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New head at educationsuisse

Barbara Sulzer Smith took up her position as head of the educationsuisse business office on 1 June. Sulzer Smith studied at the University of St. Gallen (HSG), was head of the Swiss school in Barcelona from 2010 to 2014 and also spent two years on the board of educationsuisse. She is head of both departments at educationsuisse: Swiss Schools and Education in Switzerland.

Four questions for Barbara Sulzer Smith

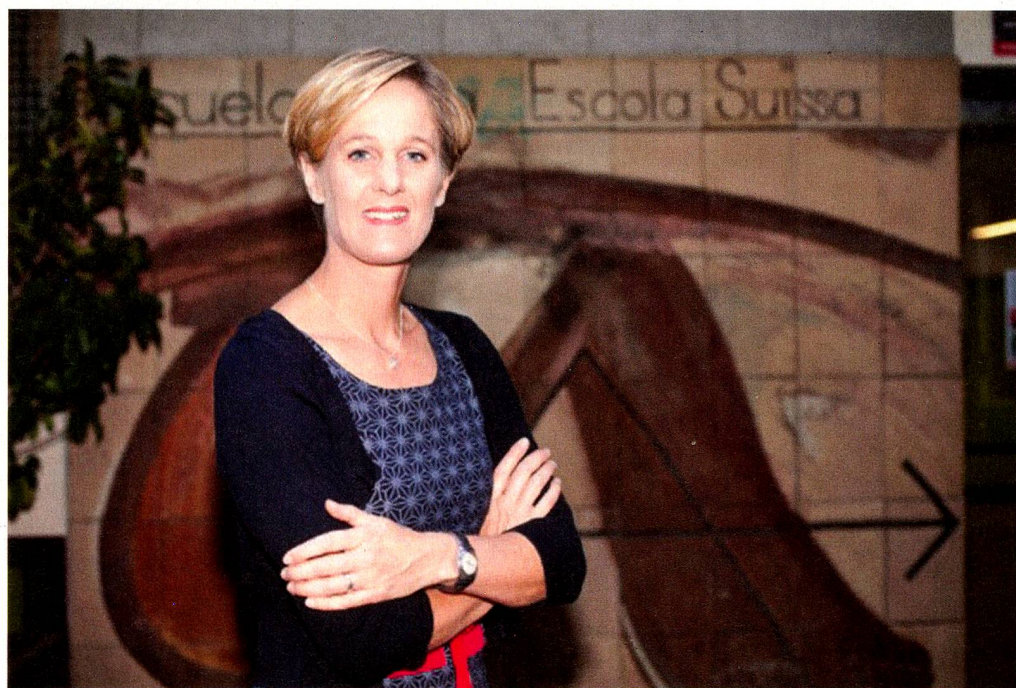
"Swiss Review": What motivated you to take the position at educationsuisse?

Barbara Sulzer Smith: The Swiss schools abroad are very close to my heart and I see great development potential for them. I left the Swiss

Why in your view is Switzerland such an attractive country in terms of education?
I believe the holistic approach to education, the linguistic didactics and the conveying of (Swiss) values are the cornerstones of the Swiss education system and the stand-out features of our schools abroad compared with other international schools. I regard vocational training as another attractive element of Swiss national education. This aspect has not been exported sufficiently to date and definitely offers potential for the future.

Are pupils leaving the Swiss schools abroad sufficiently equipped for study in Switzerland?

Yes, generally. However, the top Swiss universities, such as the Federal Institutes of Technology, represent a huge challenge even for students from Switzerland. Often, however, pupils leaving the Swiss schools and their families only know these top universities and want to study there at all costs despite another educational establishment or perhaps even a different educational path being more suitable.



■ Information about education in Switzerland and the Swiss schools is provided at www.educationsuisse.ch

The contact details of educationsuisse's two departments are as follows:

Swiss Schools Abroad
Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 20
office@educationsuisse.ch

Education in Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 04
info@educationsuisse.ch



school in Barcelona in summer 2014 for family reasons and am now very much looking forward to continuing to work for the Swiss schools and being involved in their development over the coming years.

Why are the Swiss schools abroad important?

They have a great image in the host countries and ideally support federal government with the implementation of its foreign policy objectives. On the one hand, our education system, a successful Swiss product, is exported through the schools and, on the other, the schools have outstanding networks through pupils, parents, teachers and local institutions. This fosters relations between the host country and Switzerland.

Alfred Weber has passed away

Alfred Weber, who was President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad between 1976 and 1981, died on 26 March aged 91. The FDP politician from the canton of Uri was a member of the National Council from 1963 to 1979 and President of the National Council in 1970–71. Weber held various political offices. He represented the commune of Altdorf in the Cantonal Parliament from 1952 to 1958, while at the same time sitting on the Communal Parliament, and was a member of the Uri Cantonal Council from 1958. He was also elected President of the Uri Cantonal Council on two occasions.

Free participation in young people's ski camp!

600 children aged between 13 and 14 will enjoy a winter sports week free of charge from 2 to 9 January 2016 in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland – for the 75th time. The 600 draw winners will also include 75 Swiss Abroad in the anniversary year.

