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Dear compatriots in Ghana, Togo and Benin,  
Dear friends of Switzerland,

“The Times They Are a-Changing” – this famous Bob Dylan song comes to my mind as I recall the times of January 2020. Just some weeks before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Embassy was fully busy and excited with preparations for the Ghanaian President’s historic State Visit to Switzerland. Two years later, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense havoc and we still struggle with the negative impact it has had on our societies, the global economy and our individual lives. Nevertheless, we all have reasons to be optimistic and not to ignore the evident light at the end of the tunnel which comes with an increasing percentage of people having access to multiple vaccines which are safe and effective.

This new edition of our newsletter aims to provide a glimpse to our dear readers about some of the Embassy’s activities and the presence of Switzerland in Ghana over the last couple of months. Our excellent bilateral relations with Ghana further developed in 2021, not only with the visit of Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga in July, but also with a number of high-level visits from political spheres and the Swiss private sector. Adding to this, I am particularly happy to see promising steps from academia of both Ghana and Switzerland working more closely together. Other topics of our newsletter cover practical information about regulations for visitors to Switzerland during these special times.

My team, throughout the pandemic, made its best efforts to be of assistance to our Swiss citizens living in all three countries covered by the Embassy in Accra. With the easing of travel restrictions, I am looking very much forward to particularly renewing bonds with the Swiss communities in Togo and Benin. I am delighted to host a cocktail for our compatriots in Togo in early February, together with the new Head of the Visa Section and our Honorary Consul in Lomé. Furthermore, I also look forward to visiting our Cooperation Office in Cotonou in the first quarter 2022 and to refreshing contacts with the Swiss community in Benin. As for the Swiss living in Ghana, let’s cross our fingers and hope that this year the pandemic allows us to come together at my residence to celebrate our 1<sup>st</sup> August Swiss National Day.

I hope that you discover interesting information in our Newsletter! Be also warmly invited to follow us on Facebook [Facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra) and Twitter [twitter.com/SwissEmbAccra](https://twitter.com/SwissEmbAccra) and let me wish you all the best, much happiness and good health for the year 2022!

Philipp Stalder  
Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Ghana, Togo & Benin

Chers compatriotes du Ghana, du Togo et du Bénin,  
Chers amis de la Suisse,

"The Times They Are a-Changing" - Cette célèbre chanson de Bob Dylan me vient à l'esprit lorsque je me remémore l'époque de janvier 2020. Quelques semaines avant l'apparition de la pandémie de COVID-19, l'ambassade était très occupée et excitée, par les préparatifs de la visite d'Etat historique du Président ghanéen en Suisse. Deux ans plus tard, la pandémie de COVID-19 a causé d'immenses ravages et nous luttons toujours contre l'impact négatif qu'elle a eue sur nos sociétés, l'économie mondiale et nos vies individuelles. Néanmoins, nous avons toutes les raisons d'être optimistes et de ne pas ignorer la lumière évidente au bout du tunnel, que représente l'accès d'un pourcentage croissant de personnes à des vaccins multiples, sûrs et efficaces.

Cette nouvelle édition de notre bulletin d'information a pour but de donner à nos chers lecteurs, un aperçu de certaines activités de l'ambassade et de la présence de la Suisse au Ghana au cours des derniers mois. Nos excellentes relations bilatérales avec le Ghana se sont encore développées en 2021, non seulement avec la visite de la Conseillère fédérale Simonetta Sommaruga en juillet, mais aussi avec un certain nombre d'autres visites de haut niveau, des sphères politiques et du secteur privé suisse. En outre, je suis particulièrement heureux de constater que des mesures prometteuses ont été prises par les milieux universitaires du Ghana et de la Suisse pour collaborer plus étroitement. D'autres sujets de notre bulletin d'information portent sur des informations pratiques, concernant les réglementations applicables aux visiteurs en Suisse, en cette période particulière.

