



Newsletter

Schweizerische Botschaft in Hanoi

Schweizerisches Generalkonsulat in Ho-Chi-Minh-Stadt

Dezember 2022

Message by the Swiss Chargée d'Affaires ad interim



Foto: Nicole Wyrtsch at the Hanoi Pride Walk
Credits: Ha Dao

Dear readers,
Dear compatriots in Vietnam,

After two years dominated by Covid-19, 2022 started with high hopes for a “return to normalcy”. For sure, we got back to some cherished habits, including journeys to Switzerland and else. But we also were once more made aware that change is the only thing that remains certain: The unexpected also happened this year - some good, some less so. We hope that, for you, including your families and friends, 2022 had plentiful moments of joy and serenity, occasions to fill up with new energy and good spirits.

For the Swiss Embassy and Consulate-General, transition was the dominant feature in 2022. In HCMC, a new Swiss Consul General, Mr. Werner Bardill, took up his position, with arrival formalities culminating in a meeting with HCMC Party Secretary Nguyen Van Nen last October. Mr. Bardill and his deputy, new Consul Ms. Corinne Vetter, who arrived last month, both are key contacts for the Swiss community in Vietnam and look forward to getting to know you. In Hanoi, Swiss Ambassador Ivo Sieber left shortly after the Swiss National Day. Alexander Hoffet joined me in September and offered valuable support during my time as acting head of mission. We now look forward to receiving new Swiss Ambassador Thomas Gass early next month. His diplomatic accreditation ceremony will be his first opportunity to meet with Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc - a friend of Switzerland, who last was in Berne in 2021 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations.

With this Newsletter edition, we again would like to offer you a small insight into what keeps our team busy. Positive about 2022 was that we finally were again able to organize, support and join physical public events, such as e.g. the Bridge Fest - an annual public gathering of Vietnamese civil society associations, combined with a music festival -, the Hanoi Pride walk and the European Languages' Day. In this edition, you will also find an article on “eco-industrial parks in Vietnam”, which Switzerland promotes via SECO development cooperation. We also continue with our presentation of Swiss citizens living in Vietnam and are happy to give the floor to Swiss sound artist Nikola H. Mounoud. Last but not least, we use this opportunity to share with you news and information for Swiss citizens abroad. We hope you will find these contributions informative and interesting.

This year, many of you, dear readers, have been involved again, in different ways and often in a very personal manner, in contributing to and enriching Swiss-Vietnamese cooperation and friendship.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

We would like to sincerely thank you for this commitment. On behalf of the whole team, please receive our sincere wishes for a joyful festive season, Merry Christmas and twice Happy New Year!

Yours truly, Nicole Wyrsh

**Very best wishes from the Swiss Embassy team for the New Year 2023
Happiness - Good Health - Prosperity**

**Toàn bộ đội ngũ nhân viên của Đại sứ quán Thụy Sĩ
Xin gửi lời Chúc Mừng Năm Mới 2023
Hạnh phúc - Sức khỏe - Thịnh vượng**

Bridge Fest in Da Nang, 27.8.2022



Le 27 août dernier, l'Ambassade de Suisse au Vietnam a participé à « Bridge Fest », un festival annuel organisé depuis 2015 par OXFAM et l'Ambassade des USA, dans le but de contribuer à sensibiliser les jeunes vietnamiens à la lutte contre la discrimination et l'inégalité.

BridgeFest 2022, centré sur le thème "*Be the change towards human economy*", a été un franc succès. En effet, plus de 32 organisations de la société civile vietnamienne se sont présentées aux environ 15'000



visiteurs, en leur proposant des jeux et activités autour de leur engagement respectif – allant de la protection de l'environnement au respect face à la diversité, en passant par d'innombrables autres bonnes causes qui mobilisent jeunes et moins jeunes au Vietnam.





