



## Contents

### Politics

### Economic & Development Cooperation

### Business & Tourism

### Culture & Education

### Visa & Consular Section

### Varia

### Facts & Figures

### Events

### Links

Dear compatriots and friends,

It is a pleasure to address you for the first time and to provide you with this Newsletter of the Swiss Embassy in Accra. The summer break is a good opportunity to reflect on a busy period behind us, and to look towards the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the months to come.

For myself and my family, 2019 represents a year of exciting change as we arrived in Accra in late spring after spending the last few years in Southern Europe and the South Caucasus. Since settling in beautiful Ghana, I have enjoyed my first gatherings with members of the Swiss private sector and the Swiss community very much. I look forward to developing a profound relationship with Ghana, Togo and Benin and to further promote bilateral exchanges and contribute individually to the people-to-people exchanges. I also look forward to getting better acquainted with our compatriots living in these three countries as you all contribute to representing Switzerland in your very own ways day by day.

As you can see in this Newsletter, the Embassy has been busy in the last months strengthening Switzerland's ties with Ghana, Benin and Togo over a number of areas. You can find out more about the work we do in the articles below. In the not too distant future, you will also be able to be in touch with our developments by following the Swiss Embassy on social media.

Let me seize this opportunity to announce a few personnel changes which took place this summer. After four years, both Ms. Martina Garamendi and Mr. Daniel Lauchenauer have left Ghana with their families in July. I would like to thank both colleagues for their great contribution. As new team members, I welcome Ms. Teresa Chejlava and Ms. Anne Schick and wish them an excellent start in their new functions as Deputy Consul and Deputy Head of Cooperation at our Embassy. In addition, I am pleased to welcome Mr. Christian Meile who arrived in May to support the growing team of the Swiss personnel at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC).

Together with my wife Susana, I would like to thank all of you for taking an active interest in the Swiss community in Ghana, Togo and Benin and for extending such a warm welcome to us. Finally, I would like to say Happy Birthday Switzerland, and wish you and your families a superb National Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and a nice summer period!

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

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## Politics

### Swiss Ambassador presents credentials



Ambassador Stalder with H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (middle), with other Embassy and Government officials

On July 2, Ambassador Philipp Stalder presented his credentials to H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo at the Flagstaff House in Accra.

While speaking with the president, Ambassador Stalder wished Ghana well at the ongoing African Cup of Nations (AFCON) and recounted the warm relations Switzerland has had with Ghana, which led to the visit of Swiss President Doris Leuthard in 2017. He as well mentioned that cooperation between Ghana and Switzerland extended to trade and investments, including support to peace initiatives. Ghana is one of the top three trading partners of Switzerland in

Africa. Both sides commended the quality of bilateral relations, the quality of exchanges and the constantly evolving close and extensive economic interactions between Switzerland and Ghana. All these elements provide a fine foundation for the future of our cooperation.

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### Switzerland and Ghana hold political consultations



Flags of Ghana and Switzerland

On April 29, the governments of Switzerland and Ghana held their fourth political consultations in Berne. Led by Ambassador Anne Lugon-Moulin, Head of the Subsaharan Africa Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Albert Yankey, Chief Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the two parties touched upon all areas of the bilateral relationship, covering political, economic and development cooperation. Political consultations between Switzerland and Ghana are held on an annual basis since 2015. The next political consultations will take place in Ghana in 2020.

## Presentation of open letters to Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs



Meeting between Ambassador Stalder and Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May

On May 13, Mr. Philipp Stalder, Switzerland's Ambassador-designate to Ghana met the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway in Accra to present his open letters.

In a positive manner, the meeting progressed relatively quickly and the exchange was very friendly, almost collegial. The Foreign Minister was well aware of the significance of the considerable bilateral trade volume of around CHF 2

billion. Foreign Minister Ayorkor Botchway also did not fail to thank Switzerland for her longstanding IZA support (SECO) and to respond to the statement that the issue of “political vigilantism” in Ghana is of particular concern to Switzerland, going into the the elections of 2020,

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## Remise des copies des lettres de créances au Bénin



Poignée de main entre l'Ambassadeur Philipp Stalder et SEM Auréliem Agbénonci. Photo : MAE Bénin

Le nouvel ambassadeur agréé de la Suisse auprès de la République Bénin, M. Philipp Stalder, a présenté le 31 mai 2019 les copies figurées de ses lettres de créance auprès du ministre béninois des Affaires Etrangères, M. Auréliem Agbénonci. Suite à la séance protocolaire, l'Ambassadeur Stalder s'est brièvement entretenu avec le Ministre.

A cette occasion, le nouvel ambassadeur suisse au Bénin a souligné les bonnes relations bilatérales existantes entre les deux pays en mentionnant les activités de coopération que la Suisse soutient par le biais de son Bureau de

Coopération à Cotonou. La stratégie de coopération suisse 2017-2020 avec le Bénin se concentre dans les domaines du développement économique rural, de la gouvernance locale et de la décentralisation, ainsi que de l'éducation de base et de la formation professionnelle. Les deux représentants ont exprimé le souhait de continuer à renforcer leur relation en espérant rentrer dans une phase encore plus productive et fructueuse. Les présidents des deux pays se sont rencontrés à deux reprises dans les deux dernières années pour discuter de leurs relations économiques bilatérales et de la coopération au développement.

