

Welcome to

 **Garec 2013**



Welcome Address

Thank you all for attending the GAREC 2013 Conference !

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You are on the continent of Europe



Welcome to GAREC 2013

You are in Switzerland



You are in Switzerland

Switzerland =

- Small country, 40'000 square kilometres
- Mountain Country: 70% of surface are mountains
- «Mountain» People, 8 Mio Inhabitants
- Four official languages:
 - German
 - French
 - Italian
 - Romanch
- Currency: Swiss Franc sFr/CHF
- Religions: mainly christians (protestant, roman catholic)

You are in Switzerland

Switzerland's Economy =

- **Watches** (Omega, Tissot, Swatch, Patek-Philippe, Jaeger-LeCoultre,...)
- **Tourism/Skiing** (Lucerne, Zermatt/Matterhorn, Interlaken/Jungfrau, St.Moritz, Gstaad, Ticino, ...)
- **Pharmaceutical/Chemical** (Novartis, Hoffmann La Roche,)
- **Mechanical and Electrical Engineering** (ABB, Sulzer, CSEM, Rieter, ...)
- **Banking/Wealth Management** (UBS, Credit Suisse, Private Banks)
- **Food** (Nestlé, Lindt&Sprüngli, Barry Callebaut, Swiss Cheese, ...)
- **Trade** (Glencore, ...)
- **Shipping and Logistics**

You are in Switzerland

Switzerland's Educational System =

- 95% of children attend local, publicly-funded schools
- >2/3 opt for vocational training (apprenticeship) afterwards:
combination of practice (in company) and theory (in professional schools)
3 or 4 years
-> highly skilled workforce (craftsmanship, precision, dedication)
- 20% pass the Matura-exam (high school diploma) which leads directly to studies at University level (Universities/ ETH = Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)
ETH Zurich = #1 on European Continent (#13 world wide)
EPFL Lausanne = #2 on European Continent (#29 world wide)
(topuniversities.com)

You are in Switzerland

Short History of Switzerland

- Up to 1291: part of the Austrian Habsburg Empire
- 1273/1291 Union of three Cantons in Central Switzerland
Declaration of Independence from the Habsburg Regime
Strategic role of mountain passes
- 1315-1477: Several wars to defend Swiss independence against the Habsburgians and against France
- 1648 “de jure” independence, negotiated in the peace of Westfalia (end of 30 yr war)
- 1798 occupation by France (Napoleon)
- 1815 Congress of Vienna: Recognition of Swiss Neutrality by european powers
- 1848 Foundation of the Swiss Federal State (federal parliament),
Constitution (Direct Democracy)
- World Wars 1+2: Switzerland managed to maintain it's Neutrality

You are in Switzerland

Switzerland = Home of International Organisations:

- U.N. Office in Geneva
- ITU International Telecommunication Union
- CERN Geneva (Large Hadron Collider LHC)
- BIS Bank for International Settlements, Basle
- ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross + Red Crescent)
- ILO International Labor Organisation
- UPU Universal Postal Union
- WHO World Health Organisation
- WMO World Meteorological Organisation
- WTO World Trade Organisation
- IEC International Electrotechnical Commission
- ISO International Organisation for Standardisation

- + many NGO's: International Olympics Committee, FIFA, IIHF, ...

You are in Switzerland



Kleine Scheidegg / Eiger, North Face, Jungfraujoch

You are in Switzerland



High alp near Grindelwald

You are in Zurich

- Biggest city in Switzerland (1 Mio people in greater Zurich area)
- Banking Centre
- Old Town
- Airport
- Lake of Zurich, Limmat River
- Bahnhofstrasse = expensive shopping mile
- Ütliberg mountain (railway)
- Swiss National Museum



You are in Technopark

- Center reserved for hi-tech start-up companies, university spin-offs and the like
- Highly qualified people (eg PhD's) bring their invention to market
- Venture funds available
- Very flexible office space leasing conditions
- Excellent building infrastructure





You are Guests of USKA

- USKA = Union Schweizerischer Kurzwellen-Amateure (Union of Swiss Shortwave Amateurs)
- 3'500 members
- Organized in local sections/branches
- 1895: Marconi's 1st radio tests in Salvan/Switzerland



Jungfrauoch, Aletsch Glacier (largest in Europe), «Top of Europe»

Thanks to all who made this conference possible!

I wish you a nice stay in Switzerland
and a successful conference!

73 de Willi HB9AMC