Le stand suisse, axé sur l'information sur notre pays, a été parmi les populaires. De très nombreux jeunes visiteurs sont venus enrichir leur connaissance sur la Suisse et ont tenu en alerte l'équipe dévouée de l'Ambassade. L'artiste sonore suisse, Nikola H. Mounoud, s'était allié à nous pour apporter une contribution diverse à la partie musicale de la soirée – un grand merci encore à Niko !

OECD Ministerforum für Südostasien in Hanoi, 17./18.10.2022



Am 17.-18. Oktober 2022 fand in Hanoi erstmals seit der Beendigung der Massnahmen zur Eindämmung der Pandemie das OECD-Ministerforum für Südostasien wieder mit persönlicher Teilnahme von Delegierten aus den 38 OECD- und den 10 ASEAN-Mitgliedstaaten statt. Das Forum wurde 2014 als Outreach-Format der OECD nach Südostasien gegründet und hat seither zu einer Vielzahl regionaler wirtschafts- und handelspolitischer Netzwerke und Initiativen geführt. Das zentrale Thema der unter dem Ko-Präsidium von Australien und Vietnam organisierten beiden Konferenztage lautete «Connecting Regions: Partnerships for Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains». Der erste Tag war der Frage gewidmet, wie OECD- und ASEAN-Länder die Widerstandsfähigkeit ihrer Lieferketten besser gegen künftige Schocks schützen und die Grundlagen für eine grüne und digitale Zukunft schaffen können. Im Fokus des hochrangigen OECD-Vietnam Wirtschaftsforums des zweiten Konferenztages stand die Frage, wie das Land bei der Gewinnung der für seine digitale und grüne Transition benötigten hochwertigen ausländischen Direktinvestitionen vorgehen soll. Das grosse Interesse der persönlich anwesenden oder per Video zugeschalteten KonferenzteilnehmerInnen unterstrich die erhöhte wirtschaftliche Bedeutung von Südostasien, insbesondere auch dem Gastgeberland Vietnam, als Wachstumsmotor: die jährlichen BIP-Wachstumsraten der ASEAN-Staaten haben in den letzten Jahren jene Europas, Chinas und der USA hinter sich gelassen. Besonders seit der robusten Erholung der meisten ASEAN-Länder vom pandemiebedingten Einbruch ist denn auch ihre Attraktivität als Handelspartner und Investitionsstandort noch gestiegen. Die auch online zugängliche Veranstaltung stand auch privaten Unternehmen offen, wobei deren Präsenz angesichts der makroökonomischen und politischen Schwerpunktsetzung der meisten Panels marginal blieb.

Swiss Education Fair in Vietnam, 22./23.10.2022



After a Covid-related break in 2020-21, the annual Swiss Education Fair could again be organized this autumn. As in previous editions, the fair, organized by the trade officers at the Swiss Embassy and Consulate-General, was split into two events at two different locations: one in Hanoi on Oct. 22, and the other in HCMC on Oct. 23. Some eight Swiss schools/institutions in hospitality and business presented their study offers, and Vietnamese parents and students could meet with representatives. The Swiss Education Fair in Vietnam is a regular activity supported by Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE).



Journée européenne des langues 2022 à Hanoï, 12.11.2022



Notre Ambassade a participé à la 11^e journée européenne des langues à Hanoï, organisée par 11 ambassades-membres du groupe EUNIC (European Network of Independent Cultural Institutes).



Durant l'après-midi du samedi 12 novembre, l'Institut Goethe s'est transformé en un espace multilinguistique et -culturel, pour accueillir des visiteurs curieux de découvrir la diversité européenne en matière de langues. Les visiteurs avaient l'occasion de se familiariser avec des langues qu'ils n'ont jamais parlées, de participer à de nombreuses activités ou de simplement se renseigner sur les possibilités d'aller faire des études dans différents pays européens.