The ski camp for young people is taking place once again. 600 girls and boys aged 13 and 14 from all over Switzerland will travel to Lenk in Simmental by special train on 2 January 2016. For the 75th time, Swiss-Ski (the Swiss skiing association) and its partners are sending out invitations to Switzerland's biggest winter sports camp. As representatives of Switzerland's diaspora, Swiss children abroad can again

take part in the young people's ski camp this year. To mark the 75th anniversary, 75 instead of the usual 25 places will be awarded to Swiss children abroad in the prize draw. Anyone born in 2001 or 2002 can register for the draw by completing the form below. The registration deadline is 15 September 2015.

Anyone wishing to take part in the ski camp for young people (Juskila) should at least be able to speak German, French or Italian. The draw prize is participation in the camp including winter sports lessons, food and accommodation. Parents are responsible for organising and funding the outbound and return journeys. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) has set up a fund to provide financial assistance with travel costs for Swiss families abroad put off registering for financial reasons.

The winners of the 75 places for the Swiss Abroad will be announced at the end of September.



Form for the prize draw for the young people's ski camp in Lenk (2 to 9 January 2016)

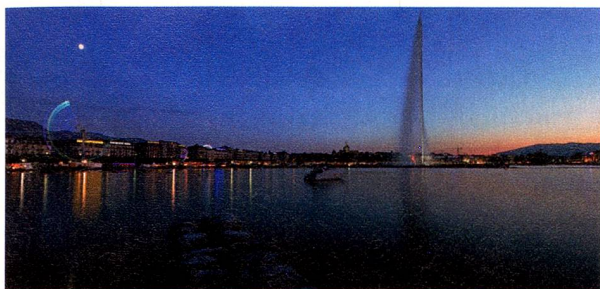
Please complete in clearly legible block letters.

First name:	Surname:	Street:	
Postcode, place:	Country:	Date of birth:	
Name of parent / legal guardian:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Girl		<input type="checkbox"/> Boy	
Commune of origin in Switzerland (see passport/ID):			
Email address of parents:		Tel. no. of parents:	
Type of sport:	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowboarding
Only tick one! The type of sport cannot be changed once the draw has taken place.			
Language of child:	<input type="checkbox"/> German	<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian
Signature of the parent/legal guardian:			
Signature of the child:			

Send the form and a copy of the Swiss passport of one parent or the child by 15 September 2015 (date of receipt) to: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Information: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

Tel. +41 31 356 61 16, fax +41 31 356 61 01, email: info@sjas.ch, www.sjas.ch



Last-minute booking

Last opportunity to register for the 93rd Congress of the Swiss Abroad from 14 to 16 August 2015 in Geneva.

Congress programme

Friday 14 August

Assembly of delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad
Election debate with representatives of the major Swiss parties

Official opening of the congress focussing on the international city of Geneva with welcome aperitif afterwards.

Saturday 15 August

Theme of the day: "Educating citizens – a guarantee of a vibrant democracy"

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, Manon Schick, Director General of Amnesty International Switzerland, and Arthur Honegger, SRF's current foreign affairs correspondent, will express their views on a vibrant democracy and answer questions on this topic.

Final evening at the Domaine du Château de Penthes

Sunday 16 August

A choice of two excursions

Theme, programme, registration and accommodation
www.aso-kongress.ch

The goal is a youth parliament for the Swiss Abroad

OSA's Youth Service is organising a seminar at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva.

"Educating citizens: a guarantee of a vibrant democracy" is the theme of this year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad. We are addressing this topic at a Youth Service seminar and will consider the following question: "How can we promote the political participation of young Swiss people abroad in a targeted way?" The participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the foundation of the first youth parliament of the Swiss Abroad. Together with the umbrella organisation Swiss Youth Parliaments, we will establish this parliament and jointly draw up a plan of action on the "Vision 2036" of the

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA).

As part of the seminar, participants will learn how a political debate works, that is, they will learn how to obtain information about a particular issue and how to present their views. This workshop will be led by the "Dialog" foundation which launched the annual competition "Jugend debattiert" (Young People Debate).

The knowledge and skills acquired will then be put to the test on the stage at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad.

Anyone interested in making a contribution internationally and on behalf of young Swiss people abroad is invited to register on our website www.swisscommunity.org.



Services provided by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and partner institutions

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), a foundation governed by private law, is a centre of expertise for safeguarding the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad. Besides the publication of "Swiss Review", it provides various services for Swiss citizens abroad in collaboration with its partner organisations.

■ **Legal advice.** Free advice on emigrating abroad and returning to Switzerland.

www.aso.ch – "Consultation" section

■ **Network.** The website SwissCommunity.org provides the opportunity to network with Swiss citizens all over the world.

www.swisscommunity.org

■ **Offers for children and young people.** Organisation of holiday camps and language courses, etc. for young

Swiss Abroad seeking a better understanding of their native country.

www.aso.ch > Offers

■ **Advice on education and training in Switzerland.** Young Swiss Abroad wishing to train or study in Switzerland receive support and guidance in selecting training and educational opportunities and making grant applications.

www.educationsuisse.ch



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