

INDO-SWISS NEWS LETTER - DECEMBER - 2022

INDO SWISS FRIENDSHIP NITE

December 17, 2022, NCPA, Mumbai



It was one of the most enjoyable evenings – Indo Swiss Friendship Nite 2022 – the first of its kind Signature event organised by SICCI (Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce India) on Saturday 17th December, 2022 at the NCPA (National Centre For Performing Arts). The audience were mesmerised by the inspiring and soulful music played by the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI) at the Little Theatre, followed by dinner at the Sunken Garden providing the right open-air ambience. This being an All-India event of our Chamber, it had members coming in from Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Pune, Baroda, Zurich and a few other cities besides of course Mumbai.

More than 100 guests attended including CEOs /CXOs from member companies, their spouses and colleagues.



Mr. Martin Maier, Consul General of Switzerland in Mumbai graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. We thank the Consulate General of Switzerland in Mumbai and the Swiss Business Hub India for their patronage and also for their continued collaboration with SICCI. We would also like to thank each of the Sponsors viz. Oetiker, Nestle, Legasis, Metrohm, Roche, Belimo, Oerlikon, Endress+Hauser, Hilti and Victorinox.



The event was widely appreciated by the Swiss Indian business community, and is the curtain raiser of many more exciting initiatives being planned by SICCI in Year 2023.

First Pune Visit of Swiss Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner

December 20, 2022

Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner visited Swiss Manufacturing Plants viz. Schindler India and Benninger India in Pune on December 20, 2022 along with Consul General Mr. Martin Maier, Florin Mueller, Head, SBHI and Ms. Darshana Thaker, Manager-Corporate Relations, SICCI.



Mr. Anuj Datta, Plant-Head, Schindler India and his colleagues welcomed Team Switzerland and made a detailed presentation about Schindler which has been a pioneer in elevator technology with a long tradition of developing innovative mobility solutions and it also manufactures, installs, services and modernizes elevators, escalators and moving walks for almost every type of building.

Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce India



Mr. Bikram Saha, Managing Director, Benninger India welcomed the delegation which later took a tour of the Benninger plant. Benninger develops and manufactures textile finishing and cord production ranges as well as provides complete system solutions.



SICCI-SBHI – NETWORKING EVENT

December 20, 2022, Pune

Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce India organised a Networking Event jointly with Swiss Business Hub India on December 20, 2022 at J.W. Marriot, Pune.



Mr. Florin Müller, Head, SBHI welcomed Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner, Consul General Mr. Martin Maier, Mr. Satish Rao, President-SICCI, Mr. Anil Kudal, President-SICCI Pune and Managing Director, Rieter India, Ms. Bhavana Bindra, MD, Rehau (South of Asia) and the Swiss-Indian Business Community in Pune.

Dr. Ralf Heckner, graced the programme as the Chief Guest. During his talk, he mentioned that 2023 would be a very important year for Switzerland and India - next year being the 75th year of Indo-Swiss Friendship Treaty. He also apprised the audience about two upcoming visits in 2023 - one to North East India and the other to Bhutan.



The session then moved to a Fireside Chat on the book “Can I Fly” with Author Mr. Satish Rao. It was fascinating to hear from him about soft virtues of leadership narrated through real life examples.



Later, Ms. Bhavana Bindra, MD, Rehau (South of Asia), delivered the Leadership Lecture on **Women Leadership Driving Change**. It was an extremely captivating talk session on the relevance of women on the Boards of companies and how change can be driven by women in leadership roles.



Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce India



Mr. Anil Kudal, President SICCI, Pune Chapter, proposed a Vote of thanks to the Swiss Ambassador, Consul General, Head of SBHI and to the two speakers for an interesting and informative session. He also appreciated the presence of around 50 members for the event.



Visit to “Toilet for Her” – Innovative social impact Initiative by Firmenich

December 21, 2022



Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner, Consul General Mr. Martin Maier, Mr. Florin Müller, Head, SBHI visited “Toilet for Her” situated opposite District Civil Court Gate No. 1, Shivajinagar in Pune.

Mr. Satish Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, Firmenich India remarked that even when toilets exist, these are often not used due to an unpleasant smell. “Together with Saraplast, inventors of the ‘Toilet for Her’, they are providing a safe and sustainable sanitation solution that will ensure local women keep coming back, helping to reduce diseases in the long term.”



This is the first initiative of Firmenich under ‘Swachh Bharat’ in India providing a safe, hygienic and pleasurable toilet experience for women in Pune. Accelerating access to sanitation, the fully refurbished bus features toilets, shower cubicles, a panic button, as well as diaper changing and nursing stations, all maintained by trained female attendants.

Strengthening the bilateral bonds

(Published in a Pune newspaper, December 22, 2022)



On December 21, 2022, Dr. Ralf Heckner, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan and Mr. Martin Maier, Consul General of Switzerland in Mumbai, Mr. Sachin Itkar, Director, Maharashtra Economic Development Council along with Mr. Satish Rao, President-SICCI and Chairman & Managing Director, Firmenich India met Municipal Commissioner Mr. Vikram Kumar. They extensively discussed what can be done

in Pune in terms of development and beautification. There are 330 Swiss Companies in the Country, out of which around 160 companies are in Maharashtra. The delegates said they were in Pune to encourage more Swiss Firms to come to Maharashtra. The Pune Civic Chief briefed them about the development works underway in Pune city.