## Switzerland supports a new course for peacekeeping



Ambassador Stalder addressing the opening of the course at the KAIPTC on June 24

Between the 24<sup>th</sup> of June and 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, Switzerland supported the Multidimensional Peace Operations Course (MDPO) at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). The course was aimed to provide military, police and civilian personnel with the knowledge and skills of operational level planning, coordination and conduct of MDPO in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the components in Peace Operations. It consisted of a combination of lectures, case studies, small group works and exercises among others. The “Problem-

Based Learning Approach” was used in the delivery of the course; to enable the 28 participants to take a very active role under the guidance of an experienced team of facilitators. KAIPTC provides training and research in peacekeeping and peace operations since 1998. Switzerland joined the Centre in 2006 and provides since then an average of two courses a year through the continuous support of the Swiss Federal Department of Defence and its five permanent posted staff in Accra.

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## Presentation of the Swiss support team at the KAIPTC



Swiss personnel at the center © Embassy of Switzerland

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) is a competence centre for civil and military peacekeeping, and conducts research and offers training programmes to that serve that purpose. Since 2003, KAIPTC has held more than 170 courses covering a wide variety of peacekeeping topics. Switzerland supports the KAIPTC in Teshie (Accra) by providing a team of five well-trained Swiss staff devoted to make the Center’s mission theirs. Here below, members of the team present a short overview of their responsibilities and

activities.

### Head of TED und Schweizer SNR am KAIPTC: Col. Albert Ulrich

Oberst und Berufsoffizier Albert Ulrich. Seit März 2018 zugewiesen ans KAIPTC. Verantwortlich als Head Training Evaluation und Development (TED), zusammen mit sieben lokalen Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter, für das jährliche Training Kursprogramm des KAIPTC, für die Kursevaluation während und nach den Kursen, sowie die Kursberichte zuhanden Management und Stakeholder. In der TED Abteilung gibt es zusätzlich eine E-Learning Zelle welche eigene, interaktive E-Learning Kurse für das Center entwickelt. Zudem ist TED für das Learning Management System (LMS) des Centers inkl Database und für diverse Auswertungen und Statistiken über das gesamte KAIPTC zuständig. Diverse Projekte wie Feldstudien in Ghana

und im Raum Westafrika (ECOWAS) oder die Mitarbeit in Projektgruppen runden die Arbeit des TED Teams ab.

Als Schweizer National Representative (SNR) bin ich der Verbindungsmann der Schweizer Armee (Kdo SWISSINT) in Stans und die Abteilung Internationale Beziehungen im ASTAB Bern, zum KAIPTC und zur Schweizer Botschaft in Accra und natürlich auch für meine Schweizer Offizierskollegen vor Ort der Ansprechspartner.

**Schweizer Course Director am KAIPTC:** *Maj. Adrian Zurmühle, wir ab 12. August 2019 durch Maj Federico Leonardi abgelöst.*

Verantwortlich für die von der Schweiz finanzierten Kurse (PoC, MDPO, IMPO, Protection of Civilians, Multidimensional Peace Operations Course und Information Management for Peace Operation Course) am KAIPTC. Stellt Gesamtplanung, Durchführung und Evaluation dieser Kurse sicher.

Kümmert sich im Sinne des klassischen Projektmanagements um sämtliche die Kurse betreffende Inhalte (Budgetierung, Akkreditierung von Facilitatoren; gegenseitige Unterzeichnung von Agreements zwischen der Schweiz und Ghana; Auswahl, Reise und Beherbergung von Kursteilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern auf Grund verschiedener Kriterien (Polizei, Militär, Zivilisten, diverse Länder ECOWAS) und andere gesamte Logistik (Aufenthaltsräume, Materialien); Kursabrechnung und verantwortliche Person für alle schriftlichen Belange gegenüber dem Center und Bern. Sicherstellung von externen Experten, welche ueber jeweilige Themen ihren Beitrag in Lectures am Kurs leisten.

**Digital Communication Officer am KAIPTC:** *Maj. Flavian Marek*

En tant qu'officier de communication numérique (Digital Communication Officer), je suis responsable des services en ligne du KAIPTC. Ceux-ci incluent la gestion des comptes officiels de réseaux sociaux du centre : Facebook, Twitter, YouTube et nouvellement depuis le 1er juillet, Instagram.

L'administration du site web officiel du KAIPTC en anglais et en français fait partie des tâches m'incombant, en publiant entre autres les appels à candidatures des stages, les articles de presses, la publicité pour divers événements et la maintenance générale du site. J'assiste le traducteur pour toutes les publications de l'anglais au français et vice-versa. Je traduis entièrement les publications sur Facebook. Enfin, je produis et édite le contenu multimédia pour le site et les réseaux sociaux suite aux annonces de visites, d'événements. Lors d'occasions particulières, je me charge du direct sur YouTube.

