



MIT Club of Switzerland

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Newsletter Jan/Feb 2006

Dear Members of our MIT Alumni Club

A cup of coffee requires 7 gram of coffee powder and 125 ml of water. But how much water is needed to grow and process the coffee beans? It is 140 liters! That is 1100 cups of water for every cup of coffee! Amazing! This is the answer to the riddle of the last newsletter. But as nobody sent me an answer...

Past Event: NeuroInformatics

On January 26 a large group of over 20 club members got fascinated by the presentations and demos during the NeuroInformatics event. We had the opportunity to meet cutting edge research targeting to understand how the brain works, as a basis to improve industrial products. Followed by an Apéro and dinner, it was a very interesting and social evening.

Next Event: Traffic Control Center, followed by the AGM

An example of a system that is nearly as complicated as the brain is the traffic system. Thousands of cars, red lights, bus priorities and some accident events are coordinated by the "Traffic Control Center" of the Zurich cantonal police ("Verkehrsleitzentrale"). This spring event will be followed by lunch and the Annual General Meeting.

Enclosed you find the event invitation sheet for the visit to the traffic control unit and the AGM. We will meet **Saturday, April 8, 2006, at 10am**. We hope you can make it to this unique event and also to the AGM! Sign in.

Annual General Meeting

After the traffic visit (10am) we will have lunch (12am) and then hold our AGM (1.30pm) nearby.

- **Agenda:** Please find the agenda enclosed. If you have a request for a further agenda item, let me know at least 7 days prior to the meeting in writing.
- **Bylaws:** An important topic on the agenda is the vote on the proposed revision of the Club bylaws (enclosed). At the last AGM we had decided to revise them, and Hans Herriger took the initiative to coordinate this effort. Many thanks to all inputs!
- **Dues:** In the new bylaws it is suggested that "members who are two years behind with their annual dues despite two written reminders will be considered to have resigned". In case you find a "dues reminder sheet" enclosed, we believe we did not yet receive your 2005 dues (CHF 50.-). Thanks for your contribution and your participation!

Contact

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Web site:
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Outlook

- **Summer Event (June 3 and 4, 2006): Refreshing biking.** As announced previously, Michael Helke will guide us around Lake Geneva, combining exercise, fun and fresh air. Definitely a superb opportunity to really meet your Club colleagues. Don't miss it (Michael.Helke@wipo.int).
- **Fall Event (September): Cinémathèque Suisse, Lausanne.** Pierre Ihmlé will introduce us to the history as it is stored on movies. The exact date will be announced as soon as Cinémathèque is ready for it.
- **“The Big Dig: Boston re-constructed”.** We have previously announced an event, where MIT professor H. Einstein will show us the dimension and secrets of the Boston city highway. Due to some scheduling problems, this event is still postponed, but we are working to find a suitable date. I have recently been in Boston – wow, the city has changed!

Graduate Alumni Convocation

MIT will hold its Graduate Alumni Convocation on April 21-22, 2006. This reunion will bring the global MIT community together for a celebration and exploration of the myriad ways MIT and its alumni impact the world as leaders and innovators. Certainly a good opportunity to meet many interesting alumni from all over the world. For more information, visit <http://alum.mit.edu/gacr> or contact gradalumni@mit.edu.

Wishing you all the best, a hope to see you on April 8.

Best regards

Donald Tillman, President

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Enclosures:

- Traffic control center signup sheet
- Agenda for AGM
- Revised bylaws, to be accepted at AGM