



# MIT Club of Switzerland

Newsletter February 2009

## Dear Club Members

The year 2009 has started like a rocket. The Solar Impulse event with President Hockfield a first highlight. Apologies to all those who could not attend due to the space limit. But next great events, gatherings, news, discussions and more ahead:

### Program 2009:

Please reserve the dates and do not miss the following opportunities to be part of the MIT community:

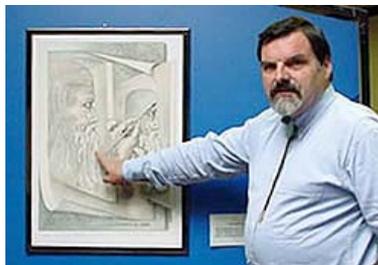
- March 28      Annual General Meeting and visit to Illusoria Museum      -> subscribe now, see flyer
- May 30/31    Traditional MIT bike tour, in Ticino, Lago Maggiore      -> subscribe now, see flyer
- June 27      Visit to the Grimsel water power plant

### March 28: Annual General Meeting and Visit to Illusoria Museum

Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Bern. Starting at 10:30 a.m.

See the agenda and the propositions attached. Please subscribe to the AGM, the lunch and the visit to the Illusoria (guests welcome). See flyer. We will have a guided tour by the artist himself, which makes the tour event more stunning.

Input for Agenda: If you have suggestions to be put on the agenda, please let me know at least 7 working days before the AGM takes place.



### May 30/31 (Whitsun): Bike tour

The traditional bike tour goes into year 4! Easy biking around an always different lake, combined with an overnight stop in a cozy village, sunshine and fresh air, sport activity with a chase car taking our luggage and being there as a backup transport. This time it is Lago Maggiore we circle (you can also do just one day). Great Ticino sun and Italian atmosphere, the first Club event I remember in the Ticino.

Michael Helke, our experienced bike tour guide, will again organize everything in perfect Swiss manner! As the bike tour is Saturday and Sunday at the Whitsun weekend, the following Whitmonday is a day to relax before going back to work.

Please subscribe to Michael as soon as possible. See the flyer attached.

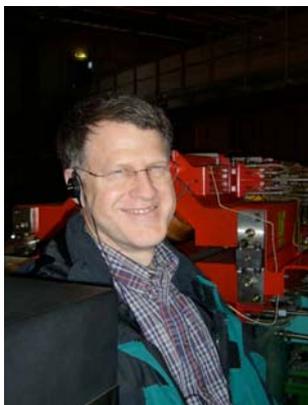




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## Past event: Swiss Light Source

Mak Ikeda writes: On a bright sunny Saturday, 15 November, more than 20 members of the club visited the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Villigen, canton Aargau. The main purpose of the visit was to have an inside look of the SLS or Swiss Light Source, an electron synchrotron that is dedicated to producing synchrotron radiation (infrared to X-rays). But firstly, Dr. Joho, our tour guide, provided a presentation on the various research projects that are ongoing within PSI. These include studies of fuel cells for hydrogen-powered cars, radiation therapy using a proton beam, solar energy technology, and nanotechnology. We were then treated to an amusing and instructive 3-D movie explaining accelerators and nuclear spallation. Next came the main purpose of our visit, the SLS. An interesting feature of this facility is that it is housed in a wooden structure, an unusual choice of material by the architect. The accelerator is contained within concrete blocks, but sample models of the beam tube and quadrupole and sextupole magnets were on display. Sixteen light beam-lines are provided for the experiments that include participants from Swiss and international universities as well as researchers in industry. The experiments include studies of protein crystals, surface physics, and materials science. We would like to thank organizer Warren Schenler.



Earl Wadin



Nida Farid and Hassan



Warren Schenler

## Past event: Solar Impulse with Susan Hockfield

A major highlight! 40 members of the Club had the opportunity to visit the Solar Impulse facilities. Unfortunately, up to 80 wanted to come, but we had to cut at 40. André Borschberg, the CEO of the company and co-pilot together with Bertrand Piccard, gave us vision and showed us how to make impossible things happen.

The following Aperó and speech by MIT President Susan Hockfield translated the visions to the real world, showing how MIT massively invests successfully towards solving the energy and cancer challenge. And Prof. Dave Marks concluded with talking about the ongoing collaborations of MIT abroad.

My personal take home message from the event: Walk the ridge upwards and strive for the summit. And: The MIT Club is a fantastic platform for our members. We could achieve much more attention.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM

Donald Tillman, President  
<http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/switzerland/default.htm>

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Attachments:

- Information and signup sheet AGM /Illusoria
- Information and signup sheet Bike Tour
- Profit/Loss statement and balance sheet 2008
- Annual report 2008 and budget 2009