**Schweizer Polizei Offizier:** *Oberst Christian Meile*

Seit Mai 2019 als Kursdirektor Polizeikurse ans KAIPTC tätig. Im KAIPTC bin ich verantwortlich fuer die Planung und Durchfuehrung von Polizeikursen in den Sprachen E/F. Regelmässig werden solche Polizeikurse, aus finanztechnischen Gruenden, im Ausland (in der Regel ECOWAS Staaten) abgehandelt. Bei den sogenannten MTT's (mobile training teams) ist ein Kursdirektor vor Ort und verantwortlich fuer die Organisation, Durchfuehrung und Inhalt. Ich bin schwergewichtsmaessig in francophonen Laendern anzutreffen. Nach diversen Einsaetzen als Polizeibeamter in Afrika (Kamerun, Elfenbeinkueste, Kongo DRC, Kenya) darf ich seit dem 11.05.2019 hier am KAIPTC wirken.

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## Economic & Development Cooperation

### Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa has first visit to Ghana



Mr. Ernst Brugger, President of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa exchanging with Mr. Michael Ekow Amoah, Senior Manager, COCOBOD and other stakeholders during the field visit

From January 23 to 26, 2019 a delegation from the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (“Cocoa Platform”) was on its first mission to Ghana. The delegation from Switzerland was comprised of Mr. Ernst A. Brugger, president of the platform, Mr. Urs Furrer, board member and president of Chocosuisse – the Swiss industry association of chocolate manufacturers – and Ms. Christine Mueller, executive secretary of the platform.

The Cocoa Platform is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to promote the resilience and sustainability of the cocoa value chain and enhance the livelihoods of farmers through joint

learning and innovative public-private partnership approaches. The Cocoa Platform brings together key stakeholders of the private sector, the Swiss government, civil society organizations and research institutions. The Cocoa Platform was launched in July 2017 on the occasion of the visit of the Swiss President, Doris Leuthard, to Ghana. Under the Cocoa Platform, the Swiss chocolate manufacturing industry commits to source 80% of its cocoa beans from sustainable sources by 2020. Ghana is Switzerland’s foremost sourcing country, with over 60% of all cocoa beans being sourced from Ghana.

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### Switzerland deepens the cooperation on skills development with Ghana



Participants at the launch © Embassy of Switzerland, Accra

On April 4, the College of Technology Education (CoLTEK) of the University of Education, Winneba (UEW) and the Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI III), which is co-financed by Switzerland under its Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program (GPSCP) officially launched their cooperation in a festive ceremony.

CoLTEK is currently the only Ghanaian institution training technical and vocational education (TVET) teachers at the university level. After graduation the TVET teachers are qualified to train students in the TVET colleges in the country. This innovative train-the-teachers approach is critical to further strengthen the quality of Ghana’s TVET system. On behalf of the Embassy of Switzerland, the Deputy Head of Cooperation, Mr. Daniel Lauchenauer, underlined that TVET has to meet the demand of the private sector and encouraged a close cooperation between the private sector and training providers.

## Switzerland supports conference on good corporate governance



Chargé d'Affaires a.i., of the Swiss Embassy, Matthias Feldmann © Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana

On May 7, The African Corporate Governance Network (ACGN) and the Institute of Directors-Ghana (IoD) with the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Switzerland, organized an international conference on enhancing and sustaining good corporate governance. The conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from thirteen countries in Africa and served to critically examine the principles and practices of good corporate governance for economic development. The Government of Ghana was represented by the Minister of Business Development, Dr. Ibrahim Awal.

In his goodwill message, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Switzerland, Matthias Feldmann, highlighted the important role that corporate governance plays for Switzerland's economic development cooperation and for economic development in general. He stated: "For Switzerland corporate governance has never been a nice to have but always a must have. Good corporate governance standards provide clear and tangible benefits to the bottom line of companies, making them more attractive for investments, and contributing to their seamless integration into the global market."

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## Head of SECO's private sector development division visits Ghana



The SECO team on a field visit © Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana

From May 6 to 10, 2019, The head of the private sector development division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in Berne, Liliana de Sà, and the program manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, Gisela Roth, visited Ghana for a four-day mission.

The objective of the mission was to review the performance of the private sector development portfolio of Switzerland's development cooperation in Ghana and to discuss the future of the cooperation with stakeholders. The delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ghana, participated in the SECO-IFC semi-annual review meeting and attended the second policy dialogue and coordination platform meeting under the Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program (GPSCP) in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and the Deputy Minister of Education. The delegation visited selected oil palm processing mills,

womens groups and a technical and vocational education institution in the Eastern Region of Ghana, which are supported under the GPSCP in partnership with Solidaridad and GIZ.