Mon équipe, tout au long de la pandémie, a fait de son mieux pour être utile à nos citoyens suisses vivant dans les trois pays couverts par l'ambassade à Accra. Avec l'assouplissement des restrictions de voyage, je me réjouis tout particulièrement de renouer les liens avec les communautés suisses du Togo et du Bénin. Je me réjouis d'organiser un cocktail pour nos compatriotes togolais début février, en compagnie du nouveau chef de la section des visas et de notre consul honoraire à Lomé. Par ailleurs, je me réjouis également de visiter notre Bureau de coopération à Cotonou au premier trimestre 2022 et de rafraîchir les contacts avec la communauté suisse au Bénin. Quant aux Suisses vivant au Ghana, croisons les doigts et espérons que la pandémie nous permettra cette année, de nous réunir à ma résidence pour célébrer notre fête nationale suisse du 1er août.

J'espère que vous découvrirez des informations intéressantes dans notre Newsletter! Vous êtes aussi chaleureusement invités à nous suivre sur Facebook et Twitter et laissez-moi vous souhaiter le meilleur, beaucoup de bonheur et une bonne santé pour l'année 2022!

Philipp Stalder  
Ambassadeur  
près la République du Ghana, Togo et Benin

### Where can I get news on Switzerland?

[Swissinfo.ch](https://www.swissinfo.ch) is providing news on Switzerland in ten different languages and here you can find an overview of the [media landscape in Switzerland](#).

Additionally, you may be interested in a number of publications or newsletters provided by the various Federal Departments. Check out [Publications of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs \(FDFA\)](#) or "[Spectra - Prevention and Health Promotion](#)", a monthly newsletter provided by the [Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\)](#).

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### Travelling to Switzerland during Covid-Pandemic:

Since 22 January 2022, persons who have been vaccinated or have recovered from Covid-19 will no longer be required to present a negative PCR or rapid antigen test before entering Switzerland. A valid vaccination certificate has to be shown. If you hold a foreign certificate, you may be eligible to ask for a Swiss Covid certificate for your travel to Switzerland. For further information how to obtain the Swiss Covid certificate, please consult the webpage of [FOPH/certificate](#).

Persons who are not vaccinated or have not recovered from Covid-19 will still have to take the PCR- or antigen test with negative result to enter the country and may only travel with proof of a hardship situation.

For updated information on COVID-19 and entry rules, please check the following links below:

As the entry rules and conditions may change anytime, before planning your travel, please check the latest information on the websites of the Federal Authorities (FOPH/SEM).

Easy check to see if a person is eligible to travel to Switzerland: [Travelcheck](#)

Mandatory entry form for all travelers to Switzerland arriving by plane and by international bus lines: [entry form](#)

General Information on Covid-19 and health regulations, possible quarantine and obligations for testing before and/or after arrival: website of the [Federal Office of Public Health FOPH](#)

For information on possible travel restrictions, please consult the webpage of the [State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#).

It is very important to check the entry conditions for each country you might visit during your trip to Europe. ■

### COVID-19: Information for Swiss nationals about vaccine

Swiss nationals residing abroad must comply with the vaccination requirements of their host country. For logistical reasons, the vaccines administered in Switzerland cannot be dispatched to the external network. No vaccine deliveries are planned by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for Swiss nationals living abroad.

Persons insured under the Swiss compulsory health insurance (basic insurance) with a Swiss provider have the possibility to be vaccinated in Switzerland. Please, contact your health insurance provider and/or your Swiss general practitioner (médecin de famille/Hausarzt).

Swiss nationals abroad not covered by a Swiss health insurance policy should contact their health insurance provider to find out about the vaccination policy in their host country.

More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the FOPH webpages: [Coronavirus: Vaccination & Protect yourself and others: Vaccination](#) ■

### Processing of Visa applications

Since July 2, 2021 Visa type C (stay up to 90 days) for fully vaccinated, recovered from Covid-19 or hardship applications are processed through [VFS Global](#). Contact [VFS Global](#) directly for appointments to submit a visa application.

