

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial



Dear readers,

It is great to read about all the current and proposed skills development and education programmes taking place between Switzerland and South Africa. Two are mentioned in this regional edition of Swiss Review Southern Africa but there are many more. A very welcome side effect to the outcome of the mass immigration initiative voting from February. South Africa will not say No to these opportunities.

Enjoy the reading,
GISELA PIERCEY

Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

Update from your ASO representatives

This will be a short review, as the annual ASO Congress is only in August to be precise in Baden/AG from 15-17 August.

Marcie Bischof and myself, as your ASO representatives in Southern Africa, are here to assist you with questions and other issues, that fall outside those of Embassy, Consulate and Chamber of Commerce matters.

To this effect we also keep you informed on matters of interest such as the monthly press review, which I distribute to the various presidents and representatives of Swiss Clubs and other entities.

Issues of particular interest during the past months are the "Auslandschweizer Gesetz" which is now in its final phase. One specific aspect of this was the cancellation of the clause, which stipulated a

minimum of 20% Swiss scholars at Swiss Schools outside Switzerland. There is however a new clause, that such Swiss Schools have to admit scholars with a Swiss passport.



The new Auslandschweizer-Gesetz has been ratified

On Monday, 17th March the Ständerat ratified the new consolidated Auslandschweizer-Gesetz unanimously. All aspects affecting Swiss Citizens living abroad are now concentrated in this new Act.

For more in-depth information on the above, please consult the press reviews.

As from this issue, we will no longer be giving a detailed report-back in the Swiss Revue on items on the agenda of the ASO-Council meetings. An agreement to this effect

has been reached with the publishers of the Swiss Review.

I have however intensified the dissemination of information from Switzerland, where and when that is of importance.

When you read this, the general election in South Africa will be over and the new cabinet will have been announced.

On Friday, the 15th August Marcie and myself will be attending the ASO Council Meeting in Baden.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter Müller, the long time ASO representative for Southern Africa, who stepped down last year and who is now gravely ill in Switzerland. We wish him speedy recovery. His loving and caring wife Clara is at his side.

From myself Hans-Georg Bosch and Marcie Bischof, we wish you all a wonderful 2nd quarter of 2014.

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Consular visits of the Regional Consular Centre Pretoria (RCC) during 2014

After the visits to Durban and Mauritius last year, the RCC will be holding Consular meetings in Harare and Luanda this year.

Please take note of the following schedule:

Harare, Zimbabwe
12.-14.08.2014

Luanda, Angola
09.-10.09.2014

Swiss citizens will have

the opportunity to apply for a Swiss passport and can also attend to any other consular business. Please use this opportunity to make direct contact with a representative of the RCC.

Check if and for how long your current Swiss passport is valid. We will try to visit the two countries every three years.

If you wish to order a new passport in Luanda or Harare this year, you will have to present yourself in person on one of the above mentioned days due to the biometric data that has to be registered. If you are not available during these days to see us, you also have the possibility to attend to the formalities during your visits to Switzerland at any Swiss passport office. Please take note that some of the Swiss passport offices have long waiting lists and it is, therefore, useful to plan a few months ahead by informing the RCC about your intentions. The passport office of your choice has to be contacted **by the RCC**.

Swiss citizens registered in Angola and Zimbabwe will receive a letter with detailed information to make an appointment (appointments are compulsory) and about the venue a few weeks before the visit. It is important that you register your current e-mail address and/or your postal address in order to receive the information. Please update your contacts by e-mail to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Contact details:
Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria: E-mail: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch

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Swiss universities forge overseas links post-referendum

In the wake of the Swiss referendum on immigration, the University of Basel has announced an ambitious internationalisation strategy. Other institutions in Switzerland are also eager to cushion the impacts of the referendum on academic exchange. In light of this initiative the existing ties with the university of Cape Town could be strengthened.

Senior officials of Basel University got together in April to discuss ways to mitigate the negative implications for academic exchange in the European region resulting from the February referendum's narrow vote to curb immigration.

Soon afterwards, the Swiss government announced that it would not proceed

with talks with Croatia about a labour market agreement, and the European Union responded to this breach of its free movement of people principle by postponing negotiations with Switzerland on the Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ research and exchange programmes.

