Minutes of the General Assembly

Zurich, 17th March 2018 at Völkerkundemuseum, Pelikanstrasse 40, 8001 Zürich

Participants

Allgöwer, Erik
Allgöwer, Carole
Baumann, Werner
Bürgin, Heinz
Ditzler, Christoph
Dössegger, Alain
Flückiger, Emanuel
Frei, Marianne
Frey, Richard
Frey, Rosmarie
Gähwiler, Franz
Güller, Ursula
Güller, Peter
Hanimann, Regula
Hösl, Hanspeter
Huber, Charles Erik
Hürlimann, Caspar
Hürlimann, Claudia

Jaeggi, Christine
Keller, Hans Jakob
Koller, Beat
Krammer, Monika
Külling, Werner
Lütolf, Urs Martin
Maurer, Sangye
Menzi, Martin
Montmollin, Gérald
Moser-Kamm, Peter
Müller, René
Nagel, Jörg
Oberoi, Rohan
Perrenoud, Michel
Petkova, Svetlana
Pletscher, Dagmar
Rast, Lukas
Reichel, Eveline

Reinhardt, Ernst
Rollé Ditzler, Ilse
Rüegg, Ueli
Scherrer, Pia
Schweller, Ruth
Schweller, Dani
Stern, Otto
Stierlin, Hansruedi
Strassmann, Ruth
Tosio Keller, Luciana
Truog, Brigitte
Wild, Markus
Zahler, Peter
Zingg, Claudio
Zürcher, Dieter

Excused

Bischoff, Jacques F.
Bollmann, Felix
Bürgi, Hanspeter
Caminada, Leo
Cantieni, Johann und
Jeannette
Cavin, Marianne
D’Alcantara, Gonzales
Karsay Dawa
Dindo, Jeannette
Egger, Urs
Egli von Matt, Sylvia & Hans
Kaspar

Fankhauser, Meret
Fevre Baridon, Myriam
Fischer, Gunther
Frei, Christof und Marino
Frey, Kathrin
Furrer, Christina
Gähwiler, Brigitte
Galmarini, Carlo
Gilg, Nadine und Rainer
Colay Saner, Elisabeth
Hansel, Silvia
Koestler, Christa
Kurz, Birgit

Tshering Leki
Müller, Lisette
Müller, Lukas
Rohrbach, Christian
Roner, Tina
Rothacher, Daniel
Schellinger, Erich
Schneider, Fritz
Weibel, Christelle
Wolfensberger, Matthias und
Monique

Special Guests

Embassy of Bhutan
H.E. Ambassador Kinga Singye
Aum Kesang Singye
Tshering Lhadn

Bhutanese Guests
Dr. Pema Gyamtsho
Dr. Kinlay Dorjee
Dr. Sangay Maurer
Dechen Lham
Minutes of the General Assembly of the Society Switzerland–Bhutan 2018

Speakers
Mr. Tshering Dorji, Thimphu

Swiss Guests
Dr. Martina Wernsdörfer
Cristina Scherrer Schaub

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Nomination of Vote Counters and Minutes Taker
3. Minutes of General Assembly 2017
4. Annual Report by the President (verbal/approbation)
5. Presentation of Accounts 2017 and Audit Report
6. Elections
   • Re-election of Board members
   • Re-election of the President
   • Re-election / Election of Auditor
7. Presentation SSB Strategy 2018 – 22
8. Programme and Activities 2018
9. Budget 2018
10. Membership Fees
    • Confirmation of current Membership Fees
11. Additional motions by members
12. Date and Place of Next General Assembly
13. Miscellaneous

Decision 1:
The agenda is approved. No additional motions were submitted to the Board, point 11 of the agenda can be skipped.

1. Opening
Marianne Frei, President of the SSB, welcomes the members and guests of the Society Switzerland Bhutan. She welcomes especially all the Bhutanese guests. Some of the Bhutanese guests are living, working or studying in Switzerland and found the way to Zürich to attend our General Assembly and some of them took the long way from Bhutan to Zürich.

Dr. Martina Wernsdörfer, Asian curator of the museum welcomes everybody on behalf of the director and of the museum. She points out that in the afternoon, CHUUT WAI will be screened, and thanks for bringing the General Assembly here.
The SSB President informs that SSB has a total of 268 members. The General Assembly of today is attended by 52 members.

2. **Nomination of the Vote Counter and Minutes Taker**

- Proposed vote counters: Alain Dössegger and Eveline Reichel, accepted
- Proposed minutes taker: Lukas Rast, accepted

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

3. **Minutes of the General Assembly 2017**

Marianne Frei thanks Ruth Schwitter-Allenspach for her excellent work on the 2017 minutes.

**Decision 3:**
The minutes of the General Assembly 2017 are approved unanimously.

4. **Annual Report by the President**

**Activities 2017 in Bhutan:**

- **School Children’s Programme**
  Marianne Frei informs about the project, shows photos and elaborates on the reporting procedure including BSS’s impact study.

- **Bakery Report Bjoka PS (Zhemgang)**
  Dieter Zürcher visited the project in November. A new house for the bakery oven was constructed.