## Switzerland pursues job creation and competitiveness agenda



Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Swiss Embassy, Matthias Feldmann speaking at the meeting

On May 9, representatives of the Embassy of Switzerland together with the head of the private sector development division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in Berne, Liliana de Sa, participated in the second policy dialogue and coordination platform meeting of the Swiss-financed Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program (GPSCP), in Accra. They were joined by Ghana's Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Robert Ahomka-Lindsey, Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Gifty Twum Ampofo and the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Crop Services from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Harry Blepony.

In his remarks, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Switzerland, Matthias Feldmann stated that "the progress [under the program] is to a large extent fueled by the policy ownership and commitment of the government." He also acknowledged the important role of the platform as an instrument for dialogue and coordination between implementing agencies, development partners and the government. The agenda was oriented around reviewing the performance under the different pillars of the program (regulatory reforms, development of the oil palm and cashew value chains, skills development) and to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead. Discussions were frank, open and constructive, highlighting the strong partnership between Switzerland and Ghana to transform Ghana's economy.

The platform meeting brought together representatives of all three implementation partners (Solidaridad, International Finance Cooperation, IFC, and the German Agency for International Development, GIZ), stakeholders from the cashew and palm oil industries and representatives of the various government institutions. The GPSCP is one of Switzerland's flagship programs in Ghana to support private sector development with a total budget of 15.4 million Swiss Francs. The program contributes to improve competitiveness and create more and better job opportunities.

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## SECO publishes fresh factsheets on flagship projects in Ghana



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération Suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Logo of SECO

Seven two-pager factsheets have been published on the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana to inform the public on the activities and projects supported by the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO). Readers will be able to learn more about projects aimed at supporting decentralization, tax policy reforms, access to electricity, urban mobility, competitiveness and more.



## Swiss-funded research projects for development in Ghana



### Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development

Logo of the r4d Programme

Solving global problems through transdisciplinary field based projects – this is the main goal of the research-initiative “The Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development” (or: r4d Programme). The initiative covers a thematic open module and five thematic modules, namely social conflicts, employment, food security, ecosystems, public health. The r4d Programme supports projects in more than 45 countries and has a budget of CHF 97.6 million, which is fully provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

With ten research projects, accounting for CHF 3.1 million of the programme’s budget, Ghana is one of the largest beneficiaries. The projects in Ghana are mainly targeted at finding solutions in the area of food security, employment and public health. They aim to improve food systems, stimulate innovation in agriculture, create jobs, enhance income for the poor, and develop new health systems and related financing mechanisms.

The various research projects have already produced interesting findings, promising solutions and ways to foster sustainable development in Ghana.

For further information, please visit the [r4d programme website](#).

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## Business & Tourism

## Ambassador Stalder hosts lunch for Swiss businesses in Ghana



Participants of the informal business lunch © Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana

On 30 May, more than 20 representatives of Swiss businesses operating in Ghana and the chairman of the Swiss-Ghanaian chamber of commerce attended an informal lunch organized by the newly arrived Swiss Ambassador Philipp Stalder at his residence with the support of the Embassy's economic section staff. The lunch was intended as an opportunity to establish and strengthen contacts between Swiss companies and the Swiss Embassy, to exchange views on the state of Ghana's economy and to discuss the opportunities and challenges companies face in their daily operations.

In his address to the guests, the Ambassador expressed his wish to work closely with the private sector by highlighting the benefits of creating win-win situations for all parties. He pointed out that representatives of Swiss businesses are "brand" ambassadors of Switzerland's image projected in Ghana, and affirmed his readiness to stand ready to support further efforts to promote "Swissness" in Ghana, as well as trade between the two countries.

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## Working visit to Swiss processing factory



Some products of HPW Fresh and Dry

On June 29, Ambassador Stalder paid a visit to HPW Fresh and Dry Ltd, a Swiss company operating at Bawdjiase in the Awutu Senya District. The visit was to familiarize himself with the operations of the company. Mr. Stalder was received and shown around by Mr. Maik Blaser, Director of HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd. Mr. Stalder was accompanied by a TV journalist from Swiss National Television SRF, Mr. Stephan Rathgeb.

HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd. was established in 2011, and operates a state-of-the-art plant for processing dried fruit, using renewable energy sources.

## 20 Years of empowering street children in Ghana



Daniela Rüdüsüli Sodjah, with some of the supported children  
© Chance for Children

The organization Chance for Children (CFC) was founded in 1999 by Swiss born Daniela Rüdüsüli Sodjah and Ghanaian Amon Kotey, who with his compatriot Daniel Awuley Nartey, lead it today.

Their vision is that street connected Ghanaian children will become responsible and independent citizens. CFC is a Ghanaian accredited non-governmental organization and a foundation according to Swiss law. Currently sixty Ghanaians and four European employees support the children. CFC offers a Drop In Center

and a residential facility in Hebron, among other means of support.

CFC currently supports over hundred and sixty children. Their successes include more than fifty former street children having completed school and studied a profession, and over 200 children having been reunited with their families. CFC hopes to open two new centers which will focus on streetism prevention, improving follow ups and networking and is thus interested in collaborating with different companies and organizations in order to give street connected children a new life perspective.

