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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial



Dear readers,

I would like to welcome the new ASO representatives for Southern Africa, Marcie Bischof from Cape Town, and Hans-Georg Bosch from Pretoria. Please contact them for any ASO / ASR related issues. This is the first issue of Swiss Review that I prepared from the Western Cape: after 8,5 years in the Eastern Cape I have moved to the Cape Peninsula and look forward to carrying on my work as Swiss Review Southern Africa editor from this beautiful part of South Africa.

All the best,
GISELA PIERCEY

Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

Federal Councillor visited South Africa

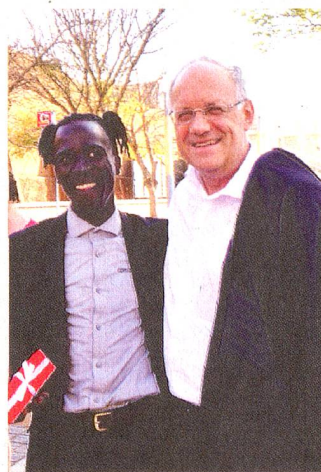
Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER, led a joint economic and scientific mission to South Africa in September.

It was the first time since the creation of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI at the beginning of the year, that a foreign mission led by the head of department, covered the topics of economic affairs, science, research and innovation with the aim of harnessing specific synergy potentials in these areas. The delegation's main focuses were energy and environment. South Africa is Switzerland's most important trade partner and export market in Africa and is also a priority country for research

cooperation. Furthermore, the level of Swiss direct investments in the country amounted to over CHF 2.2 billion by the end of 2011, making Switzerland the fifth largest country of origin of foreign direct investment in South Africa.

The visit took place at the invitation of the South African Minister for Trade and Industry, Rob Davies. Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann held discussions with minister Davies himself and science and technology minister, Derek Hanekom. Besides a successful Swiss-South African Business Forum in Cape Town, co-hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Swiss Business Hub in South Africa – the delegation also attended a series of meetings with companies and institutions in the fields of education, research and innovation. These included the Transport Management Centre in Cape Town, the

University of Cape Town, ABB, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), GlencoreXstrata and Consol Glass. The visit was concluded with a tour of Constitution Hill, where the delegation got an impression about the painful past, as well as an introduction by former Judge Yvonne Mokgoro to the Constitutional Court. Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann and his delegation were very satisfied with the outcome of the visit, both professionally and personally.



Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann with Guide Zimi Nakeni at Constitution Hill. (Photo: Susan Vogel-Misicka, swissinfo.ch)

Consular visits

After a first round of successful visits to the whole consular district last year, the Regional Consular Centre is happy to offer Consular meetings again in Mauritius and Durban this year.

Please take note of the following schedule: KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Durban): 11. – 13.11.2013, Mauritius (Quatre Bornes): 18. – 20.11.2013

Swiss citizens will have the opportunity to apply for a Swiss passport and can also attend to any other consular business. Please check if and for how long your current

Swiss passport is valid. As we cannot guarantee yet that the next visit will take place in 2014, we suggest that passports with a validity of less than 12 months by the end of November 2013 be renewed using the facility we offer on these visits, unless you already plan a trip to Pretoria.

If you wish to order a new passport you have to present yourself personally during the above mentioned dates due to the biometric data that has to be registered.

Swiss citizens registered in the country or province mentioned will receive a letter with detailed information about the venue a few weeks before the visit. It is, therefore, important that you register your current e-mail address and/or your postal address. You can do that by sending an e-mail to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch.

Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch,
Tel. +27 (0)12 452 06 61,
Fax +27 (0)12 346 26 05

Notice for dual nationals

Please be aware that the Swiss representations do not issue Schengen visas for dual nationals with citizenship of a Schengen Member State. Relevant is the citizenship only; it does not matter whether the applicant is in possession of an EU or Swiss travel document or not. If you are a national of a Schengen Member State and would like to travel to the Schengen Territory, you have to travel with your EU or Swiss travel document which do not require a visa.