Horizon 2020 is worth EUR80 billion (US\$110 billion) and Erasmus+ EUR15



The University of Cape Town has strong ties with Switzerland.

billion. Swiss and other European officials and universities warned that the outcome could be disastrous for Swiss higher education and science both financially and in terms of international collaboration and exchange.

The University of Basel is seeking to establish intensive bilateral links with a selection of three to five institutions

outside Europe.

It is already involved in activities with three overseas institutions: Virginia Tech in the United States, East China Normal University in Shanghai and the University of Cape Town.

Basel is running the Global Perspectives Program with its US partner. The scheme focuses on preparing future academic leaders for

an increasingly diverse and global higher education system. East China Normal University helped its partner set up a Confucius Institute in Basel.

Well connected with UCT

Links with the University of Cape Town (UCT) go back to an extensive bilateral research programme agreed between Switzerland and

South Africa in 2007. The first phase comprised 16 joint research projects in health and biomedicine, bio- and nanotechnologies as well as the humanities and social sciences, and involved some 70 young researchers in the two countries.

The University of Basel was represented in the Swiss delegation that visited South Africa in 2012 to discuss the 2013-2016 phase of the programme, which brings in research on renewables as well.

"I have mentioned three potential names," said Basel University Rector Antonio Loprieno, "but there could also be others".

From August 2014, Basel will run an international office focusing the institution's efforts and acting as a 'welcome centre' for students, lecturers and other staff from overseas. "Support measures are planned for overseas students," said Vice-rector Hedwig Kaiser, who is to head



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IMPRESSUM

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Dear readers, for address changes please contact the official Swiss representation in your country.

the new office.

According to Loprieno, who is also president of the Swiss University Rectors' Conference, the issue of credit transfer was never satisfactorily resolved in the context of Switzerland's involvement in the Erasmus student exchange programme, which Switzerland is excluded from for the time being.

Loprieno stressed that in his institution's new programmes, students will be able to spend a full year at a partner institution and have credits transferred without having to negotiate achievements in each module of their programme.

MICHAEL GARDNER
University World News

SA, Swiss in skills development partnership

A partnership between South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, aims to empower both students and lecturers at two technical and vocational education and training colleges (TVET) in Gauteng.

The partnership presented invaluable opportunities for both countries, Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande said at the launch at the Ekurhuleni West TVET College in Germiston.

"I am happy that our partner, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, has proposed supporting our colleges in developing the highly skilled and qualified employees which they, and other industrialists, need.

We really require and urge



South African Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande (Photo:GCIS)

the whole private sector to follow in the footsteps of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce," Nzimande said.

Exchange

Nzimande said the partnership programme would see South African lecturers and learners placed in Swiss companies for workplace exposure, as well as industry experts from Swiss companies placed in colleges here.

The programme will also see learners gaining practical experience in the workplace, where they will undergo work-integrated learning. They will be eligible for recruitment after the training, Nzimande said.

Courses in the programme, identified by the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, include: information technology; mechanical and electrical engineering; sales and marketing; office administration and accounting and business studies.

Benefits

Ekurhuleni West (Tembisa and Germiston campuses) and Westcol (Carltonville and Randfontein campuses) have been selected to participate in the programme. Participating Swiss companies would also benefit from the programme, Nzimande said. "For example, at the end of the programme, Swiss companies will be provided with suitably

qualified learners, who could be taken up for employment. Appropriately skilled employees are needed by industry. This programme will provide you with a pool to select from.»

Student enrolments

TVET student enrolments have increased by 131% from 345 566 in 2010. The department is targeting 800 000 students for this year. The 2030 enrolment targets are 1.62-million in public universities, 2.5-million in TVET colleges, 1-million in community colleges and 500 000 in private institutions.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme budget for 2014/15 amounts to R6-billion, comprising R3.9-billion set aside for universities and R2.1-billion for TVET college bursaries and loans.

This budget has increased from R578-million in 2005 to more than R9-billion in 2014, taking into account all bursaries and loans

administered by aid scheme from other government departments and entities.