For more information please visit the [CFC website](#).

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## Culture & Education

### Premiere of a theater play in Lomé, Togo



Twelve young people from Lomé and Berlin participated in the play © Valeria Stocker

The first representations of a theatrical project supported through a contribution of the Embassy of Switzerland took place in Lomé on 7 and 8 March 2019. Both performances attracted a large audience and received a positive response of the public.

Directed by Eliana Schüller, Valeria Stocker and Jean Koffi Edem Touglo, the play is the result of a collaboration between the popular band, X Perspektiven (Switzerland & Germany) and Carrefour Artistic

Company (Togo) with the intention to play representation in both Lomé and Berlin. The theater play is an attempt to stimulate a reflection on post-colonialism. The project also allowed an artistic exchange between young people from Berlin and Lomé on the theme of German colonialism in Togo from 1884-1916. The play was built from scratch by first initiating a research phase during which the artists visited several places of the colonial period in Lomé to get inspired. After further discussions held with historians and activists, the play was then built on this research with the help of the participants. The result was a play about the past, present and future, about two countries with many identities trying through many attempts to write history.

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### Switzerland supports Francophonie Festival in Accra and screens Swiss movie



Film poster © RITA, Blue Spirit Productions and Gébéka Films

Every year, French speaking populations, present in more than 88 countries all over the world, celebrate la Francophonie on the 20th of March. In Accra, “La Semaine de la Francophonie”, held between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2019, to recall its core values, which are the promotion of the French language and further cultural and linguistic plurality. A number of events were organized by the Francophone embassies, including Switzerland, in collaboration with the Alliance Française.

The Embassy of Switzerland contributed to the festival by hosting on March 22 a public screening of the award winning Swiss movie “Ma vie de courgette”. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Daniel Lauchenauer, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana, stated: “French and multilingualism are core to Switzerland’s values related to diversity and social inclusion and are actively encouraged”. The film, whose story traces the life of a young boy called Courgette in an orphanage, is the recipient of many awards including two prestigious César Awards for Best Animated Film and Best Adapted Screenplay.

## Représentation théâtrale helvético-ivoirienne à Lomé



L'Ambassadeur Philipp Stalder (à g.) aux côtés des trois comédiens de la pièce de théâtre

A l'occasion d'une visite à Lomé, l'ambassadeur-désigné suisse pour le Togo, Monsieur Philipp Stalder, s'est rendu le 1<sup>er</sup> juin à la représentation d'une pièce de théâtre helvético-ivoirienne intitulée « La légende Baoulé » à l'Institut Français de la capitale. Co-sponsorisé par la Direction de Développement et de la Coopération au Bénin (DDC) et la fondation suisse pour la culture Pro-Helvetia, la troupe présentant la pièce de théâtre a ainsi terminé sa tournée en Afrique de l'Ouest.

« La légende Baoulé » revisite le mythe fondateur du peuple Baoulé en Côte d'Ivoire, connue dans toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest. À

l'aide de jeux d'ombres, de contes et de talent d'acteur, les interprètes présentent une histoire multisensorielle captivante. La pièce a été développée et interprétée par les marionnettistes ivoiriens Fidèle Baïbo et Hyacinthe Brika Zougbo, accompagnés par la Genevoise Anne Compagnon, praticienne de théâtre d'ombres. La pièce de théâtre a été créée en octobre 2017 et jouée dans plusieurs villes suisses avant de prendre le chemin pour Paris et l'Afrique de l'Ouest. La pièce est sélectionnée pour le Festival mondial Charleville-Mézières en septembre 2019.

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## Courtesy call to the Ghana Red Cross Society



Ambassador Stalder, with officials of the Ghana Red Cross Society © Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana

On 10 June, Ambassador Stalder paid a courtesy call to the Ghana Red Cross Society based in Accra.

The visit was an opportunity to have an exchange with its president, secretary general and legal advisor on the work undertaken by the local organization. The presence of a representative of the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) at the meeting, also contributed to underline the existing collaboration between the Swiss-based and Ghanaian-based humanitarian organization.

Generally, SRC assists in the setting up of health services and the fight against epidemics. It provides emergency

assistance in case of disaster and supports the population in the prevention of natural hazards, and reconstruction efforts. In Ghana, the SRC and the Ghana Red Cross Society work hand-in-hand in the northern regions to reduce maternal-infant mortality, treat eye diseases and train people in disaster management. In August 2019, the launch of the new Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme (WASH) will focus on access to a water, adequate sanitation and hygiene education. More information is available on [their website](#).

## Ambassador Philipp Stalder interacts with delegation of Queen Mothers



Ambassador Stalder, with the delegation © Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana

On June 13, Ambassador Philipp Stalder hosted a delegation from the Queen Mothers' Foundation of Ghana. The six-member delegation paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Stalder and took the opportunity to inform him of activities lined-up in celebration of the group's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It was led by Nana Ama Serwaa Bonsu, Queenmother of Offinso-Kayera, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. She updated him on projects the foundation had undertaken since its establishment in 1999; in the areas of peacebuilding, supporting sanitation

drives as well as promoting the wellbeing of the girl child.

