ETH Alumni in Singapore, when you are asked what you studied, what is your answer? Probably something like: “Engineering”…whereas it SHOULD be “I studied Engineering at ETH”! This is what Prof. Ralph Eichler told the alumni who gathered for the networking event on 15.Nov 2014. Why is that important? Read on!

Past events

Raclette at the Swissclub, 23.July 2014

We are not sure whether it is for the cheese or for the inviting ambiance at Swiss Club, but the Raclette evening organized by Hans Jaeger turned out to be a hit once again. More than twenty alumni from both ETH and EPFL joined for a casual evening at the poolside.

ETH and EPFL alumni discussing at Swiss Club.

Max Meyer, Hans Jaeger, Sascha Zehnder (from left) and Manohar Velpuri (right, in front) enjoying the Swiss cheese.

ETHalumni-AIA networking event, 23.Sept 2014

The idea to organize an event hosted by AIA Singapore to inform alumni about insurance products relevant for expats living in Singapore was born at the Raclette evening.

ETH and EPFL alumni at SMU Bukit Timah campus, waiting for the event to start.

Singapore chapter treasurer Manohar Velpuri, who is a certified insurance consultant at AIA, got the interest of his management to organize and sponsor the event. To make sure the event would not be mistaken as an insurance policy selling exercise we first had an information talk about Dengue, given by the Singapore Chapter president Katja Fink, who works at the Singapore Immunology Network, A*STAR.
The audience learnt that no vaccine and no specific treatments are available so far, and that the biggest risk of being infected is in densely populated areas. Manohar informed during his talk that dengue disease is not considered an illness, but an accident for insurance purpose. This is probably good news for those folks who are not insured properly for non-critical illness!

**ETHalumni networking event with Prof. Ralph Eichler, president ETH Zurich, 15.Nov 2014**

Mobilizing people for a Saturday evening was not an easy task, but those who joined for the event at Singapore ETH Centre (SEC) were rewarded! Prof. Eichler took time to talk to all who came, and surprised many with being a very approachable ETH president. He welcomed the audience with the message of how important alumni are for ETH. Alumni carry the good reputation of a university into the world, and alumni can benefit from a global network of contacts. However, contacts have to be nurtured, and there are currently efforts in Zurich to improve links between alumni chapters around the world. ETH Global Office in Zurich, led by Juerg Brunnschwiler, will facilitate communication between individual chapters and Zurich, and between chapters themselves.

Prof. Peter Edwards, director of the SEC, gave a presentation on the success story of SEC as ETH’s first setup away from Zurich, in line with the topic of the evening: “ETH in Singapore: A successful model for international presence? ”. The audience learnt that the Singapore site provides faculty, doctoral students and postdocs with new perspectives while being away from home, which is particularly important for those who work on aspects pertaining to developing cities and countries. A new SEC project, “Future Resilient Systems” has just been added to the program. Prof. Eichler, Prof. Edwards and ETH alumnus Jeffrey Huang, Head of Pillars at the Singapore University of Technology and Design SUTD, further discussed the presence of top universities in Singapore. SUTD is affiliated to MIT and Prof. Huang mentioned that the Singapore school was a test bed for MIT to study new forms of learning and teaching.

**Upcoming events:**
Watch out for news on facebook, Linked-in or in your email inbox!

 *[ETH Alumni Singapore Chapter](#)* **Linkedin**

Best regards,
Katja Fink and the Singapore chapter committee

Photos: Hans Jaeger and Katja Fink

Prof. Peter Edwards, Juerg Brunnschwiler, Prof. Ralph Eichler and Prof. Jeffrey Huang (from left) during the panel discussion.

Prof. Eichler discussing with ETH alumnus Peter Latscha.