Minutes of the General Assembly

Zürich, 15th March 2014, at PH Zürich

Participants
Allgoewer, Carole & Erik
Bratschi, Dieter
Caminada, Leo
Ditzler, Christoph
Egger, Urs
Fischer, Eberhard
Frei, Christof & Marie-Nöelle
Frei, Marianne
Frey, Richard & Rosamaria
Gächwil, Brigitte & Franz
Grossenbacher, Fabienne
Güller, Peter & Ursula
Haering, Barbara
Hanimann, Regula
Hansel, Silvia
Hösli, Hanspeter
Huber, Erik
Koenig, Erwin
Külling, E. Werner
Maag-Senn, Hanspeter & Inge
Meichtry Fischer, Karin
Menk, Julia
Menk Lombard, Helene & Hubert
Müller, Juliana
Müller-Jaag, Lisette & René
Nagel, Jörg
Oberholzer, Erich
Reinhardt, Ernst
Rohrbach, Christian
Rothacher, Daniel
Rüegg – Bachmann, Catarina & Ueli
Schindler, Peter
Schmidt, Suzanne & Toni
Schwitter, Daniel & Ruth
Stähli, Roland
Stauffer, Piroska
Steiner, Suzanne
Stern, Otto
Strassmann, Hans & Ruth
Treichler Kandalkar, Gisela
Trier, Uri-Peter
Washington, Katharina
Wild, Markus
Zingg, Claudio
Zürcher, Dieter

Excused
Berni, Markus
Biland, Thomas & Susan
Bürgi Sieber, Hanspeter & Monique
Bischoff, Jacques F.
Coley-Saner, Elisabeth
Dannecker, Rudolf & Regula
de Montmollin, Gérald
Dürsteler, Urs
Engi, Christian & Sigrid
Faes, Ralph-Remo
Fischer, Barbara
Fischer, Rudolf
Gertsch, Heinz & Lotti
Gilg, Rainer & Nadine
Günther, Jürg H. & Verena
Henseler Stierlin, Iris
Hoch-von Schulthess, Lisina
Hürlimann, Caspar & Claudia
Koenig, Sangeeta
Koestler, Christa
Kramer, Monika
Kuratle, Armin
Loppcacher-Hauri, Fritz & Brigitte
Lüthi, Simon
Mart, Ernst
Menzi, Martin & Küngold
Mettler, Regula & Kaspar
Moser, Samuel
Moser-Kamm, Peter & Dorote
Oltramare, Adrienne
Oltramare, Delphine
Reinhardt, Annegret
Rettich, Markus
Rieder, Peter
Roder, Theres
Rhomberg, Franz H.
Schenitzka Keller, Adelheid
Schneider, Fritz
Schniepper, Dominik
Stähli, Regula
Stückelberger, Ulrich
Suter-Mosca, Stephan B. & Marianna
Vogel, Patrick & Dechen Wangmo
Tshering
Wirth, Urs
Special Guests
Embassy of Bhutan
H.E. Ambassador Daw Penjo
Ms. Pema Tshomo (Second Secretary)

Speakers
Dr. Eberhard Fischer
lic. phil Peter Fux
lic. phil Christian Bader

Bhutanese Guests
Dragyel T. Dorjee
Gyamtsho Tshering
Jamyang Chophel
Karma Tshering
Sangay Maurer
Thongjay

Swiss Guests
Mariann Thoeni
Heidi Schaub
György Hetény

Agenda:
1) Welcome Address by the Chairperson and Nomination of Vote Counters and Minutes Taker
2) Minutes of General Assembly 2013
3) Annual Report by the President (verbal approbation)
4) Presentation of Accounts 2013 / Audit Report
5) Elections
   a) Re-election of Board members
   b) Election of new Board members
   c) Re-election of the President
   d) Re-election of Auditor and election of new Auditor
6) Programme and Activities 2014
7) Budget 2014, confirmation of Membership Fees
8) Additional motions by members
9) Date and Place of next General Assembly 2015
10) Miscellaneous

Decision 1:
The agenda is approved. No additional motions were submitted to the Board, point 8 of the agenda can be skipped.
1. Welcome Address by the Chairperson, Nomination of Vote Counter and Minutes Taker