Ambassador Stalder was pleased to meet the group and stressed that the timing of the visit was significant, as issues of women's rights and empowerment were taking center stage in Ghana and Switzerland.

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## German-Swiss International School



Courtesy call of Ambassador Stalder to the GSIS

The German Swiss International School (GSIS) in Accra is one of 140 recognized "German Schools Abroad" which was originally founded by the Swiss Colony in 1966, but due to a decreasing number of Swiss students has been taken over in 2012 by the Federal Republic of Germany in order to promote the German language and culture abroad. As the only German school in West Africa, the GSIS offers a unique learning environment for 120 students who represent almost 30 different nationalities. It's a vibrant mix of Ghanaian residents combined with a regularly rotating international

population from a wide spectrum of diplomatic, NGO and commercial backgrounds. The GSIS offers an education from nursery to the German equivalent of the Ordinary Level School Leaving Certificate as well as the Cambridge International General Certificate of Education.

The Swiss Ambassador Philipp Stalder made a courtesy call to the school on June 21 to meet the School Director and other members of the school board. By the end of the school year 2019, nine Swiss pupils attended the GSIS.

In 2016 the school was awarded the quality seal, "Excellent German School Abroad", by the president of the Federal Republic of Germany. The GSIS is a non-profit organization, where the school board is legally responsible for the association and the school. More information can be found on [their website](#).

## EDUCATIONSUISSE



educationsuisse

**educationsuisse** advises and supports young Swiss abroad and students from Swiss Schools abroad, who wish to pursue their education or training in Switzerland. You will find all necessary information on the Education Suisse [webpage](#).

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## Visa & Consular Section

### Consular Services for Swiss living in Ghana?



Are you a Swiss citizen living abroad? Then you are not alone! One in ten Swiss citizens is living abroad and 409 of them live in Ghana, 67 in Benin and 121 in Togo.

To find out what services our consular section offers to the Swiss citizens in Ghana, you can visit the [Embassy's website](#).

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### Visa Application Centre moved as of June 2019



VFS Global Logo

VFS, the official visa outsourcing partner of the Swiss Embassy in Ghana has moved its offices in June 2019 to a new location. The Visa Application Centre can now be found on the 1st floor of the Atlantic Towers, behind Marina Mall, Airport City, Accra.

Since July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, the Swiss Embassy in Ghana has been working with the company VFS Global as its official visa outsourcing partner. VFS Global is a long-standing and trusted partner of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and enjoys its full confidence. Further information can be found on [their website](#).

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### Regional Consular Centre (RCC) note

The Swiss Embassy in Accra provide consular services for Swiss nationals in Ghana, Togo and Benin, fulfilling many of the functions of a municipal administrative authority in Switzerland. It is important that your records and contact details with the RCC are up to date so please forward any changes by [post](#) or by [e-mail](#).

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### Consular Services Survey

As part of the "Swiss Foreign Policy Vision 2028" (AVIS 2028), the Consular Directorate wants to develop its services according to the needs and expectations of tomorrow. In order to align the consular services with the actual needs of Swiss expatriates, the Consular Directorate will directly address the Swiss community abroad through a survey. The online questionnaire will be sent directly to all Swiss citizens abroad by e-mail. Should you be interested in participating in the survey but do not have a personal email address, please contact the Embassy to view further possibilities.



## Personnel changes at the Embassy

After four a year posting at the Embassy of Switzerland, Mr. Daniel Lauchenauer, Deputy Head of Cooperation, will swap functions with Ms. Anne Schick, current Programme Manager of the Trade Promotion Division of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in Bern. Mr. Lauchenauer left Ghana mid-July and Ms. Schick, will start in Accra at the beginning of August.

There has also been a change at the consulate: Vice Consul Martina Garamendi left Ghana in July to join the Consulate General in Barcelona. She is replaced by Ms. Teresa Chejlava, currently Vice Consul in Abuja, capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Ambassador Philipp Stalder and the entire embassy team wish the outgoing employees a lot of strength and joy in their new posts and look forward to welcoming the new team members.

