On January 22nd a small number of RUG alumni rang in the New Year together in Zurich. Due to busy January-schedules the turn up for our event was a bit lower than expected. The reception did present an excellent opportunity to talk to a few alumni more intensively. Alumni put their heads together to evaluate previous meetings of the RUG Swiss alumni chapter and discuss the way forward.

Meeting places
Swiss RUG alumni would like to meet in places of interest, such as universities, research institutes and historical or cultural buildings. The venue of the last event, the “Zunfthaus”, was much appreciated, and although the location does not have to be as exclusive every time, regular bars and café’s do not suit the occasion. Attendants Prof. Jan Egbert Sturm (ETH) and Dr. Piet Spaak (Eawag) were kind enough to offer their institutes as places where lectures for RUG alumni can be held. We warmly welcome this.

Upcoming alumni events in 2015
Alumni join the chapter to get back in touch with the university, but also to get to know each other. Who are these fellow RUG alumni that have settled in the same area? We would like to give alumni a platform to share their expertise with others.

Alumnus Dr. Piet Spaak is an ecologist at Eawag, a world-leading institute in the field of aquatic research based in Zurich/Dübendorf. Dr. Spaak offered to host the upcoming alumni-event in Eawag’s special energy neutral main building.

The meeting will be planned on April 16th. More details will follow.
Alumnus Prof. Jan-Egbert Sturm offered his support as well, for a meeting with RUG alumni at his economic research institute KOF at ETH in Zürich. We will organize an interactive lecture with prof. Sturm and invite the Rector Magnificus of the RUG, Prof. Elmer Sterken to discuss a topic within the current issues of monetary policy.

*We will schedule this meeting in fall 2015.*

Can't wait until then? The Dutch Business Round Table is organizing a lunch meeting with Prof. Sturm on the position of the CHF and its influence on the Swiss economy on March 5th.

Alumnus Rakesh Chand is the Chairman of the family foundation Kaura and runs connected businesses from Zürich. He has extraordinary expertise in the world of charities and in business. He teaches at several US business schools and would also love to share some of his expertise in running an international aid organization. *We will plan this meeting in spring 2016.*

During each alumni meeting, some time will be spent on the developments of the RUG and the University fund's *(Ubbo Emmius Fund)* projects that are supported by alumni from Switzerland.

And more…

Zürich hosts a number of organizations and networks connected to Dutch people in Switzerland, like the Dutch Business Round Table. This organization has a few RUG alumni in its board and would like a collaboration with our alumni chapter in Zürich/Switzerland. We hope to organize at least one meeting per year together. The University of Groningen will look for interesting speakers for a bigger intellectual or cultural event. More information will follow soon!