- Welcome address by the chairperson of SSB, Marianne Frei
  With a special welcome to the Bhutanese students attending the assembly: Dragyel T. Dorjee. Jamyang Chophel, Gyamtsho Tshering, Sangay Maurer, Karma Tshering and Thongjay. Also thanking Dr. Uri Peter Trier for attending the assembly. He was one of the initiators of PITT Partnership in Teacher Training 1989 - 2003 between PH Zurich and Colleges of Education Paro and Samtse.
  We are happy to conduct the meeting at this new and centrally located venue and are thankful for the generous hospitality given at PH Zurich.
  SSB has a total of 223 members and attending are 56 today.
- Nomination of the Vote Counter and Minutes Taker
  - Proposed vote counter: Erik Huber, accepted
  - Proposed minutes taker: Dieter Bratschi, accepted

**Decision 2:**
The proposed vote counter and minutes taker are appointed by acclamation.

2. The Minutes of the General Assembly 2013:

See also http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pages/meetings.htm

**Decision 3:**
The minutes of the General Assembly 2013 are approved unanimously.

3. Annual Report by the Chairperson

**Supported Projects:**
Our fundraising campaign for School Children’s Program to support six Primary Schools met our expectations of a generous fund of over 18’000 CHF. Thanks to the successful campaign, the Schools were provided with laptops, water filters, school uniforms, shoes and received seeds for their vegetable gardens. A detail annual report can be downloaded for every school at:
http://www.bhutan-switzerland.org/pages/projects.htm
All of them were delighted and embraced our support very thankfully.

**Further activities:**
- Contribution of 5000 CHF to BSS for the Association of Mongar Alumni (AMA)
- At the 1st International Buddhist Nuns’ conference a tea and snacks was sponsored by SSB
- SSB Website improvements and Facebook entry is launched with already 81 friends

**Other related Activities in Bhutan:**
- BSS 4th annual meeting on August 1, 2013 at SDC Office Thimphu
- City of Zurich developed the new Masterplan of Bumthang. It can be downloaded on [http://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/content/hbd/de/index/ueber_das_departement/publikationen_u_broschueren/masterplan_bhutan.html](http://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/content/hbd/de/index/ueber_das_departement/publikationen_u_broschueren/masterplan_bhutan.html).

**Highlighted Events in 2013:**
- General Assembly of SSB at Landguet Ried
- Annual Excursion to Tibet Institute Rikon
- Talk “Re-calibrating possibilities in Bhutan” by Dorji Wangchuck (London) in Zurich

**Various information:**
- Several Bhutanese currently studying in Switzerland
- Many guests and visitors from Bhutan
- SSB welcomes 15 new members and is reaching a total of 223 active members
- 2 newsletters in June and December were posted on the website

**Decision 4:**
The General Assembly unanimously approves the President’s annual report by voting.

### 4. Presentation of Accounts 2013/ Audit Report

The Treasurer, Rosmarie Frey, presents the Annual Accounts for 2013.

**Income:**
- Accumulated profit of CHF 3’196.05 as compared to a budgeted loss of CHF 9’655.
- Thanks to an increase in Members, the total Member fees reached CHF 17’850 and a successful fundraising of CHF 18’090 for the School program and some contributions in hardware we were able to have a positive balance.
- A further income was generated by the Book sale.

**Costs:**
- We were lucky that there was no need of the disaster relief fund of CHF 5000 in 2013.
- BSS received a one time contribution of 5000 CHF for Association of Mongar Alumni as seed fund instead of an annual contribution of CHF 1000 from initiative fund.
- There were no new projects submitted that met our criteria in 2013.

**Audit:**
Catarina Rüegg-Bachmann and Christian Rohrbach present the Audit Report: “The Auditors have checked and verified the accounts of 2013 and can state that all transactions and bookings have been done in a correct way. Therefore, no objections from the Auditors’ side were raised. The Auditors would like to thank Rosmarie Frey for a perfect job done”.

For details refer to the report by Ch. Rohrbach and C. Rüegg-Bachmann on the website.
**Decision 5:**
The General Assembly unanimously approves the annual accounts and financial statements for the year 2013. The Executive Board is fully discharged.

