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Hand in Hand Switzerland Association, a non-profit association was established in 2013 in Altendorf, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland. The Association’s main aim is to raise grants and funds, assist with managerial and technical support, and cultivate partnerships and alliances for the parent organization, Hand in Hand India. The association also facilitates cross-learning between the parent organization and donor community through a variety of avenues such as meetings, seminars, conferences, networking events and endeavors to promote the Hand in Hand India brand within the development sector at the global level.

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association supports and promotes Hand in Hand India’s vision, mission and goal.

**VISION**
Hand in Hand India envisions to alleviate poverty through job creation and integrated community development

**GOAL**
Hand in Hand India’s goal is to create 5 Million jobs by 2020

**MISSION**
To work for the economic and social empowerment of women, and thus of society, by creating enterprises and jobs. To follow this with an integrated development programme that creates sustainable communities

**LEADERSHIP**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
President : Dr. Kalpana Sankar
Secretary : Mr. Amitava Tripathi
Treasurer : Dr. Natarajan Jeyaseelan

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**
Chairman : Mr. Amitava Tripathi
Member : Ms. Vera P. Weill Halle
Member : Mr. R Todd Wade

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:**
Managing Director : Mr. Sandip Mookerjee
Partnerships & Donor Relations : Ms. Dhun Davar
REGISTRATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

During his visit to Switzerland in March 2015, Mr. Sandip Mookerjee, Managing Director Hand in Hand Switzerland Association met with the Registry Authorities in Canton Schwyz to file documents pertaining to his appointment as Managing Director. Discussions were held with the local authorities concerned and subsequently, Mr. Mookerjee's name was registered and published.

NETWORKING

During a visit to Switzerland in March 2015, Mr. Sandip Mookerjee, Managing Director Hand in Hand Switzerland Association, met with UBS Optima Foundation to discuss a partnership proposal submitted to the foundation.

Discussions were also held with Indian Embassy officials to brief them about the activities of the Association.

Prospective partners were also identified and met with during the visit in March 2015 and a subsequent visit in July 2015.

RECRUITMENT

Interviews of prospective candidates for Hand in Hand Switzerland Association were held.

In May 2015, Ms. Dhun Davar was appointed to manage the operations of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association with specific focus on partnerships and donor relations.
In July 2015, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association joined hands with "Humanium", an international child sponsorship NGO dedicated to stopping violation of children’s rights throughout the world. "Humanium" was founded in Geneva in 2008 with a single purpose: the well-being of children worldwide. Hand in Hand Switzerland Association, "Humanium" and Hand in Hand India signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on 1 July 2015 committing to work together to achieve shared objectives.

**Geneva Non Profit Network - 14 July, 2015 at the Bateau Geneve**

The Bateau Geneve was an appropriate venue for a talk by Hand in Hand Switzerland Association’s Managing Director, Mr. Sandip Mookerjee on the Hand in Hand India and group institutions model, work and approach. Mr. Mookerjee captured the attention of all present with interesting tales about India, its social, economic and cultural fabric and Hand in Hand India’s humble beginnings and journey till date. It was befitting that the venue for this talk about economic empowerment was The Bateau Geneve, a former flagship of the fleet of Lake Geneva, moored at the quai at Eaux-Vives and saved from demolition by the charitable organization ‘The Association for the Bateau Geneve’ which now houses a café and bar with the objective of reintegrating distressed and unemployed youth by offering them employment here.
Giving Women – 9 November 2015 at Chene Bougeries

Giving Women, a Geneva-based network of women involved in philanthropy, invited Hand in Hand Switzerland Association to give a presentation to their members at their Project Evening in November.

Ms. Dhun Davar addressed the group, presenting Hand in Hand Switzerland Association and the Hand in Hand Group particularly highlighting key strategies in poverty alleviation and the group’s impact till date. This was followed by an interactive question and answer session.

Indian Association of Geneva – 21 November 2015 at the Aula Ecole Henri-Dunant in Geneva

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association participated in the combined Diwali, Gurpurab, Milad-Un-Nabi and Christmas celebration event organized by the Indian Association of Geneva (IAG) held at Aula Ecole Henri-Dunant in Geneva. The event provided a platform for the association to publicize its activities and engage with members of the IAG. It also provided a platform to showcase handicraft items created by beneficiaries of Hand in Hand India. According to Mr. Venkatesh, President of the IAG, “approximately 300 people were present at the event, which was a great success”.
On 8 December 2015, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association and Hand in Hand India in partnership with "Humanium" launched a Sustainable Organic Farming Technology project in Thenambakkam, Koyambakkam and Kalianur villages in Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, India. The project aims at not only the regeneration of the environment through proper land use, but also the management of needs of the human community in such a way that their demands match the resources namely land, water and vegetation, available. This results in less degradation and adoption of a conservation approach. This equilibrium between the need and availability of resources will lead to a better and increased resistance to drought and increased agricultural production augmenting food supply, fodder, fuel and timber thereby improving the standard of living and leading to reduction in poverty-induced migration.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association met on 02/03/2015, 30/06/2015, 29/09/2015 and 24/12/2015

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Advisory Committee of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association met on 29 September 2015. Also conducted extensive field visits to understand the Hand in Hand India model in September 2015.