Long-term "D" visas (student, family reunion or any other stay over 90 days) must be submitted to the Embassy by appointment only. Any requests should be sent by email to [accra.visa@eda.admin.ch](mailto:accra.visa@eda.admin.ch)

A Schengen Visa issued by Switzerland does not guarantee entry permission to other Schengen States. Covid-19 regulations and entry requirements vary for each Schengen State. Even if you do not need a visa to travel within the Schengen Area, it is mandatory to verify conditions for each country you might visit before leaving the home country.

Since November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the Swiss Embassy in Accra resumed processing short stay visas (stays up to 90 days/Visa type C only) for travel to Belgium and Latvia. Visa applications are processed through [VFS Global](#). ■

## Politics & Bilateral Relations

### Bilateral Relations

On 8 December 2021, the Federal Assembly elected Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis as President of the Swiss Confederation for 2022.

Addressing the Federal Assembly, President-elect Cassis focused on the Covid Pandemic, noting: "With the strength of our pluralism and our innovative spirit, we can overcome this challenge together". He also underlined Switzerland's role abroad: "In my dual role as President of the Swiss Confederation and head of the FDFA, I will invite our foreign partners – within the limits dictated by the pandemic – to join me in Switzerland, where our citizens help to shape our foreign policy objectives". ■



President of the Swiss Confederation Ignazio Cassis



Ambassador Siri Walt and Ghana's Ambassador to Switzerland, H.E. Ramses Cleland

Earlier in November 2021, a delegation led by the Head of Africa and the Francophonie Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Siri Walt, was in Ghana for the Sixth Round of Political Consultations between both countries.

Topics were of mutual interest and spanned Ghana-Switzerland Economic Relations, Economic Development Cooperation, Cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; Cooperation in the field of Cocoa sector and other industries as well as aspects of Digitalization and Cooperation in Human Rights among others. Switzerland is happy to host the next round of talks in Berne in 2022. ■



The delegation, with Hon. Dominic Nitiwul (middle)

At the end of October, a delegation from the Swiss Armed Forces led by Brig. Gen. Markus Mäder paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Defence Hon. Dominic Nitiwul. The delegation from Berne travelled to Ghana to visit the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) with the aim to deepen relations between Switzerland and the leadership of KAIPTC. Brig. Gen. Markus Mäder also engaged with participants at the closing ceremony of the Swiss-funded annual Protection of Civilians Course.

The year 2021 marked 15 years of Swiss presence and cooperation at the Centre and the visit offered a great opportunity to take stock of Swiss support over the years. ■



## High level contacts & missions from Switzerland



Amb. Stalder, with National Security Minister, Mr. Albert Kan Dapaa

Back in August, the Embassy received a mission from the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Stalder introduced the Swiss experts to the Ministry of National Security and hosted a cocktail at his Residence in the presence of Hon. Minister Albert Kan-Dapaah. The event brought together diverse stakeholders in the area of Prevention of Violent Extremism. ■

Switzerland fights corruption globally and welcomes the establishment of effective and independent anti-corruption agencies. Corruption is a tremendous barrier to sustainable development. In this perspective, Amb. Stalder met with Mr Kissi Agyebeng, Office of the Special Prosecutor - Ghana, to speak about the operationalization of the OSP since his appointment in July 2021. ■



Amb. Stalder, with the Special Prosecutor, Mr. Kissi Agyabeng

The Ambassador visited Mme. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey, the Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to discuss Switzerland's support for the Ghana Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (GUMAP) - with a grant of USD 6 million from the Swiss government - to strengthen the capacities of selected areas in the Greater Accra Municipality in public transport planning and traffic management. ■



