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Successful AJAS jubilee week

The jubilee week held by AJAS (Association for the Education of Young Swiss Abroad in Switzerland) with participating students from four continents came to a successful end on 9 November 2002, thanks to sponsorships by companies, cantons and communities as well as the main sponsor, UBS.

The week kicked off on 2 November 2002 with a "Tourism Day" featuring a tour of Interlaken, the Jungfraujoch and Thun. This was followed by a "Politics Day" with a tour of the Houses of Parliament, "Political Instruction" by AJAS President and CVP National Councillor Remo Galli, and a stimulating one-hour discussion with Federal Councillor Joseph Deiss. The "Economics Day" was held in Basle, where the Head of UBS Marketing gave participants some useful information on Switzerland's role as a financial and business centre. The week was rounded off with a "Culture Day" with visits to the Farming Museum, the city of Murten, Roman Avenches, the Abbey of Hauterive and the city of Fribourg.

Over 300 guests attended the jubilee celebrations at the University of Fribourg, where the motto was "Building bridges at home and abroad". Ambassador Peter Sutter, the new Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad, explained Switzerland's activities in the interests of Swiss nationals living abroad. This was followed by an interesting head-to-head discussion between Manfred Zimmermann, director of the VKHS (Preparatory Courses for University Study in Switzerland), and AJAS President Remo Galli on their respective work.

Following this, 15 young Swiss Abroad attended the Youth Session at the Houses of Parliament (at which five Swiss Abroad submitted petitions).

To celebrate the jubilee, a new Internet page was launched in August. The new site provides a unique overview of study opportunities in Switzerland (www.aso.ch, "AJAS"). An Internet network for young Swiss Abroad is also planned (forum, news, mutual assistance etc.).

*Remo Galli, CVP National Councillor
President of the AJAS*

OSA youth services on-line

All the offerings of the Youth Service are now listed on the Internet under: www.aso.ch, "Youth". You can also order the new summer brochure from us. We will gladly forward all the information you need. Winter or summer, sport or study: we offer an arrangement to fit your individual needs. Welcome to Switzerland!

There are still some places available for the Easter ski camp in Fiesch (VS) – register now to enjoy spring snow and sunshine.

For information on the above arrangements, contact:

Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA)
Youth Service, Alpenstr. 26, CH-3000
Berne 16, Tel: +41 (0)31 351 61 00
Fax: +41 (0)31 351 61 50
youth@aso.ch, www.aso.ch

Corrigenda: In the last issue of the "Swiss Review" we stated that the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) founded the New Helvetic Society (NHS) in 1916. The reverse is true: the OSA is a "subsidiary" of the NHS. We apologise for this error.

Invitation to the 2003 OSA congress

The 81st Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Crans-Montana between 29 and 31 August and is devoted to the subject of Switzerland as a financial centre. Against the backdrop of the negotiations with the EU (Bilateral II) and the OECD, this topic is likely to be a key focus of political discussion.

Financial activities have long played a central role in Switzerland, a country with no natural resources. In terms of asset management Switzerland leads the world. Yet in recent times, aggressive international competition has increasingly threatened Switzerland's solid financial status (see "Focus", page 4 ff).

How was Switzerland able to establish a sound, stable and effi-

cient financial status? Banking secrecy is an integral part of Swiss tradition and a source of many legends. What does banking secrecy really mean? Our country is an active participant in efforts to combat both money laundering and terrorist funding. What measures does Switzerland implement to this end? How do other European countries compare in terms of fiscal policy? What will the future financial centre of Switzerland look like? These are some of the questions which are up for discussion at the 2002 congress. A number of Swiss and foreign personalities from the worlds of politics, finance and business will be participating in the debates and round-table discussions.

As always, the congress will close with an address by a member of the Swiss government. SD



Please send me documentation on the 81st Congress of the Swiss Abroad

in German

(Block capitals please!)

in French

First Name:

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Street/No.:

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E-Mail:

Please send the completed form by 15 June 2003 to: Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Congress Organisation, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, E-mail: congress@aso.ch