

NEWSLETTER No. 1, June 2005

Dear Reader



Congratulations – on Sunday 1 May 2005 many of you have attended a historical event, the launching of the **SSEF Alumni** organisation at the very first SSEF Alumni Dinner in Basel, Switzerland! I was honoured and thrilled to meet and share ideas with a multitude of people who came from near and far to attend. A great number of photographs were taken to commemorate the event. You will find a selection of them on our website ssef-alumni.org. Are you wondering about the benefits of an SSEF Alumni membership? In the future, you will have the opportunity to attend Alumni outings, congresses, events, seminars, workshops etc. which are all aimed to increase your knowledge and your network within the gemmological world.

We, the Alumni team, are convinced more than ever that there is a definite need for establishing SSEF Alumni mainly as a platform for former course participants at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute for exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge, promoting interests within a growing number of members worldwide. You will have an invaluable network of people at your disposal with different focus and different skills which you will be able to access through SSEF Alumni at any time. If you wish to promote your business on the SSEF Alumni website, send your business card together with a short description of your services to info@ssef.alumni.org. Please use the same address for feedback, suggestions, ideas which will be greatly appreciated. By joining you will contribute to realising this vision and become part of it.

Thank you for your membership.

Leon Ascot, President of SSEF Alumni

Dear Friends,



The start of the SSEF Alumni right after the GemmoBasel 2005 was a good closing of a wonderful weekend. The conference and the first Alumni dinner made one thing (again) very clear : if you are interested in gemmology you have to be international ! I can not think of one science or trade which is so globally oriented. For many people concerned with gemmology that is also the fun ! To be able to go to other places and to exotic countries, to meet people and other cultures or to go on unknown tracks, that's very exciting! Today the SSEF Alumni members are from all over the world whereto your compass will take you. In the future when the SSEF Alumni will expand, you will find its members in many different countries. This will give opportunities when visiting a country. How easy and nice will it be to know somebody in a country, not only for information about that country, but also to share the 'gemmological experience' and perhaps business.

For me, as the International Ambassador of the SSEF Alumni, I am looking forward to meet you in your country. It is our intention to organize special events for the SSEF members at places where the gemmological community gathers, at Jewellery Fairs, Gemmological Conferences or Mineral Shows, or of course also at any other occasion.

I sincerely hope that the SSEF Alumni will grow steadily and that we all can profit from an international community !

Peter Groenenboom, International Ambassador of SSEF Alumni

Launching Ceremony of SSEF-Alumni was a great Success:



More than 50 people from all over the world gathered together for celebrating the first SSEF Alumni dinner in the splendid „Schützenhaus“ in Basel, Switzerland. Many former SSEF course participants met again and were in a good mood for discussions and exchanging news about their gemmological interests and starting already world-wide networking, which is the main purpose of our organisation.



It was a special honour for SSEF Alumni to announce that Eickhorst Systems is supporting the effort of launching SSEF Alumni and will offer a 10% reduction on all gemmological instruments and lighting systems exclusively for SSEF Alumni members.

To see all the photos of the SSEF Alumni Dinner, please visit our website www.ssef-alumni.org



SSEF Alumni News:

**Trip to the Mineral Show
in Ste Marie-aux-Mines (France) 23.-26. June 2005**

Ste Marie-aux-Mines is one of the largest mineral and gemstone shows (www.minerapole.com/f/_s_main.html) in Europe. Apart from cut gemstones, many rocks and crystals and even fossils are offered in a very friendly and exciting market atmosphere in this small former mining town in the Vosges hills near Colmar (between Basel in Switzerland and Strassbourg in France).

Depending on how many of you are interested, we will organise a group visit at to Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (reduced entrance) on Friday 24. June 2005.

Please contact Leon Ascot at info@ssef-alumni.org, when you are interested to participate at this group visit. Travel and accomodation is not organised. However, we would organise a group entrance, a SSEF-Alumni meeting during the Show, and a dinner for those who are interested.

**1. Gem Lecture in autumn 2005:
The famous Jade-tract in Myanmar**

Georges Bosshart, world-famous gemmologist, former director at Gübelin Gemlab, will offer us a talk on his last trip to the Jade-tract in Myanmar in 2004.

Jade, especially emerald-green jadeite jade from Myanmar, is one of the most priced treasures in the trade.

Georges Bosshart will present us his latest adventurous trip to Myanmar with many colour slides.

Date and location for this evening SSEF Alumni Gem Lecture will be announced in the next SSEF Alumni newsletter.

Please contact Leon Ascot at info@ssef-alumni.org, when you are interested to participate at the 1. Gem Lecture.



**2. Gem Lecture in autumn 2005:
Mining of Gemstones in Madagascar**



Alexander Leuenberger, Swiss gemstone dealer with his own mining company in Madagascar will present you an insight into Madagascar and the mining of gemstones.

Madagascar is nowadays one of the leading gem producing countries, especially for sapphires, fancy coloured sapphires and rubies.

Alexander Leuenberger will present us his experiences in exploration and mining of sapphires and fancy sapphires in southwestern Madagascar with a lot of slides and stones.



Date and location for this evening SSEF Alumni Gem Lecture will be announced in the next SSEF Alumni newsletter.

