



swissnex leadership team

Deucher Vilchis Gioia, swissnex Brazil



After spending four years as the Head of Startup and Innovation Services for swissnex San Francisco, Gioia Deucher is now taking the lead in opening a new swissnex office in Brazil.

Gioia graduated in International relations in Geneva and pursued a Master in the same field. From this point on, she dedicated her career to microfinance, entrepreneurship and development in emerging markets with a strong focus on Brazil. In 2006, she moved to Brazil to work on a survey about access to financial services in rural Brazil and to work on a microfinance start-up project. After this, she completed a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts. Gioia's thesis was entitled "The Market for Microfinance in Brazil: an Industry Analysis". After her studies she worked as an Investment Officer Assistant for Latin America at a financial firm with a focus on

Brazil. She left the United States to go to Jerusalem as a consultant for UNRWA's Microfinance program. Back in Switzerland, she worked for a major Swiss bank in the Global Asset Management in the Socially Responsible Investments department before returning to the United States to begin working at swissnex San Francisco.

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Hraba-Renevey Suzanne, swissnex Singapore



Dr. Suzanne Hraba-Renevey was awarded a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and spent several years in academia and research. She created the position of Science Counsellor at the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore, and was instrumental in the implementation of Swiss House Singapore, presently swissnex Singapore. She presently conceives, manages and communicates swissnex activities, leading a six-member team, and reporting to the State Secretariat for Education and Research and the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore.

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Marmier Pascal, swissnex China



Pascal Marmier is the CEO and Vice Consul General of Switzerland at swissnex China, a private-public partnership dedicated to facilitating collaboration between China and Switzerland in all fields related to science, technology and innovation. He is passionate about helping entrepreneurs get connections and further their understanding of other markets. In China, entrepreneurs can enjoy various types of support including the CTI Market Entry CAMP.

Pascal holds an LL.M in Business Law from Boston University. Previously, he worked as an attorney on international transactions with KPMG. He obtained his Masters in Law from University of Lausanne and later graduated from the Sloan Fellows program (MBA) at MIT Sloan School of Management.

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Moesner Felix, swissnex Boston



Felix Moesner, a doctoral graduate from ETH Zurich with research records at the University of Tokyo specialized in robotics, MEMS and nanotechnologies and acquired professional experiences at Credit Suisse Life Insurance Japan, Solution Providers, Kanagawa Academy of Science & Technology, Toshiba Corporation Japan and, Egon Zehnder International Zurich.

Dr. Felix Moesner is the Director of swissnex Boston and the Consul of the Consulate of Switzerland. Established as the world's first "science consulate" in 2000, swissnex Boston is part of a global network of five knowledge outposts including San Francisco (2003), Singapore (2004), China (2007) and India (2009). Formerly, Felix Moesner was the head of the Science and Technology Office at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tokyo promoting Swiss Science, Technology and Education in Japan and interfacing between Swiss and Japanese governments, universities, R&D institutions and companies. Since 2005, he has also the presidency of the Science & Technology Diplomatic Circle, comprising of 80+ diplomatic missions and affiliates in Tokyo. Several awards and grants underline his proactive commitments.

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Simm Christian, swissnex San Francisco



Founder and Executive Director, swissnex San Francisco Switzerland's Science & Technology Counselor for Western U.S. and Western Canada.

In December 1997, Christian Simm opened the Swiss Science and Technology Office in San Francisco. Before swissnex, Christian was the director of CAST (now Alliance), the industrial liaison office at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), in Switzerland, and was influential in fostering Swiss participation in several European initiatives including the Comett and Leonardo programs. He also worked as a research project leader at INRS-Energie/Hydro-Québec in Montréal, Canada, and co-founded a process management company.

Christian is author of newspaper and magazines articles, and is an individual member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from EPFL and postgraduate management degrees from IMD and the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. He is fluent in French, German, and English.

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Strasser Balz, swissnex India



Balz Strasser graduated in Agricultural Economics from the ETH Zurich and in Knowledge Management from the Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands. Following his studies he spent four years working at the University of Zurich, where he wrote a dissertation on the income strategies of small-scale farmers in Southern India in the North-South National Competence Centre in Research. He then lived on the subcontinent for a year.

Between 2006 and 2008 Balz worked as a programme coordinator for Helvetas in Zurich. During this time he founded Pakka AG, a company which specialises in developing sustainable food value creation chains in developing countries. In September 2012 Pakka AG received the Swiss Ethics Award for its work. Balz Strasser took over as CEO of swissnex India in January

2014.

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