

NEWSLETTER

Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines



A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR

NICOLAS BRÜHL

Dear Fellow Swiss Citizens and Friends,

Warm greetings to all! It is with immense pleasure and excitement that I address you for the first time as the newly arrived Ambassador of Switzerland to the Philippines. As I step into this role, I am humbled by the honor of representing our country and our vibrant Swiss community in this beautiful tropical country.

Arriving here with my family has been a long but incredible journey, and I am already deeply impressed by the warmth, hospitality, and diversity of this nation. Equally heartening is the strength of our Swiss community here, which is a testament to the deep bonds that connect us, no matter where we find ourselves in the world.

MORE DETAILS

[NEW COLLEAGUES](#)

[CONSULAR INFORMATION](#)

[EMBASSY COMES TO MEET YOU!](#)

OCTOBER 2023

Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines

I am eager to engage with each and every one of you, to learn about your experiences, and to work together to enhance the ties between Switzerland and the Philippines. Our shared values of innovation, quality, and inclusivity serve as strong foundations for the opportunities that lie ahead.

As we venture into this journey together, I am looking forward to embarking on a new era of collaboration and connection. I believe that through constant engagement and communication, we will not only celebrate our Swiss heritage but also contribute to the rich tapestry of the Philippines.

I am truly looking forward to meeting you all, hearing your stories, and building new memories together. Let's embrace this new chapter with enthusiasm, open hearts, and a commitment to nurturing the Swiss spirit in the Philippines.

As what the Filipinos call “-ber months” unfold (I was informed that Christmas in the Philippines start in September), may they bring us moments of joy, inspiration, and unity. I am honored to be part of this incredible community, and I eagerly anticipate the wonderful experiences that lie ahead.

With warm regards,

Nicolas Brühl



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines

OUR NEW COLLEAGUES



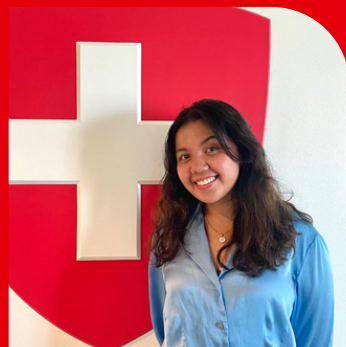
YVES MARTY

Attaché - Consular Section

As a Consular Attaché, Yves is currently performing various tasks, including recording biometric data for Swiss passports and bookkeeping.

In addition, he answers your e-mails and welcomes you at the counter when you visit our Embassy!

Mabuhay, Yves!



SOFIA SANTELICES

Communications Officer - Diplomatic Section

As the Embassy's Communications Officer under the Diplomatic section, Sofia is in charge of managing and creating content for all the Swiss social media pages, running the mission's public diplomacy efforts, and taking charge of communications and media-related gatherings.

She hopes you can follow all Embassy social media pages (Facebook & Instagram)!

Mabuhay, Sofia!



LISA BRÜCKER

Academic Intern - Diplomatic Section

Freshly hired as an intern and academic trainee in the Diplomatic Section, Lisa supports the Deputy Heads of Mission. Her duties include researching and writing monthly reports, representing at public events, and managing small-scale humanitarian projects supported by the Embassy.

Mabuhay, Lisa!



SOFIA DERAFERA

Assistant to the Ambassador - Diplomatic Section

Sofia or also known as *Phia* in the Embassy, is currently the Ambassador's temporary assistant. She will be assisting him with daily diplomatic affairs such as scheduling meetings and coordinating with different offices regarding the Ambassador's appointments and schedules.

Mabuhay, Sofia!

CONSULAR INFORMATION

MEETINGS IN BOHOL AND CEBU



A delegation of the Swiss Embassy met the Swiss Community in Bohol and Cebu last April 26th and 27th.

During these events, Mrs Maria Cecilia Reyes, Mrs Derya Tecimel and Mrs Nicole Clivaz informed the Swiss citizens about the latest and ongoing consular developments and could address their questions and concerns. Afterwards, we could also share a drink and a delicious meal in a convivial atmosphere.

Thanks to all who attended those meetings and for making them successful.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

MEETINGS IN MANILA AND CEBU



The Embassy meets with Swiss communities!

Two consular meetings were arranged on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Laurent Perriard, Deputy Director of the Consular Directorate in Bern. It was also the occasion for our newly accredited Ambassador, Dr. Nicolas Brühl, to meet with a part of the Swiss community in Metro Manila and Cebu.

We had productive afternoon with the community, especially in addressing questions, concerns, and informing Swiss citizens about consular and diplomatic developments.

The Embassy thanks the Swiss communities in Metro Manila and Cebu for joining the meetings! Thank you also to Cebu's Honorary Consul, Mr. Mathias Bergunthal, for the warm welcome!

CONSULAR INFORMATION

VOLUNTARY OASI / DI - THE PORTAL ECDC IS NOW ONLINE!



The Central Compensation Office (CCO) has now launched the eCdC online portal for affiliated insured individuals of the voluntary insurance scheme (voluntary OASI/DI)

https://www.zas.admin.ch/zas/en/home.html#tab_ecdc_132357613

This online service facilitates the contact with the Swiss Compensation Office for policyholders living abroad.

Policyholders can now access the portal via the link below:

<https://ecdc.zas.admin.ch>

Connecting to their account not only gives them an overview of information concerning their personal situation, but also enables them to carry out certain operations directly online.