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## Neuer Schweizer Polizei-Kursdirektor bei KAIPTC – Christian Meile

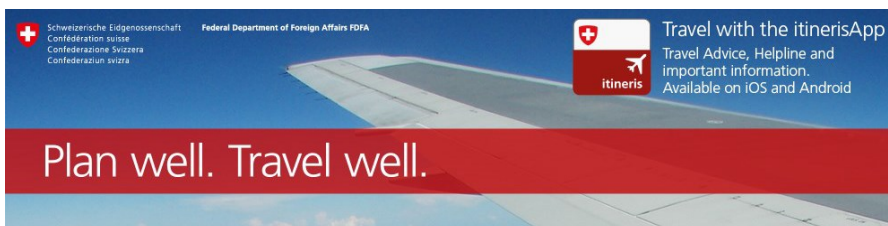


Polizei-Kursdirektor Christian Meile

Seit dem 11. Mai 2019 befinde ich mich, in Funktion als Polizei-Kursdirektor, am KAIPTC in Accra. Ich bin 53 Jahre alt und ehemaliger Chef des Forensisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen-Dienstes der Kantonspolizei St. Gallen. Meine bisherigen Afrika-Erfahrungen (Kenya, Elfenbeinkueste, Kamerun und Kongo DRC) helfen mir, mich schneller hier zu adaptieren. Meine ersten Eindruecke sind positiv und ich denke, dass Ghana, zu den vorgenannten Laendern, einen beachtlichen Vorsprung aufweist. Ich freue mich hier zu sein und hoffe einen positiven Beitrag leisten zu koennen.

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## 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 from Monday to Friday between 8-11 AM. We will be happy to advise you on the required documents.

## Finding your way



Living in Switzerland – this is the theme of the SRG SSR’s integration app, “together”. Users can find out about life in Switzerland in a fun way with a quiz, discover the ins and outs and stay up to date with the latest information thanks to a news feed – and all of this in German, French, Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese or Arabic.

Why do bin bags have a certain colour in Switzerland? How long is a “vignette” (motorway tax sticker) valid for? Which language is spoken at the southernmost tip of Switzerland? What does “simplified naturalisation” mean? The “together” app, developed by all of the SRG SSR’s business units (RSI, RTR, RTS, SRF and SWI), tackles questions from day-to-day life, provides answers and reveals other useful information. It is based on the practical guide to Switzerland produced by SWI swissinfo.ch. The integration app currently comprises 14 topics with more than 300 questions, background information and a news feed. The app is set to be expanded on an ongoing basis

– and users can help one another with this by sending questions and images to the “together” team via an online form on the [website](#).

Download the app from [GooglePlay](#) or [iTunes](#) for free and off you go: test your knowledge of Switzerland here and find out about everyday life in the country!

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## Varia

### Federal Elections 2019 – Your vote matters!



Your vote matters! Parliamentary elections will be held in Switzerland on 20 October 2019. As a Swiss national living abroad, who is included in the Register of the Swiss Abroad, you are allowed to vote in elections as well as stand as a candidate for election to Parliament. Further information can be found on the [Federal Administration website](#).

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### Applikation "VoteInfo" von Bund und Kantonen - Info über Abstimmungen und Wahlen



# Vote Info

© Schweizerische Bundeskanzlei

«VoteInfo» ist die neue App von Bund und Kantonen. Sie liefert an Abstimmungssonntagen ab 12 Uhr laufend aktualisierte Ergebnisse zu nationalen und kantonalen Abstimmungen. Die App enthält auch die Erläuterungen und Videos zu nationalen und kantonalen Vorlagen. «VoteInfo» kann im App Store und auf Google Play kostenlos heruntergeladen werden.

### Application «VoteInfo» de la Confédération et des cantons – Informations sur les votations et élections

«VoteInfo» est la nouvelle application de la Confédération et des cantons. Les dimanches de votation, dès midi, elle permet de suivre en continu les résultats des objets fédéraux et cantonaux. Elle propose aussi les explications et vidéos relatives à ces objets. L'application peut être téléchargée gratuitement depuis l'App Store et Google Play.

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### Work and life of an academic intern – Paul Waldmann



Academic Intern Paul Waldmann

Arrivé à Accra mi-mars, le stage me permet d'avoir un bon aperçu des nombreuses thématiques couvertes par une ambassade. J'ai pu rapidement m'impliquer dans les différentes sections comme la section économique qui gère le programme du SECO, ou la section des visas, me donnant l'opportunité d'en apprendre davantage sur le processus d'immigration. J'ai été affecté à d'autres tâches diverses telles que la rédaction et la révision du rapport annuel sur les droits humains pour les trois pays couverts par l'ambassade (Ghana, Togo et Bénin), la rédaction de rapports politiques, la gestion de petits projets soutenus par l'ambassade, le suivi de l'actualité togolaise, etc. J'ai été à même d'apprécier la variété de ces tâches et les contacts humains nécessaires pour les effectuer. Hors du travail, j'ai pu découvrir des nouvelles cultures et des régions ghanéennes magnifiques. Il est passionnant de vivre dans

un pays qui, au cours des dernières années, s'est hissé au premier rang mondial en matière de croissance. Mes expériences au Ghana m'ont aidé à briser certains aprioris sur les cultures ghanéennes et à découvrir un mode de vie différent et inspirant.

## Facts & Figures

**WE ARE A NATION OF SCIENTISTS**

Switzerland has 10 universities, 2 federal institutes of technology (ETHZ/EPFL) and various universities of applied sciences (FH).

**NOBEL**

In relative terms, Switzerland is the most prolific producer of publications in the world, with 3.6 publications per 1,000 inhabitants.

