

NEWSLETTER

Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines



A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR

ALAIN GASCHEN

Dear compatriots,

August is always a good month to address the Swiss community, a month that starts with the celebration of our independence, our traditions, our history, our culture, our values, but also, in Manila as in many other places, the celebration of the bonds of friendship that link the Swiss with their country of residence, often their second home of nationality, and necessarily also of heart.

Living these moments with one's compatriots is one of the highlights in the life of an ambassador, but this year the joy had to give way to regret. The important thing is that the party was beautiful and I would like to thank the Swiss Club, and especially Chef Thomas Wenger, for organizing this event.

MORE DETAILS

NEW COLLEAGUES

CONSULAR INFORMATION

EMBASSY COMES TO MEET YOU!

The COVID-19, and this is pleasing, does not dominate the conversations anymore. Of course, we must remain vigilant, but life goes on. However, while we could legitimately expect a strong economic recovery and beautiful embellishments, some clouds have settled in our sky (I am speaking figuratively here, literally, it is the flood) the Russian aggression against Ukraine is certainly happening thousands of kilometers from here, but its effects are felt in our daily lives through the increase in prices of various products and services.

This war is like climate change: it shows how interdependent we are and how dependent we are on a functioning international order.

Unfortunately, compliance with basic principles of international law or commitments cannot be taken for granted. Switzerland has a strong interest in the primacy of law over power politics and cannot stand idly by in such circumstances, nor can it remain indifferent. It has taken on board the economic sanctions imposed by the European Union, weighing up the interests of a neutral state. These sanctions are compatible with our neutrality and serve to enforce and respect international law.

I have taken to ending these words with a touch of humor. I admit that I am in a darker mood these days, and I appreciate receiving messages from some of you that make me smile. And since we're talking about war, we might as well remember Pierre Desproges' words: "The enemy is stupid: he thinks we're the enemy when it's really him!"

The opportunities for meetings and interaction, Stammtisch, jass tournaments, bar nights, consular meetings, etc. are back. My colleagues at the embassy, both old and new, are looking forward to these moments of exchange and conviviality with me.

Kind regards

Alain Gaschen



SwissEmbassyPhilippines



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

OUR NEW COLLEAGUES



DERYA TECIMEL

Intern - Consular Section

As an intern in the Consular Section, Derya is currently performing various tasks, including recording biometric data for Swiss passports, transmitting civil status documents to Switzerland, and keeping the register of the Swiss abroad. In addition, she answers your e-mails and welcomes you at the counter when you visit our Embassy!

Mabuhay, Derya!

URS SIEGWART

Attaché – Consular section

Freshly arrived this month from Teheran, Urs is also active in our consular section as a consular specialist. He will be happy to help you with your administrative matters.

Mabuhay, Urs and welcome to the Philippines!



NINA MASON

Academic Intern - Diplomatic Section

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

Mabuhay, Nina!



65 YEARS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINES



Building the future, together.

This year, Switzerland and the Philippines are celebrating 65 years of joint bilateral relations. The opening of the Embassy in Manila in 1957 laid the foundation for the multifaceted and ever-deepening relations between the two countries. But the common Swiss-Philippine history goes back much further: Did you know that the first representation of Switzerland in Asia was ever opened in the Philippines? A consulate was established in Manila as early as 1862.

The Embassy is celebrating this anniversary in many ways under the motto Building the future, together. An exhibition on the theme of innovation, a gastronomy week and much more are planned. But the core of the relationship between Switzerland and the Philippines is you, dear fellow citizens: as Swiss abroad here in the Philippines, you, together with your families, symbolize the friendship between the two countries. On our Facebook and Instagram channels, we have therefore launched the 65 Stories for 65 Years project, where 65 people have their say, representing the relationship between the two countries in many different ways. We invite you to take a look at their stories.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

MARRIAGE FOR ALL



In the referendum of 26 September 2021, the Swiss electorate approved the "Marriage for All" bill. When it came into force last July 1, 2022, this change in the law also has an impact on Swiss citizens living abroad.

Same-sex couples have been able to establish a registered partnership in Switzerland since 2007; however, they have been denied access to marriage. This has now changed when "marriage for all" came into force on July 1, 2022: from this date, same-sex couples will also be able to marry in Switzerland. At the same time, new registered partnerships can no longer be established.

Legal differences between registered partnerships and marriage mainly concern the areas of naturalization, adoption and reproductive medicine. For example, simplified naturalization, joint adoption and access to reproductive medicine are only open to married couples.

Depending on the constellation, the effects may also affect Swiss abroad:

Unmarried same-sex couples will be able to enter into marriage in Switzerland from July 1, 2022. From this date, the application to prepare for marriage in Switzerland can be submitted to the competent Swiss representation abroad.

Registered partners remain in their registered partnership. However, same-sex partners may convert their registered partnership established before July 1, 2022, into a marriage at any time by means of a joint declaration. The declaration of conversion can be made at any civil registry office in Switzerland as well as at the Swiss representation abroad. If desired, the conversion can take place at the civil registry office in Switzerland as part of a ceremony. A registered partnership established abroad after 1 July 2022 cannot be converted into a marriage. However, the partners concerned can enter into a marriage in Switzerland.