Nzimande said depending on the project's success, it may later be expanded outside Gauteng to rural and other colleges.

SOURCE:

SAnews.gov.za

Pro Helvetia application procedure

All applications for Pro Helvetia Projects and Artists in Residency between Switzerland and South Africa will be treated by Pro Helvetia's head office in Zurich, and must be submitted through the application portal www.myprohelvetia.ch.

The criteria for awarding grants as well as application deadlines are described in detail under www.prohelvetia.ch/applications.



Fête nationale Suisse 2014

Le club Suisse de Maurice à le plaisir de vous annoncer que la fête nationale Suisse 2014 aura lieu a nouveau a Albion cette année. Les membres seront informés personnellement. Pour les Suisse non membres plus d'informations des Juillet 2014 au prés du président E-Mail : fureralois@intnet.mu
Ou sur notre site : www.swiss-club-mu.com

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Our AGM was held on 11th of April with an attendance of 26 members. It was decided by the floor that we can go ahead with the "New Roof" Party. **THE CLUB WILL NOT BE CLOSED!** Remember also that the Soccer World Cup is happening in Brazil from the 12th June to the 13th July and we will of course have our big screen and other TV's available for you to enjoy this spectacle! We will make sure that Wolfgang will have some specials on his menu for you during that period! The Swiss Choir is busy with earnest preparations and rehearsals for this year's Eidgenössische Jodlerfest in DAVOS in which they will take part from the 3rd to the 6th July.

Other dates which you can already diarize now as well are the Metzgete on the 19th July, the Swiss National Day celebrations on the 3rd August and the year end Christmas lunch on the 7th December. *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 Saturday of the month for Lunch

Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 09h00. 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.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:

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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:

President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, pl@swisscontact.za. Secretary Jolanda Wolf, C 082 696 5996

For more up-to-date information please visit our website www.swissclubnatal.org.za. **JASS EVENINGS:** Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavilion exit towards Westville). As before the Jass

evening takes place every second Friday evening of the month 18.00 for dinner.19.00 start Jassen: 13.6., 11.7., 8.8., 12.9., 10.10., 14.11., 12.12.2014 (Price Jassen), 9.1, 13.2, 13.3.2015 . **TARGET SHOOTING:** Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, KZN Midland starting at 9.30 am: 28.6., 26.7. (Jubiläum-schiessen 60 years SCN), 23.8., 27.9., 25.10, 22.11., 6.12.2014 . **OTHER EVENTS:** 22.6 Butterfly for Africa, Botanical Garden, Lunch, 19.7. Cheese Fondue Evening, 2-3.8 Swiss National Day Weekend, October: Baynesfield, Lunch at Byrne, 7.12. Year End Function.

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Wir haben bereits einige Veranstaltungen hinter uns, mit mehr oder weniger Erfolg. Der erste Sonntagstreff wurde von 16 Leuten besucht, der zweite Treff wurde wegen Absagen in letzter Minute

leider abgesagt.

An der GV am 12. April waren nur 17 Mitglieder anwesend, aber Dank den 11 Proxistimmen war die Versammlung beschlussfähig und die GV konnte Regelkonform abgehalten werden. Das Protokoll der letzten GV, der Jahresbericht des Praesidenten als auch der Kassenbericht wurden von den Anwesenden einstimmig angenommen. Es wurde auch einer Statutenaenderung zugestimmt. Artikel 4, Mitgliedschaft, wurde so abgeändert, dass auch Mitglieder, die nicht Schweizerbuerger/innen sind, ein Stimmrecht haben.

Fest geplant sind bereits Raclette am 14. Juni 2014 beim Lions Club (Einladung folgt) und die Bundesfeier am 2. August 2014 auf der Farm Neuweiler von Fabienne Schuwey (Einladung folgt) Da wir nicht mehr so viele Veranstaltungen haben waere der Stammtisch eine gute Moeglichkeit, sich zu treffen. Jeden 3. Mittwoch des Monats im Rest. Gathemann, ab 18h. Honorary Consul General: Urs Gamma Independence Avenue 175 / Gathemann Building p.O.Box 9245, Windhoek T: 061 223853 C: 0816507075 e-mail: Windhoek@honrep.ch

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