- **Electric fencing project in Zhemgang**
  Dieter Zürcher visited the electric fencing project.

- **Samdrup Jongkhar initiative SJI**
  SSB members Dr. Gonzales d’Alcantara, Werner Külling and Mario Fehr visited the project. Currently, the project is on hold due to land restrictions.

- **BSS 8th Annual General Meeting Aug. 1, 2018**
  The BSS Annual General Meeting was held on the same day as the 1st of August celebrations in Thimphu. A panel discussion was held with the topic “Process of Democratization, Participation and Role of Civil Societies”. Panelists included: Mr. Mario Fehr, Minister of Security and Social Affairs of the Government of the Canton of Zurich; Mr. Thinley Norbu, CSO Authority; Mr. Wangdi Gyeltshen, Department of Local Governance; Ms. Phuntshok Choden, Representative of...
Registered CSOs, Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji, President of BSS. The discussion was moderated by Dasho Tshering Dorji, Dy. Chairperson, National Council.

The 2016-2018 board of the BSS consists of the following persons:

- Lyonpo Dr. Kinzang Dorji;
- Drigyel T. Dorjee;
- Kinzang Tobgyel;
- Nado Dukpa;
- Kunzang Wangmo;
- Pema Baumgartner;
- Sonam Tashi.

Swiss Film Event Thimphu, October 31, 2017

“More than Honey” was screened at Lugar Theatre in cooperation with the Bhutan Film Association. The Bhutan Film Association has expressed an interest to continue this cooperation.

Bhutan National Day in Haa

Werner Külling was awarded the National Order of Merit (gold medal). Small ceremony afterwards with BSS and HELVETAS.

Events and Activities 2017 in Switzerland:

SSB Events:

- Bhutan Film Days in Zurich from January 27 – 29, 2017
- General Assembly 2017 on March 11 at GenerationenHaus in Bern with afternoon program: Deepening Democracy in Bhutan – The Contribution of SDC, Panel discussion and Reception
- Fittes Bhutan? Sportförderung im Land des Donnerdrachens on June 9, 2017 at the Songtsen House Zurich with Alain Dössegger
- Die inneren und äusseren Bedingungen des Glücks on 6 September 2017, Bern with Dr. Tho Ha Vinh, Programme Director GNH Centre
- Screening of the film “SMS from Shangri La” on 3 November 2017 at Grotta da Cultura in Sent with Rosmarie Frey
- SSB Board Invitation to the Bhutanese Embassy in Geneva on June 18, 2017
- Celebration of the Bhutan National Day in Geneva on December 11
- Meeting of the Presidents of the European Bhutan Friendship Associations for the 25th anniversary of the Bhutan Society of the United Kingdom on 18/19 November 2017 in London
Visitors from Bhutan:

May 8 – 12: Dr. Phub Dorji, Director CNR and Jigme Thinley, CNR, visited Switzerland to study and to talk about their project “Institutional Capacity Development for Organic Agriculture in Bhutan”

Kunzang Wangmo, BSS Board

July 23 – 27: Deki Choden, Early Learning Center, with Ingchuk Namgay

Bhutanese Filmmakers:

Aug 2 – 8: Jamyang Jamtsho W. (at Open Doors Locarno Film Festival)

Nov 21 – 26: Lhaki Dolma and Pema Tshering

Nov 28 – Dec 15: Dechen Roder, Tintin Dorjee and daughter Choden

Nov. 27: Foreign Secretary Sonam Tshong, Director General Kesang Wangdi and delegation

March 8, 18: H.E. Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay: Meeting with SSB Board Members in Zurich

Other Events in Switzerland:

Peter Schmid at the TV show of Kurt Aeschbacher (January 15, 2017)

European Premiere „Honeygiver among the Dogs“: Dechen Roder’s movie wins award at the International Film Festival in Fribourg (March, 16 – 23, 2017)

Re-Opening Ethnographic Museum Neuchatel with gifts from H.M. the 3rd King of Bhutan, November 11, 2017

Bhutan Exhibition: Textiles, Paintings and Photos, Organized by Lisette Müller-Jaag, November 20, 2017 – March 8, 2018 in Zurich

Development of membership

Membership has steadily grown and increased from 259 in 2016 to 268 in 2017. The SSB facebook page has grown from 200 followers in 2015 to 600 followers in 2017.

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

5. Presentation of Accounts 2017 / Audit Report

The Treasurer, Rosmarie Frey, presents the Annual Accounts for 2017 (see full accounts in the GA documents):

She announces a loss of SFR 9’743.01 - in the budget a loss of SFR 14'000.-was estimated.
On the side of the costs some changes took place: instead of the deficit-guarantee for the film-days SFR 6000.- were used in addition to the SFR 5000.- in the budget for the Electric Fencing Project. With some other small adjustments the real costs reach nearly the estimated costs of the budget.

The income was again higher than stipulated, the result is a loss of SFR 9’743.01 and total assets of SFR 50’771.02.