Please contact Leon Ascot at info@ssef-alumni.org, when you are interested to participate at the 2. Gem Lecture.

Promote your business on the SSEF Alumni website (SSEF Alumni Benefit Program)

We offer you a free-of-charge possibility to promote your services on the SSEF Alumni website. By participating, you agree to offer a reduction of at least 10% on all your services and products for other SSEF Alumni members.

Please send your business card together with a list of your services to Leon Ascot (info@ssef-alumni.org, or PO Box 605, CH-8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland) Switzerland. Our webmaster will upload regularly the promotion information on our website.

SSEF Alumni and the SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute



The SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute is one of the internationally leading gemtesting laboratories. As member of SSEF Alumni you will exclusively profit with a 10% reduction on all SSEF products (except SSEF certificates) and on all SSEF course fees. More information about the SSEF and its products and courses you will find on www.ssef.ch or contact gemlab@ssef.ch.

SSEF Alumni welcomes SYSTEM EICKHORST®



SYSTEM EICKHORST®, one of the leading manufacturer and distributor of high quality lighting and optic instruments for gemmologists is becoming part of SSEF Alumni.

As SSEF Alumni member, you will profit exclusively from a 10% reduction on all their light & optic instruments (see www.eickhorst.com). When ordering at SYSTEM EICKHORST®, please indicate your SSEF Alumni membership number.

What are your benefits as a Member of SSEF Alumni ?

The SSEF Alumni Organisation is exclusively open for former participants of courses at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute and FGA Students from all over the world as a platform for the exchange of information and for continuous gemmological formation.

It is the aim of the **SSEF Alumni Organisation** to support you and to further enhance your skills in gemmology and to help you maintain your personal ties with other participants of the courses in future.

What are you offered as a member of the SSEF Alumni Organisation:

- Free reception gift: Tools for grading, including a 10x loupe, tweezer, cloth, brush, pencil, pen, red and green pencils, all in a handy box.
- Periodical electronic newsletter informing on new developments in gemmology and events for SSEF Alumni members
- Meetings, gatherings, and excursions, organised exclusively for SSEF Alumni members
- Invitation to the annual SSEF Alumni Dinner
- You get a 10% reduction on the normal prices for all courses, instruments and books at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute (reduction is **not** valid for SSEF certificates !)
- Exclusively for SSEF Alumni members: You profit from a 10% reduction on all light & optic instruments at SYSTEM EICKHORST®
- Internet-Portal www.ssef-alumni.org (You will have the possibility to advertise your company/service on this website)
- Internet forum for exchanging informations between other SSEF Alumni members
- You may participate in the interactive formation programme *Facets®*, exclusively designed for our SSEF Alumni members (under construction)
- Successful participants of the *Facets®* programme will be fully credited once a year in the internet and in the newsletter.
- You may participate in the *SSEF Alumni Benefit®* programme: SSEF Alumni member are promoting their products and services free-of-charge on the SSEF Alumni webpage. By participating, you agree to offer your products and services for a reduced charge (at least 10% reduction) exclusively for other SSEF Alumni members.

The possibilities which are exclusively offered to SSEF Alumni members will be extended continuously. We appreciate also your propositions.

To be part of the SSEF Alumni Organisation (annual membership fee is 150.- Swiss Francs), please send the attached SSEF Alumni Membership Application Form to:

Leon Ascot, FGA
President of SSEF Alumni
PO Box 605
CH-8803 Rüschlikon
Switzerland

info@ssef-alumni.org



Membership Application for the SSEF Alumni

Name _____

First Name _____

Street _____

ZIP _____

City _____

Province _____

Country _____

Email _____

When did you follow a course at SSEF or FGA _____

Please read carefully:

The annual SSEF Alumni Membership Fee is 150.- Swiss Francs. The first membership fee is for 2005 (this fee also includes the invitation to the next SSEF Alumni dinner in 2006). The membership fee for 2006 will be due by 1. April 2006, unless you unsubscribe to SSEF Alumni Organisation prior to end of February 2006 (info@ssef-alumni.org).

After having paid the membership fee, you will get your **SSEF Alumni Membership Card**.

All data about SSEF Alumni members is strictly used only for the SSEF Alumni Organisation and not made public to anybody else, who is not belonging to SSEF Alumni.

As member of the SSEF Alumni Organisation, I declare to follow international standards and rules of fair trade practice. Any abuse of above mentioned declaration will lead to exclusion from SSEF Alumni Organisation.

Date _____ Signature _____

Please send this application form to:

Leon Ascot, FGA
President of SSEF Alumni
PO Box 605
CH-8803 Rüschlikon
Switzerland



With the periodical electronic SSEF Alumni newsletter, we want to inform you on new developments in gemmology and exclusive events for SSEF Alumni members. You are invited to contribute to the newsletter with letters and short articles of interest for other SSEF Alumni members. All contributions should be sent to Leon Ascot, President of SSEF Alumni (info@ssef-alumni.org) and will be published if appropriate for this newsletter.

Impressum:

SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute
Falknerstrasse 9
4051 Basel
Switzerland

In collaboration with

Leon Ascot and Peter Groenenboom
SSEF Alumni
PO Box 605
CH-8803 Rüslikon
Switzerland

info@ssef-alumni.org
