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## Reform of vocational training

Since 1993, the federal government and cantonal authorities have been carrying out a revolution in vocational training. In future, it will be more attractive and more Euro-compatible.

Introducing a vocational diploma is the first step in the reform process. This will follow a federal certificate and will make the holder eligible

to attend a technical university.

It is true that as yet there are no technical universities, but the federal and cantonal administrations are working round the clock to set them up. Courses in engineering, business management and economics should be available by 1996.

More details on this are not yet obtainable, but many Swiss Abroad will certainly be interested. AJAS will represent their interests as the structures for the new universities are being worked out and will give further information in due course.

AJAS  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16

### AJAS

*The Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad – better known as AJAS – has been providing professional and educational advice for more than 30 years. The AJAS Annual Report 1993 provides detailed information on these activities and may be obtained from:*  
AJAS  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16

### Friends of the Swiss Abroad

## Balance sheet in order

At this year's General Meeting for the Friends of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Chairman Hansueli Ammann presented a neutral balance sheet for fiscal 1993.

The number of members increased by 40 to 321, but contacts with Swiss firms were less successful than those responsible had hoped for.

Members' annual contributions in 1993 came to

about Sfr. 12,000, while capitalised life contributions amounted to Sfr. 10,000. Rosemarie Breitenstein was elected to the committee and became vice chairman.

"Never give up" is the motto of the Friends. Regular mention in Swiss Review and ASS-Info aims at increasing the number of members. More effort will also be made to contact Swiss firms operating abroad.



**The chairman of the Friends of the OSA, Hansueli Ammann (right) and the new vice chairman, Rosemarie Breitenstein. (Photo: SSA)**

### Lex Friedrich

## Permit requirement for the Swiss Abroad?

Last autumn, the Federal Council presented a draft revision of the Lex Friedrich regulating the purchase of property by residents abroad. The government's long-term aim is to repeal the Lex Friedrich.

But in the interests of harmonising the law with the countries of the European Economic Area, an intermediate step will be to extend the permit regulation to all persons not resident in Switzerland, i.e. also to the Swiss

Abroad. Only people who have been resident in Switzerland for a total of five years will be able to purchase property without a permit.

The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad opposes this extension of the permit system, claiming that it does not accord with the article on the Swiss Abroad in the federal constitution and loosens links between Switzerland and its citizens living abroad.

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You too can help to reach the ambitious aims of the Friends in the interests of the Fifth Switzerland.

Become a member. All you have to do is to cut out the form on this page and send it in – and you will be a member.

RL

### Friends of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

- Please send me more information about the Friends of the OSA  
 I would like to join the Friends of the OSA  
 as an individual member (Sfr. 20.– per year)  
 as a company member (Sfr. 100.– per year)  
 as a life member (Sfr. 500.– as a lump-sum)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, Fax: 41 31 351 61 50. Many thanks for your interest. Membership contributions may be made to our Swiss National Giro (postal cheque) account no. 30-10580-7 in Berne.