23 scientists with Swiss citizenship have won the Nobel Prize in the natural sciences and in medicine.

In international rankings, Swiss universities are always very well placed.

	EPFL	ETHZ
★ Shanghai Ranking 2016 (Top 500)	92	19
★ QS Ranking 2016 (Top 500)	14	8
★ Times Ranking 2016 (Top 980)	30	9

Total no. of students (2016/17):  
 ■ Universities 118,921 / ▲ ETH/EPFL 29,612 / ● FH 75,098

© FDFA, PRS 2017 / Sources: State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), UniversityRankings.ch / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org

The Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) regularly comes top of the class in international higher education rankings.

The Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) also performs very well in international rankings, taking 14th place in the QS Rankings and 12th place in the Leiden Ranking.

**SWITZERLAND AND THE WORLD**

**NEUTRAL**

As a neutral country, Switzerland does not take part in armed conflicts or military alliances. This neutrality is an important pillar of Swiss foreign policy.

Switzerland acts as a protective power for third countries that have broken off relations with another country. Switzerland currently fulfils 6 diplomatic mandates of this type.

Switzerland is a member of seven international organisations. EFTA, Council of Europe, OSCE, OECD, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN.

**HUMANITARIAN TRADITION**

as host country to the International Committee of the Red Cross and depositary state of the Geneva Conventions of 1949:

- Emergency and reconstruction assistance in the event of natural disasters and armed conflicts
- Development assistance in countries and regions in need
- Supporting countries in their transition to democracy and the market economy
- Asylum for victims of political persecution

© FDFA, PRS 2017 / Sources: Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), The Swiss Confederation – a brief guide 2017, Eurostat / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org

Neutrality is an important pillar of Swiss Foreign policy. To date, Switzerland has represented the diplomatic interests of 35 countries as part of protective power mandates.

International Geneva is home to some 350 NGOs, 175 representations of foreign states and many other organisations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Switzerland joined the United Nations (UN) in 2002.

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## Events

### Fest des 1. August / Fête du 1<sup>er</sup> Août



Artwork of Zürichsee

Die Schweizer Botschaft feiert am Mittwoch, 14. August 2019, den diesjährigen Schweizer Nationalfeiertag. Wie in den Vorjahren wird die Botschaft in der Schweizer Residenz einen Empfang abhalten und Schweizer Staatsbürger, Mitglieder der Diplomatengemeinschaft und Vertreter der Regierung empfangen. Alle auf der Botschaft registrierten Schweizer Bürger Ghanas sind herzlich zum Nationalfeiertag eingeladen und haben eine elektronische Einladung erhalten.

Cette année, l'ambassade de Suisse célébrera la fête nationale suisse cette année le mercredi 14 août 2019. Comme les années précédentes, l'ambassade tiendra une réception à la résidence suisse et accueillera des citoyens suisses, des membres de la communauté diplomatique et des représentants du gouvernement. Tous les citoyens suisses du Ghana inscrits à l'ambassade sont cordialement invités à la fête nationale et ont reçu une invitation par email.

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### Relevant dates for Swiss abroad

#### 02.08 – Journée consulaire à Lomé

Une journée consulaire est organisée le 2 août afin d'informer la communauté d'expatriés suisses du Togo sur les affaires consulaires et administratives. Les citoyens officiellement inscrits au Togo ont reçu un email pour l'occasion.

#### 03.08 – Fête nationale suisse à Lomé

Le 3 août 2019, des collaborateurs de l'Ambassade suisse à Accra fera le déplacement à Lomé pour accueillir en compagnie de la consule générale honoraire suisse, la colonie suisse du Togo en l'honneur de la fête nationale. Un dîner ainsi que des bons échanges sont au programme.

#### 14.08 – Fête nationale suisse à Cotonou

La fête nationale suisse sera également célébrée à Cotonou le 14 août 2019. Le Bureau de la Coopération suisse organise pour l'occasion une réception pour les expatriés suisses avec résidence au Bénin.

#### 16-18.08 – Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Montreux:

Once a year in August, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) organises a congress for Swiss citizens living all around the world. The event has become a popular opportunity to meet and network for all those who are interested in the international mobility of the "Fifth Switzerland". For more information is available on the website of the [OSA](#).

## Swiss media coverage of Ghana and other useful links

Die Elfenbeinküste und Ghana wollen ihre Ernten gemeinsam vermarkten und den Preis bestimmen. Allerdings fehlt es den Anbauländern an Lagerstätten.

<https://www.derbund.ch/kampf-um-die-kontrolle-ueber-den-kakao/story/30396160>

Vor 400 Jahren erreichten die ersten Sklaven aus Westafrika die späteren USA. Jetzt kehren immer mehr ihrer Nachfahren zurück: als Touristen.

<https://www.nzz.ch/wochenende/reisen/amerikaner-machen-ferien-in-ghana-im-land-ihrer-vorfahren-ld.1484297>



ch.ch

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  
Organisaziun 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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