Amb. Stalder, with Mme. Elizabeth Sackey

Switzerland is well-known as a tourism destination with a long history in Europe. Accra, on the other hand was listed by the TIME magazine as a top place to visit in Africa in 2021. Amb. Stalder shared thoughts on tourism promotion and the industry's considerable potential with Ghana's Minister for Tourism, Creative Arts & Culture Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal on two occasions last year. ■



Amb. Stalder in a chat with Tourism Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Awal



Amb. Stalder, with Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Switzerland works for global solutions for an equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and is proud to support the Covax initiative which aims to fairly distribute vaccines. To highlight our engagement and to get a first-hand briefing about Ghana's respective policies, Amb. Stalder met the Minister of Health, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu. The activities of Swiss pharmaceutical companies in contributing to Ghana's health sector were also discussed. ■



Amb. Stalder engaging with Hon. Samuel Abu Jinapor

Switzerland welcomes Ghana's efforts to better ensure sustainable management and utilization of the country's lands, forests and wildlife resources as well as the efficient management of mineral resources for growth & development. In a meeting with Hon. Samuel Abu Jinapor, the Swiss envoy also mentioned the opportunities which the new bilateral agreement on climate change under article 6 of the Paris Accord could hopefully bring for both our countries. During the cordial exchange, problematic aspects of "galamsey" (illegal small-scale gold mining) for Ghana's habitat were equally raised and discussed. ■

## Development Cooperation

### Financial Programming

As part of the Macroeconomic Planning and Management Project (MPMP), the Embassy attended a workshop in Aburi with the Ministry of Finance's Economic Strategy & Research Division. Participants developed macroeconomic projections for Ghana's 2022 budget and provided insights on debt sustainability. Through the MPMP, Switzerland provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Ghana, the Ghana Statistical Service and the National Development Planning Commission to develop a comprehensive financial programming model for budget preparation and to increase confidence in public finances. ■



Mr. Heinz Kaufmann (right) at the workshop

### Business Environment

One of the priority areas of the Swiss development cooperation in Ghana is the improvement of the business environment. Through the Multi Country Investment Climate Program, which is implemented by the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), two important contributions were made recently: the new Company's Act 2019 is an important milestone on business registration and regulation in Ghana. In order to implement the act, the program supported the Government of Ghana to draft regulations, which finally give effect to the Act. The program facilitate consultations with different stakeholder in order to take their comments and concerns on board. The second important contribution to a better business environment in Ghana was the drafting and consequently the dissemination of a user guide on the Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring Act. It will make sure that things are going a proper course also when companies are not doing very well. ■



The Deputy Attorney General, Mme. Diana Asonaba Dapaah, speaking at the event

### Business Improvement



Trade Specialist at the Embassy, Mr. Alex Tseh (middle), with some beneficiaries.

In November 2021, the Swiss Embassy paid a visit to some of the enterprises that received training and coaching under the ILO SCORE program. Feedback received from stakeholders underlines the value of progressive improvement to businesses and this validates the efforts of Switzerland to promote more and better jobs in Ghana. The Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) program provides on-the-job training for workers and managers to attain increased productivity, cost reduction, improved delivery time, better working conditions, less waste, less defects and safer working environment for SMEs and this helps them to participate in global supply chains. The program has been co-funded by SECO since 2011 and completed its third and final phase in December 2021. While celebrating the achievements, the mandate of the post-project SCORE training was officially handed over to a local organization MDPI Ghana at the last steering committee meeting. ■

### Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

In November, the Deputy Head of Cooperation, Mrs. Anne Schick and the visiting Executive Director of the [Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa](#), Mr. Christian Robin, held fruitful discussions with the CEO of COCOBOD Mr. Joseph Boahen Aidoo on joint ways forward in the cocoa sector. The Swiss Platform is a multi-stakeholder initiative for more sustainability in the cocoa value chain bringing together all stakeholders together by actively improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers. ■



The delegation, meeting COCOBOD officials



### Are you looking for a potential business partner in Switzerland to export your goods?

You can search online for buyers and suppliers in Switzerland for a variety of products on [WeriefertWas.ch](http://WeriefertWas.ch) and [Kompass.ch](http://Kompass.ch). Or inform yourself [online](#) on the biggest Supermarket chains in Switzerland. Find additional information [here](#).



