into an agreement with all concerned local project parties before starting the project.
- The farmers in this region are not enterpriser, but mostly farmers practicing extensive farming.
- The projects should not be managed primarily by the SSB but by local project partners, namely by the Bhutanese sister organization.

7. *Further activities*

Book Publication – presented by Marianne Frei

The following ideas which were collected at the extraordinary assembly on May 8th, 2009, are presented.

- Book Sales during Exhibition «Sacred Objects» at Rietberg Museum Zurich, July 3 - October 17, 2010
- SSB Members actively sell more books
- Donation for Ministry of Education (Ernst Reinhardt)
The SSB is looking for generous sponsors to finance 500 copies of the book «*Far apart and close together*» up to a total of CHF 20 000 (500 x CHF 40.00) 500 is the number of teachers at the secondary level in Bhutan. The Secretary and the Minister of Education are convinced of the value of this book for schools as reference study for students and teachers.
- Helvetas / SDC (Franz Gähwiler)
- Ricardo / EBAY (Erwin König)
- Business Clubs (Hanspeter Hösli)
- NADEL Alumni
- Newspapers: Article by Bhutanese journalist about Bhutan with advertisement for book
- Travel Agencies
- HEKS, Caritas, Swisscontact, Alliance Sud, Swissaid, Intercooperation

Marianne Frei, Hanspeter Hösli, E. Werner Külling and Ernst Reinhardt are members of the small team to implement the ideas. Further support and ideas from SSB members are most welcome.

Introduction of the SSB-Network – presented by Julia Menk

The Society Switzerland-Bhutan has introduced a new social network to give Bhutanese guests in Switzerland the possibility for a social exchange with Swiss network members. This association is meant to enable Bhutanese to meet and live with different people in Switzerland, whereby the guests will get an insight into the different cultural & geographical environments as well as into different fields of activities. Thus, everybody, Swiss and Bhutanese will get the possibility to come closer and hear some little stories from each other.

For further details and registration to this network, please follow this link: <http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pages/network.htm>

SSB Website – presented by Marianne Frei

Peter Moser-Kamm has technically adjusted the set-up of the website. He has rearranged it to make it user-friendlier.

8. *Annual Meeting 2010*

Saturday, 27th March 2010

Proposed venue: Musée d' Ethnographie, Neuchâtel

Keeper of the minutes: Julia Menk
8th of June