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85th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva: Switzerland and its humanitarian tradition

The 85th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place at the International Conference Centre in Geneva on 17-19 August 2007. The chosen topic is Switzerland's role in humanitarian efforts. The invited guests include Swiss President and Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger.

Of all the values Switzerland represents, its globally-respected humanitarian tradition ranks above all others, thanks primarily to the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and numerous humanitarian organisations and foundations. So what humanitarian efforts is Switzerland involved in today? Should they be intensified? Could they be made even more efficient? These



Jakob Kellenberger, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Swiss President and Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, the keynote speakers at the 85th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva.

and other issues will be discussed at the conference. In addition to purely theoretical questions and speeches, the Congress would also like to look at the reality on the ground by stressing the role of the active Swiss abroad in this respect.

Interactive programme
Swiss President and Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and Jakob Kellenberger,

the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will play an important part in the debate during the plenary session on Saturday 18 August. Other speakers with daily experience of humanitarian work have also been invited. The Congress will give delegates an opportunity to discuss Switzerland's humanitarian efforts and role in a public forum. Visits to the offices of the United Nations, the ICRC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are planned together with follow-up discussions to illustrate the topic of the conference and provide an overview of Geneva's international side. Other visits – e.g. to the Museum of the Swiss Abroad at the Chateau de Penthes – are also planned.

Friday 17 August will be reserved for the Council of the Swiss Abroad. The 85th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be opened officially on Friday evening. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and the city of Geneva look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to this small, cosmo-

politan city on Lake Geneva, the symbol of an international and humanitarian Switzerland. Further information on the Congress: www.aso.ch

New projects for young Swiss abroad

The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad has expanded its youth programme. The OSA also has a new and powerful partner in the Swiss Youth Research Foundation.

More and more young Swiss abroad are spending their holidays on OSA programmes. Places are still available for the forthcoming winter sports camps in Wengen and Fiesch. Aside from the camps, our education offers are always very popular. Young Swiss abroad can now also take part in Swiss Youth Research Foundation (SJF) programmes. The OSA will gladly provide information about which projects are suitable for Swiss abroad. Who knows, maybe a Swiss expatriate will soon be named

85TH CONGRESS OF THE SWISS ABROAD, 17-19 AUGUST 2007 IN GENEVA

Please send me documentation on the 85th Congress of the Swiss Abroad.

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(Please complete in block capitals) Please return completed coupons, to reach us no later than 30 May 2007, to: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Congress, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, e-mail: congress@aso.ch. For organisational reasons the deadline for registration for the Congress of the Swiss Abroad is the end of June. The registration form is included with the Congress documentation which you can order using the above coupon. You can also order the Congress documentation by e-mailing congress@aso.ch. Please remember to include your full postal address.



PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THE EASTER CAMP IN FIESCH, 7-14.4.2007

A unique camp with countless sporting opportunities. There are indoor halls and outdoor activities in the famous Aletsch region, which is more or less guaranteed to have snow this late in the year. It's an entertaining and fun-packed multi-cultural Easter jamboree! This camp is split into two age-related groups: a children's camp and a youth camp.

the winner of the SJF's competition (cf. www.sjf.ch). Some upcoming events:

Winter sports camp in Wengen, 3.3-10.3.2007

This camp is aimed at young adults aged 18 and over. We spend the days in the mountainous realm of the Jungfrau region and its world-famous alpine peaks. All sorts of sports can be tried out on the local snow. Register now!

Education in Switzerland

Young Swiss abroad can spend two weeks at a Swiss university to get a taster of education in Switzerland. The OSA has a highly-personalised education advice service, organises visits to renowned schools

and universities, and establishes contact between students and lecturers.

Summer 2007 offers

If spring is too early for your visit to Switzerland, we've a varied and exciting leisure and education programme on offer for the summer of 2007. The new prospectus is hot off the press, and we'll gladly send you a copy. We look forward to your visit.

As always, further information about the offers is available from the Youth Service. E-mail: youth@aso.ch

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad: Summer camp 2007

**Young Swiss abroad aged
8 to 14 can take part in our
two-week holiday camps in
July and August 2007.**

We still have a few places left at our summer camps. Every year, these camps are attended by 30 to 50 children from around the world.

The participation fee of CHF 800-900 covers the costs of the entire stay.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad would like to

give all expatriate Swiss children at least one opportunity to benefit from our offers. It has therefore set up a fund for subsidising attendance fees. Application forms can be requested during registration.

Precise details of the different holiday camps and the registration form can be found at

www.aso.ch (under "FYSA"). Registrations are treated on a first come, first served basis, so register your child(ren) as soon as possible! We'll gladly answer any questions you may have.

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad
E-mail: sjas@aso.ch

ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

- Legal Department
- Youth Service
- AJAS
Association for the Promotion of Education for Young Swiss Abroad
- CSSA
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