



# MIT Club of Switzerland

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**Dear Members of the Swiss MIT Alumni Club**

Newsletter June 2006

I hope you all do well. Let me summarize our last events and give you an outlook to coming activities.

## **Past Event: Traffic Control Center**

If you drove with your car into a tunnel in the Canton of Zürich on April 8, we saw you. We – 17 of our club – saw you on the video screens at the Traffic Control Center in Zürich. And let me tell you, there are tons of cameras installed, and they see everything: traffic jams, accidents, etc. And the operators are able to immediately adapt the traffic lights and send out the police patrols. It was interesting to see how big brother is watching us, and to see how he daily manages the enormous traffic flow. I am now strictly adapting my car speed to the given speed limit. Especially in tunnels...

## **AGM 2006**

12 members and one guest who became member after the meeting attended this year's AGM, which was held after the visit to the Traffic Control Center and a fine lunch. Main results are (minutes attached):

- New by-laws: Main changes in the new by-laws include:
  - Discontinuation of the categories "inactive members" and "honorary members".
  - The board consists of 5 instead of 4 board members and up to 3 appointed members for assigned tasks.
  - Members who did not pay their dues for 2 consecutive years are considered to have resigned.
- The financial status of the Club is healthy, with cash assets of CHF 9'700. Donations totaling CHF 1500 have been made to MIT in 2005, compared to CHF 3000 in 2004. For 2006, the target is CHF 2'500. However, this target depends on the level of club activities and payment discipline of members and will be defined by the Board at the end of the year.
- Our database of members is not yet up to date satisfactorily, also because the changing information from the MIT database is not reaching us. We are about to make the needed improvements. Please help us with this task and send us your email address (which is often missing).

## **Past Event: Bike Tour around Lake Geneva**

Michael Helke organized the perfect bike tour during the Whitsun Weekend. See the attached tour summary by Jonathan Claman, our bike "professional". A big thank you to Michael and his helpers driving the chase car. See the pictures on our website (address below).

## **Next event**

The visit to the Cinémathèque in Lausanne is postponed due to ongoing renovations. Similarly, the Einstein Event that is postponed due to difficulties finding suitable dates. Our next events are:

- **Hiking to the 150-peak view on Sept 23.** The hike is designed to be central in Switzerland so that members from east and west Switzerland may participate without long travel distance. You may also bring your family along as the whole hike should not take more than 3 to 4 hours. See the attached flyer. Assuming good weather, we will see the spectacular panorama of the Alps, while grilling our cervelats on the open fire.



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- **Visit to CERN on Nov 18.** CERN is the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the world's largest particle physics centre. It sits astride the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. CERN is probably the most famous research centre worldwide. If you read Dan Brown's "Illuminati – Angels and Demons", you know why. Currently CERN is building the largest particle accelerator (big ring), allowing them to probe deeper into matter than ever before. This is an opportunity that will never come again because the construction of the "big ring" will soon be finished. See the attached flyer. Jean-Pierre Revol, our Club member and CERN staff, is helping to organize the tour.

### Payment of dues 2006

Please pay the dues (CHF 50 is the regular fee) with the below listed electronic information or use the payment slip. We strongly prefer electronic payment; this helps us to be more efficient. THANK YOU.

Electronic payment information:

BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN CH80 0025 0250 7003 0140 Q

Or:

BLZ: 250

Acct. Nr: 250-700301.40Q

### Educational Councilors

Josué Sznitman, our Club Secretary, represents Switzerland at the MIT Educational Council. He is currently recruiting new ECs (educational councilors) who want to help out conducting interviews for prospective incoming MIT students. If you are interested in meeting the future students of MIT and advise them, please contact Josué directly ([sznitman@ifd.mavt.ethz.ch](mailto:sznitman@ifd.mavt.ethz.ch), 044 632 26 59). Currently 4 people are in the team of ECs. This is a super initiative helping young students finding their way to MIT.

### Email or Post Mail?

Some of you prefer all information from the club through email. Others prefer to receive mail through the post. **Please – everybody – let us know.** We would like to send as much as possible through email in order to save postal cost. It is silly to pay these fees if we can do better. Those who do not have email access can still receive postal mail, but we encourage everybody to give us their email address. Please be sure that it will not go in wrong hands. Please write an email or a quick postal note.

I would like to thank our members of the Executive Committee and our advisors for their important work. And I would like to thank you for your participation, giving the life blood to the Club. Wishing you all the very best and hope to see you during our next events.

Donald Tillman, President

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/switzerland/default.htm>

Enclosures: New By-laws  
Minutes of AGM 2006  
Payment Slip for dues  
Invitation to Hike and CERN event  
Trip report of bike tour

Contact: Lavaterstr. 45, 8002 Zürich  
Mobile: +41 79 757 74 25  
E-mail: [swissclub@alum.mit.edu](mailto:swissclub@alum.mit.edu)