Ambassador Stalder at the Milani processing site

The biggest pineapple exporting company in Ghana is connected to Switzerland. Ambassador Stalder visited the Zurich-based Milani Planet AG, an agri-based company producing all varieties of pineapples on their two plantations in Kasoa and Ho, at the invitation of the founder and CEO, Bijean Milani. Ambassador Stalder heard from Franck Dumas & Seidu Mohammed Labaran how the pineapple export business is providing some 200 jobs for locals. ■

### Swiss Business Lunch

At the Ambassador's Residence, representatives of Swiss companies in Ghana gathered for another networking luncheon in December. The event which served as a platform for our private sector was enriched by Mrs. Kosi Antwiwaa Yankey-Ayeh as our guest speaker. We warmly thank the head of Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA) for her talk about developing win-win situations for both foreign enterprises and local SMEs. ■

A section of participants at the Swiss Business Lunch



### Chocolats Halba & Max Havelaar



Invited guests from the cocoa value chain

In September, CEOs of Chocolats Halba & Fairtrade Max Havelaar visited Ghana to have interactions with stakeholders in the cocoa value chain. Contacts with Mansa Gold, Ghana Cocoa Board and UNDP Ghana among others, were established at a reception held at the Swiss residence. A team of the Embassy also joined the delegation on a field trip to visit cocoa farms who benefit from innovative agroforestry methods. ■

### Visit to MSC & Tema Port

Just at the beginning of the year, a delegation from the Embassy paid a visit to the offices of Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), followed by a joint tour of Tema Port - a leading shipping container terminal for West Africa, connecting Ghana to the world. Tema Port is an impressive example of how cutting-edge innovation and digitalization shape the future of global trade, all of which are central to the excellent relations between Switzerland and Ghana! ■



Amb. Stalder with other officials of the Embassy, at the Tema Port

### Visit to Liebherr Ghana Ltd

In January, Ambassador Stalder visited the premises of Liebherr-Ghana Ltd. to receive a presentation on how this well-founded company - based in Switzerland since 1949 and present in Ghana since the late 1990s - delivers innovative mining technology & solutions. ■



Amb. Stalder with Managing Directors of Liebherr

### Are you considering to study in Switzerland?

Conceived like a blog, [www.studyinswitzerland.plus](http://www.studyinswitzerland.plus) conveys all important information and answers many of your questions on topics of living and studying in Switzerland, as well as on the different Swiss Schools of Higher Education, their location and curricula.

The plus sign in the logo refers, of course, to the Swiss flag, but draws also attention to the particular strengths of the Swiss university system, such as labour-market-oriented courses, academic quality and typical Swiss diversity. Last but not least, it stands for the added value that studying at a Swiss university can bring to your personal, scientific and professional development!

### Ashesi - ETH Zurich Master in Mechatronic Engineering



Officials of ETH-Zurich and Ashesi University, visiting the Embassy

The joint ETH Zürich and Ashesi University Master's programme in Mechatronics Engineering started early on in January. Over the next 2 ½ years, this first batch of 26 students from Ghana and neighbouring countries will be taught in Ghana by the faculty of both universities - in conjunction with industry partners ABB, Barry Callebaut , Bühler Group , HPW Fresh And Dry Ltd , LafargeHolcim Côte d'Ivoire, Nestlé, and Tetra Pak.