Same-sex couples who have married abroad and whose marriage has been recognized as a registered partnership in Switzerland can apply to update their entry in the Swiss civil status register with the cantonal civil status supervisory authority in their home canton from July 1, 2022. This is because foreign same-sex marriages will now be recognized as marriages in Switzerland. The update also takes place ex officio on the occasion of the registration of a change in civil status (e.g. birth, death, etc.).

The Federal Office of Justice has posted further information on its website:
<https://www.bj.admin.ch/bj/de/home/gesellschaft/zivilstand/faq.html> (only in D, F and I)

If couples have any questions, they can contact the civil registry office or supervisory authority in their place of origin or their Swiss representation abroad.

List of competent civil status authorities:

<https://www.e-service.admin.ch/competency-app/wicket/bookmarkable/ch.glue.suis.competency.app.pages.HeimatortPage?0> (only in D, F and I)

CONSULAR INFORMATION

AHV LIFE CERTIFICATES



As of this year 2022, there is a new procedure with the life certificates.

Established Swiss nationals who are duly registered with the Swiss representation in their country of residence will in principle no longer receive an application for a life certificate, as this information will be transmitted directly from the Register of the Swiss Abroad to the Swiss compensation office in Geneva.

In exceptional cases, registered persons may nevertheless receive such an application. In this case, the persons concerned must fill out this document and have it confirmed (barangay or personal appearance at the representation).

At the beginning of 2022, the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva has launched an information campaign, which will be staggered throughout the year. Each insured person will be personally informed at the time when they should usually receive the relevant life certificate form.

For more information, please visit <https://www.zas.admin.ch> or email sedmaster@zas.admin.ch.

On this regard, the Embassy of Switzerland in Manila reminds you that it is very important to communicate all important personal changes (marital and civil status, address, telephone number, email...) to the competent representation as soon as possible, so that your file is kept up to date.

Thank you!

THE EMBASSY COMES TO MEET YOU!

**SAVE THE DATE -
CONSULAR MEETING IN
DUMAGUETE, SEPTEMBER
8TH, 2022**

The Embassy is pleased to inform you that a consular meeting will be held in Dumaguete on September 8th, 2022 for Swiss citizens residing in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Oriental and Siquijor.

Invitations and information will be sent to the concerned Swiss citizens in due course.

The consular section plans to organize similar events in other provinces in the coming months, stay tuned!



SWISS CLUB PHILIPPINES – BOARD OF MEMBERS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS CLUB IN MANILA, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE ELECTED TO THE BOARD FOR ONE YEAR:

Sevket ÖZDES President (re-elected)
Christoph WEBER Vice President (re-elected)
Markus HELBER Finance (new)
Pamela BERGE Event Manager (new)
Lorenz WÜTRICH IT / Facebook (new)
René BÄNZIGER Ex Officio, Swiss Embassy in Manila

If you want to know more about the activities and events of the Swiss Club, we recommend you to browse through the website. New members of the Swiss Club are always welcome.

<http://www.swissclub-philippines.org/>



SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



Manila





Cebu





Bohol



BERNESE PLATE



@BETTY BOSSI

SWISS RECIPE

Ingredients for 4 persons:

Ingredients boiled meat pot

200 ml Vegetable broth well-seasoned
1/2 Laurel leaf
1/2 Clove
1/2 tsp Olive Oil
250g Boiled meat (e.g. neck or feather piece of beef)
150g Soup vegetables (carrot, celery, leek, onion)

Ingredients dried beans & tongue

1/2 tsp Butter
50 g Dried beans (dried green beans)
1/2 l Boiling water
50 ml Beef broth
150 g Tongue sausage
1/2 Onion finely chopped

Ingredients sauerkraut & smoked meat

1/2 tsp Butter
200 g Smoked Bacon
200 g Ribs from the kidney piece
250 g Raw sauerkraut mild
2 Juniper berries grounded
100 ml White wine
1/2 Onion finely chopped

Preparation

- Soak the dried beans in water for a few hours before preparing the dish.
- For the beef, wash the soup vegetables, trim them and cut them into pieces. Peel the onion and sprinkle with the bay leaf and clove. Heat the oil in a pan, sauté the soup vegetables briefly and deglaze with the vegetable stock. Add the onion and beef. Leave to simmer for about two hours, just below boiling point. Stir occasionally and skim off the foam.
- Drain the water from the dried beans and boil with fresh salted water until tender (about half an hour). Drain. Melt the butter in a pan. Sauté the onion briefly until translucent. Add the beans and continue to cook. Deglaze with stock and add tongue sausage. Bring the liquid to the boil briefly, then reduce the heat. Let everything simmer at medium heat for about 20 minutes.
- Melt the butter in a pan. Add the onion and steam. Add the sauerkraut and steam for five minutes, stirring constantly. Deglaze with wine. Add juniper. Season the sauerkraut to taste with salt, pepper and bouillon powder. Put the ribs and bacon on the sauerkraut and pour the stock over it. Cover and simmer for half an hour.
- Remove the meat and sausage from the pans and carve. Cut the bacon into pieces. Arrange the sauerkraut and beans on a warmed plate.
- Arrange the meat on top and serve with boiled potatoes.