For further information, please contact the Central Compensation Office directly:

www.zas.admin.ch

sedmaster@zas.admin.ch

INFORMATION ABOUT DRIVING LICENSE IN SWITZERLAND AND ABROAD

The competent authorities for Swiss driver's licenses are the cantonal road traffic offices, not the FDFA. The FDFA and its representations are only authorized to provide general information and to translate Swiss valid driving licenses for obtaining a national driving license.

Visiting Switzerland

Article 42 OAC governs the recognition of foreign driving licenses. For holidays in Switzerland, a valid national or international driving license is sufficient. Motor vehicle categories must be expressly and clearly indicated in Latin characters on the license.

Blue Paper Driving License

This driving license will no longer be valid as of November 1, 2024. For those residing abroad and/or in the Philippines and still holding this type of driving license, it is imperative to apply for a national and/or Philippine license before this deadline expires. The cantonal road traffic offices will not replace this blue license if you live abroad.

The time within which a Swiss driver's license must be exchanged for a national driver's license, and the conditions for obtaining a national driver's license, vary from country to country. The local competent authorities (LTO – Local traffic office here in the Philippines) can give you the relevant information in this regard.

Returning and taking residency to Switzerland

People returning to Switzerland to take up residence must obtain a Swiss driver's license. The same applies to drivers of motor vehicles from abroad who have been resident in Switzerland for more than 12 months, without having spent more than three consecutive months abroad.

Link to the Ordinance governing the admission of persons and vehicles to road traffic (only in German, French and Italian):

https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1976/2423_2423_2423/de

GENERAL INFORMATION

ONLINE SERVICES OF THE “BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION'S (BI)”

The Bureau of Immigration of the Philippines has informed the Embassy of Switzerland in Manila about the introduction of the online services BI e-Services, which was launched on 12 July 2023.

The online services are intended to enable Swiss citizens in the Philippines to facilitate the following applications and payments:

1. visa waiver;
2. application for “Emigration Clearance Certificate / Certificate of Exemption Series B (ECC/CE-B)”;
3. extension of tourist visa (TVE);
4. waiver of grounds for exclusion (WEG) for minors; and
5. dual citizenship as per R.A. 9225.



GENERAL INFORMATION

ONLINE SERVICES OF THE “BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION'S (BI)”

The Migration Board recommends that clients register and log in to e-services.immigration.gov.ph for a convenient way to complete the above processes. The BI e-Services portal should be an alternative option for accessing nationwide immigration services in addition to in-person transactions conducted at BI offices.

Please note that the Embassy of Switzerland cannot provide information if you have any questions. You can contact the Philippine authorities directly or check the official websites as well as the social media pages of the BI-Office.

BI e-Services customer support can be reached at the following telephone numbers:

+632 8527-3254

+632 5309-7662



SWISS IN TOUCH APP



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Switzerland in your pocket

SwissInTouch.ch
The app for the Swiss abroad

swissintouch.ch

Stay connected... with the app for the Swiss abroad

Get instant full access to:

- information from Switzerland
- a detailed online guide to living and working abroad
- opportunities to register for events
- surveys on selected topics
- various options for quick contact with your local representation



swissintouch.ch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

OCTOBER 2023

SWISSTAINABILITY

THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT WHICH PROMOTES AND INSPIRES BEST PRACTICE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

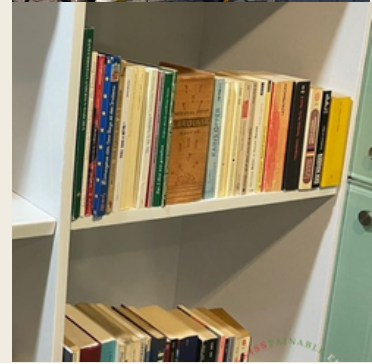
For the past quarters, the Embassy was able to address the recycling of its old documents through collaboration with Geocycle Philippines. Archived documents became cement which can be used to build houses and buildings. We also had a general cleaning in the Embassy to promote 3Rs in the workplace – **RECYCLE, REUSE, REDUCE**.

- Destruction of outdated office equipment has been recycled to scrap metal
- Sorting and arranging outdated office supplies donated to schools, public offices and personnel
- Used books are available in the Embassy waiting area for free takeaway
- IT materials such as cables, wires, printers and etc. are recycled.

The Embassy team also joined in a **BIKE FEST** organized by SM Malls with the Department of Transportation AT PMO last June 03 to promote and raise awareness on sustainable transport in the Philippines.

Internally, we also recognize our local staff winners for completing the **7 DAY Sustainability Challenge**.

Our focus this year is to encourage our staff and community to make small changes to contribute to a sustainable future. Small steps when taken together and consistently can make a big difference.



SOLOTHURNER WEINSUPPE

FOOBY.COM

SWISS RECIPE

Ingredients for 4 servings:

1 liter vegetable broth
1 cup of toasted bread cubes
1 stem small leek
1.5 tablespoons cornflour
1 dash of ground pepper
100 ml liquid cream
1 piece of carrot
1 pinch of salt
500 ml white wine

Preparation

1. For the Solothurn wine soup, wash the leeks and carrots and cut them into very fine strips.
2. Bring the stock to the boil in a saucepan. Mix the Meizena with a little water and quickly stir it into the broth.
3. Then add the wine and stir in the cream. Season the wine soup with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Now distribute the leek and carrot strips in soup plates and pour the hot soup over them.