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From OSA and YPSA

Help for Swiss living abroad hit by a Natural Disaster

I would like to remind you all, that there is a Foundation administered by the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) which helps Swiss Citizens living Abroad who qualify and may be in need of financial support after a natural disaster such as the Christchurch Earthquake, the Hurricane/Tropical Storm in Vanuatu or the recent Hurricane/Tropical Storm in Fiji.

The Schnyder von Wartensee Foundation

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad administers the Foundation in Aid of Swiss Citizens living Abroad who are victims of natural disasters (The Schnyder von Wartensee Foundation).

Background

This Foundation was created in 1950 by Charles Schnyder von Wartensee, former Chairman of the Swiss National Bank, who had managed a fund of donations and public collections on behalf of Swiss disaster victims in the Center of France twenty years earlier on a voluntary basis.

Aim

The Foundation was set up to give grants without security to help meet the needs of Swiss citizens living abroad who are victims of natural disasters. The main aim is to provide emergency relief and render the immediate aftermath of the disaster more bearable. This aid should be considered as a small contribution towards reconstruction.

Assistance from the Foundation is available to Swiss citizens living abroad who are registered with a Swiss embassy or consulate. Dual-nationals may also apply. This assistance is conceived as a gesture of solidarity to provide relief for Swiss abroad experiencing distressing living conditions following natural disasters. Under no circumstances does the Foundation function as an insurance company and can on no account finance the loss of earnings due to the loss of economic activity, nor re-establish economic activity.

However, if the latter is closely linked with the victims' personal predicament, the Foundation will bear this in mind in its appreciation of the case.

How to apply

Natural disaster victims may apply for aid at the competent Swiss embassy or consulate in their place of residence no later than 6 months following the disaster. The case file should be as detailed as possible and contain the following specifications: a description of the damage, a financial estimation of the damage, the purpose of the aid requested, a description of present family status, a description of the financial situation, details of

any assistance received from other organisations (public, private) and/or insurance cover, a declaration that the facts listed are exact, etc. The official Swiss representative will then forward the case file, as well as its opinion, to the Board at the Foundation for decision.

Peter Ehrler

Elected Council Member of the Swiss Abroad
representing New Zealand



Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad ypsa.switzerland@gmail.com
Wednesday 1st June, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

With this letter we would like to introduce you to a new youth organization that is working together closely with the Organization for Swiss Abroad (OSA). Within Switzerland, we have witnessed a surge in youth associations, youth parliaments that aim to improve the community within a region or a city. Seeing as these projects have turned out to be huge successes, we felt that there was a need for the representation of the youth of the fifth Switzerland as well.

This is why the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA) was founded on the 15th of August 2015 in Geneva. In October of the same year, we had our first elections through which a committee of thirteen members from all over the world was elected. The committee members currently represent five continents; Africa, Europe, North-America, South-America and Oceania. In the future, we hope to expand our reach to other continents as well in order to make the committee more representative of its members who reside in 22 nations across six continents.

YPSA aims to create a sense of community and a link to Switzerland for the young Swiss abroad between 15 and 35, currently living abroad or who have lived abroad for more than 10 years. By creating a platform, we hope to encourage discussion and political involvement. Furthermore, the committee aims to raise awareness of the needs of the young Swiss Abroad, to promote activities, to provide information, and organize youth conferences. We hope to aid young Swiss abroad in relating to their roots.

As well as the social aspect that YPSA brings to the young Swiss Abroad community, YPSA will also promote awareness of political rights and responsibilities for young Swiss Abroad, while remaining a nonpolitical association. On our online platform we will provide information about elections and referenda, but also present information on topics such as how Swiss abroad can study in Switzerland.

We need your help in spreading the word about this new organization in order for our platform to become bigger and reach out to even more young Swiss Abroad. Our online platform can be found on Facebook, under Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA). We are also represented on Instagram under "YPSA Switzerland" and are aiming to increase our presence on other social media as well.

If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us, we welcome your input.

On behalf of the YPSA Board,

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