

SwissCham Annual Meeting, May 3 and May 4 2013 in Basel

This year's SwissCham Annual General Meeting took place at the Radisson Blu in Basel, from May 3 to May 4 2013.

The guest speakers featured actual topics and projects SwissCham is looking at. SwissCham now has 46 members that span Switzerland and the globe, 37 full members and 16 associate (corresponding) members.

The event, attended by 19 bilateral chambers of commerce from as far away as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and a total of 26 people including speakers and guests, was expertly moderated by Jacqueline Keefer, SwissCham President. Proceedings began on May 3 with a visit to the Novartis Campus where we received an introduction on the activities of Novartis worldwide and Switzerland followed by a visit to the spectacular campus.

A special workshop followed in the afternoon where possible future projects were introduced and discussed. In the evening a gala dinner was held at the guild house of Safran in Basel, where guests enjoyed networking with the chamber's representatives.

The general assembly followed lunch in the afternoon. The general assembly reviewed SwissCham's activities in 2012. A very interesting presentation was made by Iris Welten CEO Basel Area, who introduced us to the Basel area's USP with regard to inbound investments from overseas companies.

The SwissCham assembly thanked Jacqueline Keefer, who has stepped down as President due to her new job at Credit Suisse. Georg Umbricht, the Vice President, also stepped down from the Board due to his commitments at his Law Firm. Gabriel Taus also stepped down from the Board, having completed his second term. On behalf of the members we would like to thank them for the support and commitment they put in during their terms.

Echoing the theme of collaboration which had threaded its way through the presentations and discussion of the AGM, members toasted not only their generous hosts, but also one another in recognition of how from working relations between chambers scattered throughout the world, enduring friendships can grow.