5. **Nominations & Elections for the period 2014 – 2015**

**Nominations for the re-election process:**
- Marianne Frei (Board member, President)
- Rosmarie Frey (Accounts, Board member)
- E. Werner Külling (Board member)
- Julia Menk (Board member)
- Patrick Vogel (Board member)

**Decision 6:**
The General Assembly re-elects unanimously the nominated members of the Board for another two years.

**New Board members:**
- Ruth Schwitter-Allenspach (Malans), Social welfare work / Secretary, lived with her family in Bhutan 1987 - 1990
- Hanspeter Bürgi (Bern), Prof.dipl.Architect, was involved in projects in Bhutan at NRTI (1991-92) and at NIE Paro and Samtse (2001, 2003)

**Decision 7:**
The General Assembly elects the new members of the Board unanimously.

**Re-election of the President Marianne Frei:**
Werner Külling is thanking Marianne Frei. He is proposing to the assembly to re-elect Marianne Frei.

**Decision 8:**
The General Assembly re-elects Marianne Frei as President for the years 2014 to 2015.

**Auditors:**
- Re-election of Christian Rohrbach
- Catarina Rüegg-Bachmann is stepping down as Auditor. Marianne Frei especially thanks her for acting as auditor since 2004.
- As new Auditor Christoph Ditzler (Basel) is nominated.

**Decision 9:**
The General Assembly re-elects Christian Rohrbach and elects Christoph Ditzler as Auditors for the financial years 2014 to 2015.
6. Programme and activities 2014

- Continuation of the Community Primary School (CPS) program in
  - Tradijong CPS
  - Barpong CPS
  - Kagtong CPS
  - Tashibi CPS
  - Yaragla CPS
- Support to build a low cost dining hall at Kagtong CPS
- Documentary film of the School Programme (10-15min), contribution of CHF 970. The documentary film will be presented in Switzerland later on this year at a donor event.
- Request from BSS and Ministry of Education:
  Support for “Piloting Bread Baking” in 1-2 boarding schools as enrichment for breakfast (CHF 2’000 per school). A bakery in Lucerne was already found as donor for one school.
- Lecture by Dr. Francoise Pommaret “Lama or Monk”, Feb 18, Bern
- Suggestion: Annual SSB excursion to Wyssen Cableways in Reichenbach
- Film “Traveller and Magicians” at Filmstelle ETH Zurich on April 4, 2014 with an introduction by Dieter Zürcher
- Documentary film “Made in Bhutan” about entrepreneurship in Bhutan in presence of Dorji Tashi (Executive Director Loden Foundation)
- If possible: Film “Lhabsang” (Sacred Ceremonies)

Other Activities:
- Re-launch website
- Publishing of the SSB member list (only with the member’s permission)
- Invitation to Switzerland for Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji (President BSS) and Namgyel Tshering (General Secretary BSS) for workshop with SSB Board

Decision 10:
After some discussion among the members the General Assembly approves the program and activities for the year 2014.

7. Budget

Rosmarie Frey presents the budget 2014 and explains some key figures:

Earnings 2014: CHF 32’000
Expenses 2014: CHF 40’300

The difference of CHF 8’300 can be covered by the existing assets of the Society reaching CHF 42’000

The Board is convinced to generate enough additional income (donations, sponsorships, contributions) throughout the year to cover the expenses when actual projects will be carried out.

Decision 11:
The General Assembly approves the proposed budget for 2014.
8. **Additional motions by members**

There are no additional motions by the members noted.

9. **General Assembly 2015**

The Board is suggesting to conduct the Assembly 2015 on Saturday, March 14th or 21th 2015, details will follow and will be posted on the website.

10. **Miscellaneous**

“The Red Door” a short film by Tashi Gyeltshen will be screened at the FIFF Film Festival in Fribourg in presence of the film director himself on March 29, 30 and April 1 and 3.

SSB is selling several books by Kunzang Choden and “Bhutan’s Cultural Diversity” by Kunzang Dorji and Markus Wild.

The President closes the assembly around 11:30h and invites all members and guests to an aperitif followed by a lunch. The afternoon program starts with the address by the Chief Guest H.E.Ambassador Daw Penjo and continues with a presentation by Dr. Eberhard Fischer, Peter Fux and Christian Bader on “The Bhutan-Swiss Archaeology Project.

Keeper of the minutes: Dieter Bratschi

March 15, 2014