

# President's message

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sport's organisations, leaders of Government, church leaders with a cross-section of ordinary people, appearing in a weekly TV-show to evaluate everyday happenings according to moral values and 'cost to the country' as a whole. Hopefully such an early evening debate would show the nation the need for a return to 'old' values, such as keeping God's commandments. If that would become possible, I believe that we could regain some of the country's happiness lost because of our 'modern ways'.

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## President's Message

The following article was in the February newsletter of the Swiss Abroad Organisation (ASO), and although not directly applicable to us here in New Zealand (not that I'm aware of, anyway), but I did find it of interest to print for everyone to read:

### Delight and Relief

In 1996, the subsidy to Swiss schools abroad was drastically cut. Short-term savings were achieved through management of class sizes, teachers' wages and reduced investment. But this was not enough, and altogether, the schools revealed a combined loss of over Fr.2m.

Now, based on expert financial analysis, reports detailing crisis the situation being faced by the schools, the State Council recently approved a state subsidy increase of Fr.18.5m. This success was described as both a delight and a relief for the Committee of Swiss Schools Abroad (KSA). The extra funds will ensure that the schools will continue to provide high standards of education.

Currently, there are 17 Swiss schools abroad in 10 countries, giving 6000 pupil and educational foundation of Swiss standards. But this network of schools could be widened, and a committee is currently investigating the way ahead. An initial report is due shortly.

More schools could increasingly offer a first class education in major business centers, such as Shanghai, Mumbai and Moscow. Besides accommodating Swiss children, the schools could be attended by children of other nationalities. The possibilities and the potential exist to offer and provide an excellent Swiss education around the world, thereby strengthening the reputation and the presence of Switzerland worldwide.

Future issues being investigated by the KSA are the networking with educational institutions in Switzerland and a more uniform structure of schooling. Recognised national and international certifications should enable graduates of Swiss schools to go on to further learning institutions or universities worldwide. Course structures should allow for more simplified international school transfers and therefore promote Expat movements. Pupils attending Swiss schools abroad, both

of Swiss or other nationalities, are all potential 'consumers' of Swiss universities.

The networking possibilities of the Swiss schools, both amongst themselves, as well as with other international schools, should become better utilised to secure a high quality education. An 'umbrella' organisation should further act as a link between the Swiss schools abroad and all levels of learning institutions in Switzerland. To increase cost efficiency, individual school's managements should be assisted with improved business support systems.

*(translated from the article by Irène Spicher, KSA)*

Summer camps for Swiss children abroad are on offer once again - this year all in the Neuenburg area and focussing on Expo.02, with each camp setting aside three full days set aside to visit the exhibition.

#### 1. Chaumont

14 - 27.7 and 28.7 - 10.8  
 ages 14-17 yrs, Cost Fr.800

2. Ins - 14-27.7 and 28.7-10.8  
 ages 16-25 yrs, Cost Fr.850

3. 'Switzerland in five worlds'  
 touring around all five Expo stages, 17-24.8,  
 ages 18-35, Cost Fr.850

#### 4. Family Stays

27 May - 13 October,  
 for 1-6 weeks in homes  
 throughout Switzerland, ages  
 15-25 yrs, Cost Fr.100/week

Please contact me for further information and application forms. As always, some financial assistance may be available. It would be great for a young person from New Zealand to be able to take part in one of these well organised visits to Switzerland.

As we head towards the end of daylight saving and the early signs of autumn, I wish you all a happy month. Kind regards,

Beatrice.

I LONG TO ACCOMPLISH  
 A GREAT AND NOBLE  
 TASK, BUT IT IS MY CHIEF  
 DUTY TO ACCOMPLISH  
 SMALL TASKS AS IF THEY  
 WERE GREAT AND NOBLE

Helen Keller  
 (1880 - 1968)