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The Association for the Promotion of the Education of Young Swiss Living Abroad (AJAS)

News from the Association for the Promotion of the Education of Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS): Last year the AJAS held a competition among students from various specialist institutes of higher education to design a new logo. The aim was to modernise the AJAS logo and bring it into line with existing OSA logos. We now have pleasure in presenting our new logo, designed by the winner, Silvia Hugi from the Berne University of the Arts.



Ausbildung junger Auslandschweizer*innen
Formation de jeunes Suisses*se* de l'étranger
Formazione dei giovani Svizzeri all'estero
Education of Young Swiss Abroad

The logo is not the only thing that has changed. The AJAS team has also seen a few changes over the past year. Elisabeth Müller was appointed as the new manager of the AJAS in February 2005, and has been ably assisted by Fiona Scheidegger since September 2005.

The new AJAS team continues to pursue our policy of helping young Swiss living abroad to return to their country of origin to pursue their studies and integrate themselves into their home country's education system. To this end, the AJAS offers a wealth of information that provide initial pointers to young Swiss Abroad, some of whom do not speak the local languages and/or have little or no knowledge about their country. For example, the AJAS provides documentation about education and training, internships, accom-

modation and scholarships. Where necessary, students are put directly in contact with the responsible body. The AJAS also advises young Swiss Abroad about cantonal grants and other issues related to studying in Switzerland. The AJAS answers queries in German, French, English and Spanish.

Important information is available in five languages on the AJAS website (www.ajas.ch). If you have any questions about studying in Switzerland, contact us. We'll gladly help you out.

Due to the decision to reduce our federal funding from 2007, the AJAS is calling for donations or bequests from Swiss living abroad, so that it can continue to provide services in the future. One former diplomat has graciously donated funds to enable us to offer the new supplementary Freiburghaus Grant, which is named after him.

REMO GALLI PHD (HON.),
FORMER NATIONAL COUNCILLOR

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15th Federal Youth Session

This autumn, a very special Youth Session will be taking place in Graubunden from 30 September to 2 October. Because of rebuilding work at the Houses of Parliament in Berne, the National Council and Council of States (the two houses of the Swiss Parliament) will be convening in the well-known tourist region of Flims/Laax. The Youth Session will take advantage of this opportunity to meet members of par-



The new Federal Council, drawn by Peter Schrank.

liament in the mountains of Graubunden. Once again, the focus will be on an exchange of views between the generations, with working groups examining and debating current political issues. You can bring your visions and suggestions to these working groups, while Swiss politicians and experts on the issues up for discussion will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. Your arguments and proposals will be used as the basis for petitions (demands) that will be discussed and voted on in parliament on the Saturday. The petitions must then be taken into consideration by the relevant parliamentary committees..

Young Swiss abroad at the Youth Session

For several years now, a group of 14- to 21-year-old Swiss resident abroad has also taken part in the Youth Session. You, too, can take advantage of this opportunity for budding young politicians. The programme kicks off in Switzerland on 25 September. The Swiss political system will be explained in detail in Berne. The Youth Service will prepare you for all the issues up for debate at weekend Session. But politics is not the only thing on the agenda: the emphasis will clearly also be on

fun. With an attractive social programme, visitors from around the globe, and 200 other young politicians, entertainment and enjoyment are guaranteed.

And all for a token contribution of just CHF 100.

If you'd like to secure yourself a place at the New Year Camp, you can register online now:

New Year ski camp in Sedrun (GR)

27.12.2006 - 05.01.2007

Sixty young people from more than 20 countries will gather in the Graubunden alps. Snow is guaranteed at the Sedrun ski resort and there's lots to do. Accommodation is comfortable and centrally located in the village. Don't miss an opportunity to be wished Happy New Year in lots of different languages!

Experience Switzerland!

This is just a taster of what the Youth Service has on offer. Click onto our website to find out more. As usual, further information can be obtained at www.aso.ch or from

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Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad 2006/2007 Winter Camp for 8- to 14-year-olds

Whether your children are skiers or snowboarders, beginners or experts, our winter camps are a great opportunity for 8- to 14-year-old young Swiss Abroad to have a super holiday!

Winter camp

Hasliberg I
Location: Hasliberg (Bernese Oberland)
Date: Wednesday 27 December, 2006, to Friday 5 January, 2007
Number of participants: 48
Cost: CHF 800.-
Registration deadline: 15 October 2006

Hasliberg II

Location: Hasliberg (Bernese Oberland)
Date: Saturday 10 February, 2007, to Saturday 17 February, 2007
Number of participants: 24
Cost: CHF 640.-
Registration deadline: 15 December 2006

Programme

Winter sports are the main focus of our winter camps. Skiing and snowboarding will feature highly in our programme, but there's also a chance to go sledging, ice skating or snowshoeing. The programme is suitable for all levels, from beginners to advanced.

As a bad-weather alternative – or just for a change from winter

sports – we'll be taking short trips into surrounding areas, visiting the indoor swimming pool, and an arts and crafts workshop. The kids will still have plenty of time to chat and get to know their new friends from around the globe.

Rendezvous

Around lunchtime at Zurich Airport. Parents are responsible for organising and paying for the outward journey to Zurich airport on the first day and return journey on the last day.

Staff

An experienced multilingual team of camp leaders is there to make sure everything runs smoothly and that there's lots to keep the kids occupied.

Subsidies

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad would like as many Swiss children living abroad as possible to have an opportunity to spend at least one holiday in Switzerland.

Parents can therefore apply for a reduction in the cost of the camp. Application forms can be requested when registering.

Registration

Details on the winter camps and application forms will be available at www.aso.ch (under "Youth", "Holiday camps for 8- to 14-year-olds", "Program Winter") from September 2006. On request, we can also send you our information brochure by post.

interested in taking part must be able to communicate in at least one of the three Swiss national languages (German, French and Italian). The names of the lucky participants will be drawn out of the hat in mid-October.

To take part in the draw, please send us your full postal address (as well as a fax number and e-mail address, if available) and mark it "Juskila Lenk". We'll then send you the Swiss Ski Association's prize draw registration form in September.

For more information, contact our staff in Berne, who will be happy to help:

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("Youth", "Holiday camps for 8- to 14-year-olds", "Program Winter")*



FYSA winter camp in February 2006.