Le public a été surpris d'apprendre que la Suisse possède à elle seule 4 langues nationales, et que cette diversité linguistique fait partie intégrale de l'identité nationale suisse. Ceux qui ont participé aux jeux offerts se sont vus récompensés par de jolis cadeaux.

Initiée par le Conseil de l'Europe et organisée chaque année depuis 2001, la journée européenne des langues est une parfaite occasion de sensibiliser le public vietnamien à l'importance de l'apprentissage des langues et de promouvoir le patrimoine linguistique de l'Europe.





a.k.a. Nikola H. Mounoud, Artist, Composer, Performer and Live music curator from Montreux

Born in Montreux, I first came to Hanoi in 2016. Invited by Swiss photographer Charlotte Aebischer, I then performed at the opening of her exhibition, which was held in the, now closed, *Dao Anh Khanh Treehouse* in Long Bien/Hanoi.



During that evening, I met Vietnamese contemporary painter and pioneer choreographer Dao Anh Khanh and offered him a small installation titled "Harsh Cactus" for his garden - as a tribute to my first passage in Hanoi (see picture by Ch. Aebischer).

As a result of this first visit and encounter, Mr. Anh Khanh invited me to come back and contribute to his massive art resort project "Gam Troi Valley - Valley of the Arts" - located in Hoa Binh Province, about 60km west of Hanoi.

In February 2017 I indeed came back to Vietnam and relentlessly worked with a team of ten people. Jointly, we built a fairly massive - concrete and steel - sound sculpture titled "Harsh Wall", which was unveiled to the public on 23 March 2019 during *Dao Xuan Chin International Festival* - a festival, in which I also collaborated as co-curator. We had the opportunity to invite more than two hundred Swiss, international and local contemporary artists to perform in what remains, to date, the largest contemporary art event so far held in Vietnam, successfully overcoming the many financial and logistical challenges that come along with such an endeavor. Besides meeting with numerous local artists and enthusiasts, this working period in Hoa Binh led me to meet my life partner - and so, to stay on in Vietnam, after my artwork was completed! I started to organize and coordinate small-scale live music events, mostly in Hanoi, and to develop a network in support of international touring artists, who are active outside of well-established mainstream and commercial networks. "Harsh Macro Tour 2018" and "Take off your paaaants Tour 2019" were among the music tours coordinated by me for visiting Swiss artists.

Last June, I had the great chance to be invited to perform at the newly opened *Museum of Ceramic Art* in Bát Tràng, close to Hanoi. On this occasion, ceramist Tuấn Minh (TU & MINH Pottery Studio) and I created a collaborative work during a live performance. The resulting "one of a kind" artwork was offered to the Museum, and an official hand-over ceremony is to take place sometime in 2023.



Last July, I joined the *REC Vietnam Tour 2022* (www.recvietnam.net), the first live music tour across south-central Vietnam to venture into the central highlands. International artists performed on public squares, amongst other venues. This experience led to smaller sonic live action in recent months/weeks - with some more to follow in 2023.

The more time I spend in Vietnam, the better I can witness and understand the contemporary/under-

ground artistic scene, with its desire to further develop. There are countless opportunities for further, more sustainable, exchanges between Swiss and Vietnamese artists and related art structures. In closing, I wish to share my eagerness to continue, looking forward to listening, seeing and appreciating all the (art)works I haven't yet come across and the ones still to come ...



Website: <http://ooo.meovco.com>



Swiss support for the greening of industrial development in Vietnam

There are currently over 400 industrial parks in Vietnam. Over the last 10 years, the management of industrial zones in Vietnam has improved significantly - especially in terms of wastewater treatment and discharge. Nevertheless, there is great need for better use of natural resources, the introduction of renewable energy sources, and circular economy or cleaner production processes.



Therefore, the government recently issued a new decree promoting the transformation of industrial parks and the establishment of new eco-industrial parks. In an eco-industrial park, businesses work together to improve the environmental, economic and social performance. Industrial park transformation not only increases the sustainability but also the competitiveness of industrial parks and enables them to attract green financing.

