

## THE CIRCLE - NEWSLETTER

THE ONLY INFORMAL NETWORK OF U.S.F. ALUMNI IN THIS WORLD

After six months of rain we had 8,5 consecutive days of sunshine.  
So this must be the Spring!  
Therefore a Spring Newsletter would be appropriate.  
By the way, Happy Easter !

Getting back to tradition, we first congratulate **Bo Chansiri** and his wife Parnnapa with the birth of a baby boy named Chris last November, or with his full name Thirith Chansiri.

Here's a very last minute reminder of the Circle Meeting, coming up in just a few days.  
Full coverage, including program, whereabouts and much more on page 3

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**1999 CIRCLE MEETING:**  
April 30 - May 3, 1999  
**BADEN-BADEN**, Germany  
Hosted by Dirk Haro  
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### Gossip

- **Frédéric Pirard** is reporting to be alive and well and sending free-games via e-mail. He's also an excellent example for quiet a lot of Circle Members, eager to pay his membership fee's !
- From Indonesia **Nita Sunarto** let us know that they are hanging in there, given the not-so-good economic situation in Indonesia. Note also change of e-mail address in the data-base.
- **Bo Chansiri** is touring Europe with his wife: conference in London, transiting through Paris and visiting the Seafood show in Brussels. By the time you read this they might have been wining and dining with some 'locals' in Belgium... Unfortunatley they will already have to return before the Circle Meeting ☺
- Another traveler is **Nina Danielsen**. As international coordinator for the financial supervisory authority in Norway she has been travelling over the last year to Switzerland, Luxembourg, Brussels, Vienna, Portugal, Amsterdam and Cancun, Mexico ! And going this year to San Francisco, Aix-en-Provence, and again the european tour. As most of this is 'work' Nina has been looking for some sun and rest on the Canary Islands, together with

daughter Elizabeth.

- And more from Norway. **Anne Sorensen** didn't mind a temperature of -10°C and lots of snow to go skiing last January. To get rid of neck-problems she got treatment from a Belgian olympic athlete and also physical therapist.
- On his annual pilgrimmage to Africa **Jos Piron** visited Cotonou, Douala and Libreville; all squeezed in a one-week trip.
- And what about the party-gang, you will ask : **Jan Melsen - Luis Martinez Aoiz - Wilfried Kainz** and **Petter Danielsen**. Not much details have reached us, but there have been rumours of parties in Vienna, Salzburg, Barcelona and other undisclosed places ....
- In London, **Lars Johnsen** got an early february visit from Jos Piron and his canadian (québécoise !!! ) girlfriend.
- <this paragraph just to fill up this page. Wait a minute ... let's invent some gossip .. , or maybe we already did ...>

### **ANNUAL CIRCLE MEETING IN BADEN BADEN - 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1999**

Dear Fellow Circle Members,

It's that time of the year again and I am sure all of you are looking forward to hopefully yet another unforgettable annual meeting, which, as you are aware, will take place in Baden Baden from the 29<sup>th</sup> of April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Apologies for sending you the programme with such a short notice, but my Mexican laziness has prevailed over my German efficiency. Please find below the details of the masterplan and hope you can make it!

#### **PROGRAMME**

##### **Thursday Evening - 29<sup>th</sup> April**

First rendezvous at the "Bistro" for aperitif, snacks and supper. Lots of gossips and catching up will make the evening pass very fast! However in case we get bored of each other company there is the option to go to the new "Festspielhaus" and listen to a classic music concert..

##### **Friday - 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Guided tour of Baden Baden. We will visit the Old Castle of the Duke of Baden, the famous Kurpark with its neo-classical 'Drinkhalle',- a sip from the water fountain is supposed to do wonder for you!!! and other old landmarks of the city.

Lunch is optional but for those who feel hungry there are many bistros serving hot and cold snacks in the city centre. However we would recommend a light lunch in view of the afternoon visit to the very famous baths. In the afternoon we will be touring the Roman Spa. We will then go to the world renowned Irish-Roman Bath - the Fridrichbad - with its famous saunas & hot springs. Those who enjoy the pleasure of sauna are highly encouraged to try the bath. Alternatively massage and Jacuzzis are available next-door in the Caracalla Termae with its wide choice of swimming pools, hot tubs etc. For the less health conscious Baden Baden offers a nice selection of shops in the city centre which are open until 20:00. Kuckkuck clocks are the main hot selling item - for those who can appreciate them!

Dinner at "La Provence" situated in an old wine cellar with high vaulted ceilings.

Enjoy a good glass or two of Kölsch - quite strong and rather tasty German beer After dinner we will be dancing the night away in the Kurhaus or for those who feel like it the thrills of gambling are available in the

next-door baroque Casino.