Representatives from the two top-ranking institutions met up at the Embassy ahead of the programme start. The Embassy along with SECO is proud to be associated with this promising initiative of academia from our two countries to educate and train a new generation of highly skilled leaders and entrepreneurs. ■

### City Cancer Care visit to Accra

In December, Chief Executive Officer Dr Susan Henshell & representatives of the Geneva-based City Cancer Challenge Foundation paid a visit to the Embassy to brief us about the organization's close cooperation with the city of Kumasi to improve access to quality cancer care. ■



Dr. Henshell and other Foundation representatives, with Amb. Stalder



Amb. Stalder, delivering remarks at the event

### Swiss Educational Institutions in Ghana

In September, Ambassador Stalder, along with Swiss & Ghanaian researchers, was invited to launch the Resource Impact Dashboard. The RID enables stakeholders to monitor the economic, social and environmental effects of mining on local development at the mine site level, based on data from household surveys, public sources and from mining companies. ETH Zürich's NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation and the Africa Centre for Energy Policy are collaborating to improve local development in mining communities. ■



## Youth Empowerment Project



The programme in session

In October, the Embassy participated in and supported the launch of the the civil society-led “Discovery Teens Dialogue” together with high school students from across Ghana.

At the opening of this new discussion platform for adolescents, Ambassador Stalder focused on the topic youth empowerment and was joined as keynote speaker by the Deputy Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Ghana, Hon. Diana Asonaba Dapaah. ■

## Embassy supports women DJs

The Embassy supported the Best Female DJ category for the Ghana DJ Awards which was held in November. Ambassador Stalder was at the event to deliver brief remarks on the importance of gender equality and recognition for women in various fields.



Amb. Stalder presenting the award to the Best Female DJ 2021 to DJ MJ

He also presented the award for the category. Congratulations to DJ MJ for having won the award and a special prize provided by the Embassy to the winner of this category! In addition, our appreciation goes to radio & TV personality Doreen Avio for her engagement in promoting equal opportunities for girls & women when it comes to DJing. ■

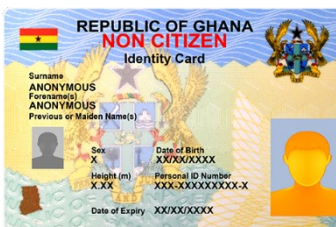
## Consular Services

### Do you receive the Swiss official electoral material?

Are you are a Swiss citizen living in Ghana, Benin or Togo and allowed to vote? The official electoral material can be sent directly by mail to your address. In order to request the polling material, please fill out the form [Application to exercise political rights](#) and send it to the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra.

Learn more on your voting rights on [ch.ch](#) and download the Voting App VotInfo in the [App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).

## Foreigners Identification Card



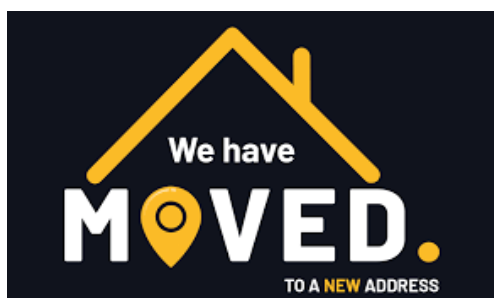
Have you registered for your Foreigners Identification Card? You should, if you are:

- a foreign national permanently resident in the country
- a foreign national who is cumulatively resident in the country for at least ninety (90) days in any calendar year.
- All foreigners six years +

A scratch card can be bought at any Cal Bank Branch to begin the process. Find more information here: <https://fims.org.gh/faq/#toggle-id-15>. ■

## Consulate General of Switzerland in Togo - new address

Our representation in Togo has moved and will offer you its services from now on at the following address



Consulate General of Switzerland  
Residence Millénium Plaza  
Rue Kilemou / opposite entrance to Cité Millénium  
Behind the CEG Wuiti  
02 BP 20276  
Lomé, Togo  
Tel: +228 22.20.50.60  
Mob. +228 91.32.11.11  
Email : lome@honrep.ch  
www.eda.admin.ch/acra

We kindly remind you that due to the pandemic of COVID-19, an appointment is necessary before visiting the consulate. ■

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## Resultate der Volksabstimmung vom 28. November 2021



Ende November haben die Schweizer Stimmberechtigten über drei Vorlagen abgestimmt, für die SwissInfo eine [Analyse in sechs Sprachen](#) liefert.