Switzerland supports the development of eco-industrial parks in Vietnam through UNIDO's Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP). This support is part of Switzerland's Economic Development Cooperation Program 2021-2024 in Vietnam, which is managed by SECO.

In summer 2022, a delegation of eight Vietnamese experts participated in a study trip and training in the Basel region in Switzerland. It was a great opportunity to share and learn from Swiss experiences not only in improving industrial zones, but also in developing the relevant policies and coordinating stakeholders.

HO CHI MINH CITY

Departure

Jérôme Charbonnet, Consul



After almost four fantastic years in Ho Chi Minh, I'm moving even further East where I'll start my job in December at the Swiss Consulate General in Sydney. I have met wonderful people, tasted unlikely flavors, seen things you can only see in Vietnam, a country that will remain in my heart forever. I would like to say goodbye and thank all my compatriots, the Swiss Business Association, my colleagues in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese people I have known. Thank you!

Tôi thực sự đã cố gắng học tiếng Việt, tôi chưa học xong thứ ngôn ngữ đẹp đẽ này, tôi sẽ quay lại😊



Arrival

Corinne Louise Vetter, Deputy Consul General

It is my pleasure to inform you that I have taken up the position as Deputy Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City on November 1, 2022. I am happy to be part of this great team and to represent Switzerland in Vietnam. My previous career journey in the FDFA took me from Montreal to Manila, on to Bern and then to Yangon. These assignments allowed me to work in various departments and functions and to gain a wide range of experience. My family and I are looking forward to discovering the fascinating country of Vietnam! We are curious about the experiences this country will offer us. I wish you all a wonderful end of the year and look forward to meeting you soon.



Consular Information

[Das EDA ist für Sie da – aber nicht in jedem Fall \(de\)](#) / [Art. 5 Eigenverantwortung](#)

Jede Person trägt die Verantwortung bei der Vorbereitung und Durchführung eines Auslandsaufenthaltes oder bei der Ausübung einer Tätigkeit im Ausland.

[Le DFAE est là pour vous – mais pas en toute situation ! \(fr\)](#) / [Art. 5 Responsabilité individuelle](#)

Toute personne qui prépare et réalise un séjour à l'étranger ou qui exerce une activité à l'étranger engage sa propre responsabilité.

[Il DFAE è presente per voi – ma non in tutte le situazioni \(it\)! / \[Art. 5 Responsabilità individuale\]\(#\)](#)

Chiunque prepara e svolge un soggiorno all'estero oppure esercita un'attività all'estero ne risponde in prima persona.

[The FDFA is there for you – but not all the time! \(en\)](#) / [Art. 5 Personal responsibility](#)

Every individual shall exercise personal responsibility when planning or undertaking a stay abroad or when working abroad.

New Design for the Swiss Passport



From 31 October 2022 the **Swiss passport has a new design**. While retaining the famous red cover and still presenting the 26 cantons on the visa pages, the new edition features the 'Fifth Switzerland' (how Swiss nationals living abroad are often referred to) on its own visa page. Passports with the current design stay valid until the end of the indicated validity. Swiss citizens who would like to have a passport with the new design may book an appointment from November 2022 onwards. To do so, kindly submit an application [here](#).



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SwissInTouch: Switzerland in your pocket!



SwissInTouch keeps Switzerland at your fingertips! The FDFA's new application that makes staying in touch even easier was recently launched. The modern platform enables the Swiss abroad to receive and find important information from their official representation, the various federal authorities and other institutional partners. For more information and to install the app, visit: www.swissintouch.ch

Verlinkung URL: <https://www.swissintouch.ch/login>

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/SwissBusinessAssociationVietnam) -  [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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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 new friends, check out SAAV at <https://www.facebook.com/vietnam.thuysi/> or contact us at external@saav.vn.

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