### **Saturday - 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Day trip to Strasbourg main centre of the Alsace region in France. We will stroll through the historic medieval centre and visit the Minster. Lunch in the city; a taste of the famous Strasbourg pate and sausages are highly recommended

For those who would like to do more sightseeing there is the possibility to take a boat tour through the canals in the old part of the city and see the old Gerber quarter which was a famous centre for leather and fur production in the Middle Ages.

Dinner - Circle annual meeting in a historical restaurant in the country side, near the city of Colmar, where we will enjoy dishes of the "cuisine alsacienne" combined with the typical Gewurztramine wine. Prepare yourself for a night of food, wine and misdemeanours (!!!)

### **Sunday - 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Easy going morning allowing for recovery of eventual hangovers. A salutary walk through the Black Forest will help to clear the system Visit to the Yburg castle, built in the 12th century with an impressive view of the Rhine valley. Lunch at the castle, followed by a relaxing walk through the surrounding vineyards Return to Baden Baden. For more details please read on.

### **HOW TO GET TO BADEN BADEN**

- **By Plane** - The closest main airport is Frankfurt. Baden Baden is about 120 Km away and can be easily reached either by car or train Other nearby airports are Stuttgart and Strasbourg which offer a limited choice of flights. Baden Baden is approximately 45 minutes by car/train from either airports.
- **By Train** From Frankfurt - Trainstation is located in the airport; trains leave approximately every hour and are on the main rail line from Frankfurt to Basel - stop at Baden-Oos Train Station. The Journey is approximately one hour. A ticket is around 30 Euro. Good trains connections are also available from Stuttgart and Strasbourg. Please advice if you need more information on connections from these two cities.
- **By Car**- For those of you who would like *to fly with the wind* the German Autobahn offers the best opportunity - particularly if you have a nice and fast vehicle.  
From Frankfurt - follow the Autobahn No.5 from Frankfurt to Basel and take the Baden Baden exit and follow the Bundesstrasse (B3;B500) which will take you into the city centre.  
From Stuttgart - follow the A8 to Karlsruhe and then take the A5 to Baden Baden.  
From Strasbourg - follow the A5 to Karlsruhe and take the Baden Baden exit.

### **ACCOMODATION**

Accommodation has been arranged for a total of 20 people. Five suites with sleeping arrangements for two to four people have been reserved at the Hotel "La Opera" in the heart of the city. The rate is on average 50 Euro per person, inclusive of breakfast and taxes. This can vary depending on the number of people sharing a suite. Three double bed suites have already been booked The other suites are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

In addition an apartment with sleeping arrangements for six people has been rented. The apartment offers two double bedrooms and a sofa bed in the lounge, two bathrooms, one with an en suite Finnish sauna, a fully equipped kitchen and parking facilities The cost per person is equal to the hotel rate.

### **TRAVEL TIPS**

Please remember to bring light spring clothes as the weather should be nice and the temperature mild. Don't forget your bathing suit/trunks. To be on the safe side bring a raincoat and/or an umbrella just in case the spring weather decides to play a trick on us....which is very likely!

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For those who wish to know more about Baden Baden detailed information are available on the Web at the following address: [www.baden-baden.de](http://www.baden-baden.de)

Alternatively you can call me on my mobile at +49 172 744 3244 or drop me an E-Mail at "dirkharo@yahoo.com".

I would be very grateful if you could confirm your attendance asap so that I can have an idea of how many

of you will be coming and eventually make arrangements for additional accommodation if necessary.  
Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dirk

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## **Presidency**

I am pleased to announce that the Circle Magic has resulted in a new president-select who will take over at the Annual Meeting in Baden-Baden.

You should be reading here now about the meticulous selection process and/or the victory of democracy. Fortunately you are not; and we're proud about it.

Which makes that I'm in a much better position than my fellow Helmut Kohl. Both of us brought our organization into the era of the Euro. Helmut however had to leave his succession to democracy; and you know where that got to.

I am very pleased to leave you to the undisputed leadership of ...//.... (printer error).

## **Data-Base**

As usual an updated copy of the database comes along with the newsletter. Several changes have been processed since the last edition

## **Circle Membership Fee**

Not much comments on this subject. It seems to remain hopeless!

The fee-paid item in the date-base now relates to the status of the 1999-fee. Please check also your previous list to find out about your 1998-status.

## **Epilogue**

This than ends my last Circle Newsletter. Ten years has been a long period, but at the same time it passed by very quickly.

It was a pleasure (well ....., most of the time) to serve as your president / data-base maintenance / etc.

The time to go has now come and I will be pleased to be a fee-paying Circle Member for the next 10 years and more.

**... AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**