Der nächste Abstimmungstermin ist auf den 13. Februar 2022 festgesetzt. Über die [Medienmitteilungen des Bundesrates](#) können Sie sich über die Vorlagen informieren. ■

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## Embassy Staff



Lt. Col. Marc Wettstein

Our colleague **Marc Wettstein** arrived with his family in August 2021 and has since integrated at the KAIPTC.

Marc Wettstein is a course director at the KAIPTC, responsible for delivering KAIPTC programmed courses, namely the Protection of Civilians (2 p.a.) and the Multidimensional Peace Operations (1 p.a.) courses. The main activities are preparing the course budgets, identifying appropriate experts to facilitate course modules, leading the selection of applicants, ensuring the quality control of the course content, managing the course resources, and ensuring timely financial reports are done. Finally, as a course director he organises periodic course reviews to ensure that the courses remain relevant to current conflicts. Switzerland is currently sponsoring three KAIPTC courses which are: Protection of Civilians, Multidimensional Peace Operations and Intelligence Support for Peace Operations. Additionally, a course on Migration is in preparation. ■

In November our Swiss colleague working at the KAIPTC, **Major Flavian Marek**, left Accra after three years working with the Center. Flavian is replaced by **Captain Corneliu Gall**, who has since arrived and settled well. Corneliu is the digital and website officer of the KAIPTC and expects a lot of work as IT is never perfect. This is his fifth mission abroad.

We wish Flavian best of luck in Switzerland and welcome Corneliu warmly to his new post. ■



Michale Darkwah

We were sad to say goodbye to two of our local staff. **Paul Aboko** left the Embassy after 12 years of dedicated service as a gardener. Our Facilities Manager, **Michael Darkwah** has also left for further studies. These two colleagues kept the Embassy premises in good shape with their diligent work. We wish them the best for their future. ■



### Team Event to Legon Botanical Gardens

Following a long period of remote work and split team arrangements during the last months of the pandemic, the staff at the Embassy were eager to finally go on a team building event!

We tried our hands at some pottery at the Happy Art Academy and later took on the high rope course at the Legon Botanical Gardens. It was a day full of fun and the perfect team-spirit. ■

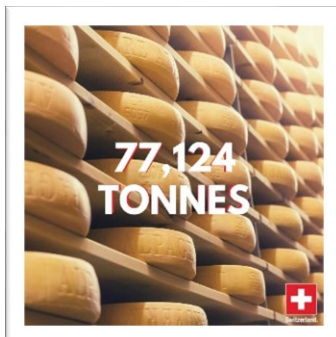


### We Recycle!

In autumn 2020 the Swiss Embassy introduced a recycling system on its premises. The company [Bolabird Technologies GH LTD](#), which is based in Legon, is helping us to make our contribution to the environment by recycling glass, plastic, cans/metal and paper. So far, it has been a great success as the pickup cycle had to be shortened lately. Staff support for this project has been huge. ■



### Facts & Figures



More than 77,000 tonnes of Swiss cheese was exported in 2020! There are more than 450 types of cheese in Switzerland and Gruyère, Emmental and Appenzel are the most exported ones. Visit us on our [Facebook page](#) and let us know what your favourite cheese is. ■

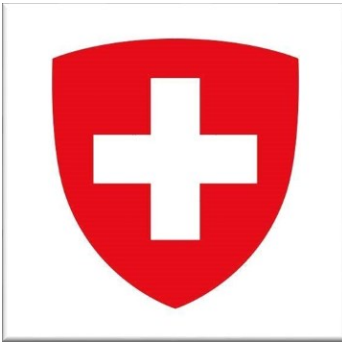
20.7 million Swiss watches are produced every year. That's quite a lot! Switzerland is a leading watch exporter. The main markets are: China, USA, Hong Kong, Japan and the UK. Do you own a Swiss watch? What do you value most about your Swiss watch? ■