Notice for Visa Applicants

All visa clients who want to submit their applications will need an appointment through an external service provider as from November 1st 2013. Further information will be published on the website of the Regional Consular Centre <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rep/afri/vzaf/rkc-sa/visa.html> in mid of October.

New ASO Representatives for Southern Africa

Dear fellow citizens, as from 16th August, we, Marcie Bischof (nominated by the Swiss Social & Sports Club in Western Cape) and Hans-Georg Bosch (nominated by the Swiss Society Alpina in Pretoria and the Swiss Society Helvetia in Vorna Valley/Johannesburg) have taken up our positions as the two new ASO representatives and members of the Auslandschweizerat (ASR) for Southern Africa (South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe). We are your contacts for any ASO /ASR related issues from any of the abovementioned 11 countries.

You can contact us via email or send a private message via www.swisscommunity.org where we are both registered.

Marcie Bischof, mwbischof@telkomsa.net / mwbischof@bluewin.ch

bluewin.ch, Hans-Georg Bosch info@hbosch.com / swissoffice.hbosch@bluewin.ch

ASR to protest against the closing of more consulates

The ASO Congress in Davos was a most interesting event especially in view of the issues affecting the Swiss Abroad Community.

The number of Swiss living abroad has risen to above 715'000 persons and with that represents some 10% of the total Swiss population. The ASR Meeting centred on the issues of the "Auslandschweizergesetz", the implementation of e-voting and the closing of ever more consulates in various countries.

Another issue discussed was the problems besetting the French ASO section, which is currently involved in an internal fight for electing ASR-Vorstand delegates. As a result, the ASR Vorstand will have no French representation until new delegates can be agreed upon.

The Auslandschweizergesetz, which is currently in the process of being formulated, will if remaining in the time schedule, be promulgated into law during 2015. It is basically a condensation of parts of various laws into a separate Auslandschweizer-Gesetz.

The e-voting trial was deemed successful and steps

are underway to make this service available to most citizens living abroad during 2015. As it is the cantons which decide when and how, there could still be delays being encountered.

The ASR unanimously adopted a resolution to protest against the closing of more consulates. One of the main points stressed was the time, distance and cost of travel the Swiss Abroad have to endure to make use of consular services in some areas. A historic example of how effective the ASR can be is the fact, that due to a motion of the Italian ASO section, mothers with Swiss nationality can pass on their citizenship to their children, even if their husband is not a Swiss citizen.

HANS-GEORG BOSCH
ASR – Ratsmitglied, ASO –
Delegierter für das südliche
Afrika

Successful Welcome Apero

At the last ASR Meeting, the retiring delegate Peter Müller, together with one of the new delegates Marcie

Bischof, suggested to the retiring ASO Director Ruedi Wyder, that the South African delegation would like to host a welcoming apero in August at Davos. Your delegates organised a successful pre-luncheon apero. The tables were beautifully decorated and KWV wines (sponsored by your retiring delegate) were available as well as Biltong, dried fruit and nuts (sponsored by your new delegates). Some 150 participants got to know your new delegates who were assisted as hosts by Werner Bischof and election monitor Francois Jeannerat. The occasion provided a perfect opportunity to present a South African book (Braai in Style by Lannice Snyman) as a gift to Ruedi Wyder who will be retiring after 26 years sterling service. At the same time, his replacements, "Co-Directors ad interim", Sarah Mastantuoni and Ariane Rustichelli were welcomed with a presentation of South African wine.

PETER MÜLLER
sargro@bluewin.ch



Wine Presentations - Sarah Mastantuoni, Peter Mueller and Ariane Rustichelli
(from left to right) Photo: Philipp Zinniker

IMPRESSUM

Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:

Marcie Bischof, Cape Town, mwbischof@telkomsa.net / mwbischof@bluewin.ch, Hans-Georg Bosch, Pretoria info@hbosch.com / swissoffice.hbosch@bluewin.ch