Audit report:
Christoph Ditzler reads the audit report (see in General Assembly documents: Audit Report).

**Decision 5:**
The General Assembly unanimously approves the annual accounts and financial statements for the year 2017. The Executive Board is fully discharged.

6. **Elections**

Elections
- Re-election of Board members:

**Decision 6:**
The General Assembly re-elects the board unanimously.

- Re-election of the President
  Rosmarie Frey presents Marianne Frei for re-election as president of the Society Switzerland Bhutan for the next two years, emphasising that Marianne Frei is representing SSB in the best possible way with her big experience and enormous devotion.

**Decision 7:**
The General Assembly re-elects Marianne Frei by acclamation.

- Re-election / Election of Auditor
  Re-election of Christoph Ditzler
  Christian Rohrbach is stepping down. Lisette Müller-Jaag proposed by Marianne Frei.

**Decision 8:**
The General Assembly elects as Auditors Christoph Ditzler and Lisette Müller-Jaag unanimously.
7. Presentation SSB Strategy 2018 – 22

Franz Gähwiler elaborates on the process of the SSB strategy (see full strategy in the GA documents): The SSB Board started the process in September 2017 with a facilitator as this was foreign territory for some board members. Consultation among all SBB members resulted in 16 comments that flowed into the final strategy. It is a one page paper, focusing the main goals, a workable strategy that can be implemented.

8. Programme and activities 2018

Marianne Frei gives an outlook on some events in Bhutan and in Switzerland:

**In Bhutan**
School Children’s Support is not really in the new strategy anymore, but was already approved last year and will be conducted in 2018 as well.

There might be a Swiss film event on April 21 or 22 in Thimphu to screen “A Woman’s Place” / “Das Tal der Frauen”, though it may be cancelled due to the prohibition on public gatherings during the election period.

**Events in Switzerland**
E. Werner Külling and Mario Fehr spoke in the Songtsen House on “Bhutan, a Country in Transition” on March 2, 2018.

The SSB Annual Excursion will take place on June 2, 2018 at „Schlattwald-Eiche“ and „Naturzentrum Thurauen“ with Erich Oberholzer, Kaspar Schmidt, and Karma Jigme Temphel from Community Forestry Bhutan.

On June 7, 2018, Barbara Mühlemann, Christoph Schwitter and Christine Gundi will share their experiences teaching and studying in Bhutan, at the Songtsen House in German, topic: „Eintauchen in die bhutanische Welt. Eine Lehrerin, ein Lehrer und eine Studentin berichten“.

**Newsletter/Focus**
The revamped SSB newsletter launched in August 2017 with its first focus on “Film Making in Bhutan” (Editor: Dieter Zürcher).

In May 2018, the second issue with the topic “Architecture in the Bhutanese Himalayas and in the Swiss Alps” will be circulated with contributions from Switzerland and from Bhutan. (Editor Hanspeter Bürgi)

The new concept will be evaluated in Summer 2018 as the board is not sure whether focus themes are a real need.

**Documentation Relationship Switzerland - Bhutan**
In an effort to preserve documentations currently stored privately, a project group consisting of Dieter Zürcher, (SSB Board), Ruth Strassmann, Otto Stern, and Claudio Zingg (Lead) has formed. The aim is to find «Gray literature» (reports, publications not available in book stores), correspondence, films and photos, Print media and films about Bhutan, and store it with a public museum/archive. Possible partners are: Ethnographic Museum University of Zurich, Museum Rietberg, Ethnographic Museum Neuchatel, Library ETHZ.
10th Meeting of European Bhutan Friendship Associations
During June 21-23, Bhutan Friendship Associations will meet in Geneva (CH) and Chamonix (FR), jointly hosted by Amis du Bhutan and SSB. The “Maison de la Mémoire et du Patrimoine” will show photos by Robert Dompnier, Olivier Foellmi, Charles Erik Huber, Matthieu Ricard, and Markus Wild from June 24 to the end of August 2018.

9. Budget 2018
Rosmarie Frey presents the budget 2018 explaining some key figures (see the full budget in the GA documents):
Costs of SFR 39’900 are anticipated, that means SFR 5000.- more than were spent last year.
Extra-costs will arise for the General Assembly and for the excursion as 2 Bhutanese guests are invited. Furthermore SSB and the French Amis du Bhoutan are organising the bi-annual meeting of the European Bhutan Friendship Organisations in Geneva and Chamonix.
The income is estimated to reach approximately the same level as last year
In the budget 2018 a loss of SFR 18’800 is anticipated which will be covered by the assets of SFR 50’771.-

Decision 7: The General Assembly approves the proposed budget unanimously.

10. Membership Fees
Confirmation of current membership fees

Decision 8: The General Assembly approves the proposed Membership Fees with one vote against.

11. Additional motions by members
There are no additional motions by the members.

12. General Assembly 2018
The Board suggests conducting the next General Assembly on Saturday, March 16 or 23, 2019. The venue is not yet decided.

13. Miscellaneous

Closing remarks by Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, OL.

Keeper of the minutes: Lukas Rast
April 14th, 2018