## Keep in touch

### Follow & Like us on Facebook – and Twitter!

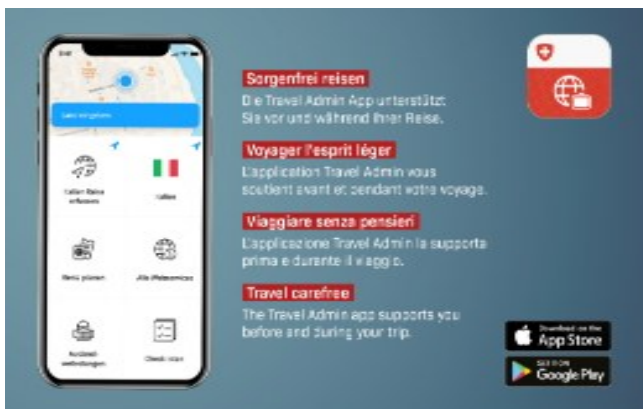


Do you belong to the close to 4'000 friends who follow us on Facebook since we launched our social media channel in December 2019?

If this is not yet the case and if you want to get regular news and updates on Switzerland and the Embassy's activities, click on the icon to the right and like the Embassy's Facebook account or follow the link below: [Facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra)

Since July, you can also find us on Twitter! Follow our new account @SwissEmbAccra to stay up to date with our Embassy at [twitter.com/SwissEmbAccra](https://twitter.com/SwissEmbAccra). ■

### Itineris – Plan well, travel well.



The Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana strongly recommends its fellow citizens to register with [Itineris](#), which allows entering dates of your leisure or business trips. It helps the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to locate and contact you more rapidly if a serious crisis occurs abroad and to warn you if the security situation in a region suddenly deteriorates drastically.

Please install the app on your Smartphone free of charge. ■

### Keep your data updated



Regular contact between yourself and our Embassy can be very useful to both parties. To ensure that you can be contacted quickly, it is important that your contact information (address, phone number and email) is always up to date.

Reporting a change of address will also enable you to continuously receive the documentation on your right to vote by correspondence (if you are registered in the electoral roll), as well as the "Swiss Review" published by the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). This magazine is distributed free of charge to Swiss citizens registered abroad.

At the same time, according to the Ordinance on Civil Status (OCS), it is your obligation to report any changes in your civil status to this Embassy. Therefore, kindly inform us about any changes in your civil status: marriage, birth of a child, divorce or death of a relative, by e-mail or through a personal visit at the Embassy (with a prior appointment via email) from Monday to Friday between 8-11 AM. We will be happy to advise you on the required documents. ■

### Automation of the life verification process for certain OASI/DI pension beneficiaries

As of 2022, a new life verification process will come into effect thanks to the implementation of automated exchanges with various partner administrations of the Central Compensation Office. The insured persons concerned by these exchanges will no longer receive the « Life Status » form to be certified.

The SCO and OAIE will launch an information campaign for the attention of the insured persons concerned at the beginning of 2022, which will be staggered throughout the year. Each insured person will thus be informed personally at the time when they should have received the form.

## Useful links

The logo for ch.ch, consisting of the text 'ch.ch' in white on a red square background.

Information about Swiss Administration: [www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)

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Switzerland.

Discover Switzerland: [www.swissworld.org](http://www.swissworld.org)

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Switzerland Tourism: [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)

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Auslandschweizer-Organisation  
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger  
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero  
Organizaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad: [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

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Please regularly check our webpage for news and events: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/accra>

### Embassy of Switzerland in Accra

Embassy of Switzerland

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