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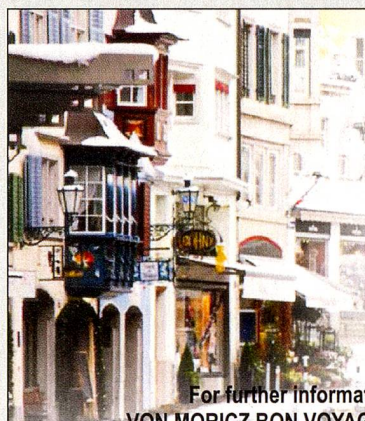
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Swiss Club Info

JOHANNESBURG: Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Lanz, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

Our 1st of Aug Celebration was attended by 1200 people. The Skittling Interclub Challenge was held on 28/09/, we had a great afternoon with members of the Swiss Embassy, Swiss Club Alpina and the Swiss Choir. The "Fernkegeln" will be held on 16/11/. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Sat of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch. "Swiss Christmas Lunch" for young and old on 8/12/, 12:30. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 09h00, 28 Oct., 23 Nov., 25 Jan. We normally shoot two different programs. This is done with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. For more info visit our Facebook site or call Daniel on 082-5699146.

PRETORIA: Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Roooyen, Secretary Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina.

On 28/07/ the Swiss Society Helvetia held the National Day celebrations. It was a great success and the Swiss Choir entertained us with their beautiful songs. ASO Delegate elections came to an end and our president has been elected as one of the two delegates for Southern Africa. On 16/11/ the Swiss Society Helvetia in Pretoria will hold the annual year end function. The Samichlaus will be in attendance. Further details can be obtained closer to the events by sending an email to swissclub.pta@hbosch.com.

CAPE TOWN: Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za . **PRESIDENT :** Stefan Pflöcksch, stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Nicky Rodrigues nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759. **SECRETARY:** Marcie Bischof mwbischof@telkomsa.net T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280.

The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. If you are not on the data base to receive the "catering newflash" please contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on +27 21 4348405. Active sub-sections are the Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club.

The ladies meet monthly – last Wed of every month. For more info contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Phone +27 (0)21 551 48 98, Skype andre.haberli, Fax +27 (0)86 532 80 02, Cell +27 (0)76 933 03 04. Our newsletter is distributed via email and postage, regular updates can be obtained on www.swissclub.co.za.

SWISS CLUB NATAL: Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com; Philippe Lanz, Secretary, pl@swisscontact.co.za, C 082 4932673.

JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville. The Jass evening takes place every second Friday of the month 18h for dinner. 19h start Jassen: 11/10, 8/11, 13/12/ (prize jassen). **TARGET SHOOTING:** Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, Midland starting at 9am: 26/10, 23/11/. **OTHER EVENTS:** 20/10 Breakfast at the Makaranga Garden Lodge (Kloof) followed by a walk through their botanical garden, 17/11 Ten Pin Bowling, 8/12 Year End Braai, 25/1/ Swiss Film Evening, 16/2 Ten Pin Bowling, 9/3 AGM.

PORT ELIZABETH: John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, the_dieners@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebser C 0823281098, T w 0413671422; Yvonne Bruehwiler, secretary, C 0834408130.

EAST LONDON: c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542,

C 0837008846, C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net.

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH: Michael Holford, C: +27 83 229 3787 Postal Address: Private bag X2465, Louis Trichardt 0920, Secretary: Suzanne Holford-Salchli Suzanne.holford@gmail.com.

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20/10/: Sonntagstreff, Teufelsbach bei Irmela&Bruno Jordi Wer will, kann schon am 19. anreisen. 30/11/: Jahresabschluss / Weihnachtsfeier im Hotel Thule.

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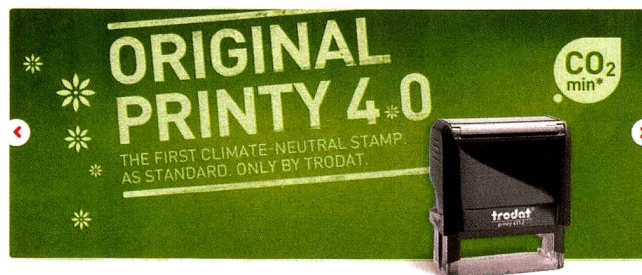
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