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## Wahlen in den Ausland- schweizerrat für 2009-2013

**Die Neuwahlen für die Amtsperiode 2009-2013 finden in Südafrika im ersten Halbjahr 2009 durch die 9 Schweizervereine statt.**

Es sind dies die 9 Vereine die der Auslandschweizerorganisation (ASO) in Bern angeschlossen sind, nämlich: Swiss Social and Sports Club und Swiss Rifle Club in Cape Town; Swiss Club Natal in Durban. Swiss Society Helvetia, Swiss Rifle Club und Swiss Choir in Johannesburg, Swiss Club Far North in Makhado (früher Louis Trichard), Swiss Club Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth sowie Swiss Society Alpina in Pretoria.

### Keine Stellvertreter mehr

Die Neuwahlen wurden in der Swiss Revue Oct.08/Nr.5 ausgeschrieben. Bis zum 31.1.09 können sich die gegenwärtig amtierenden ASR Delegierten sowie immatrikulierte Schweizerinnen und Schweizer bei ihrem Schweizerverein als Kandidaten für die neue Amtsperiode anmelden. Bis jetzt hatte Südafrika zwei Delegierte und zwei Stellvertreter im Auslandschweizerrat. In der nächsten Amtsperiode fällt das Amt der Stellvertreter weg und es werden noch zwei Delegierte zu wählen sein. Ziel der Neuverteilung der Sitze ist es, einer grösseren Anzahl Ländern einen Sitz im ASR zu ermöglichen. Die Schweizervereine stimmen an ihrer GV im Frühjahr 2009 über die Wahl der Kandidaten ab. Wie schon vor 4 Jahren hat mich der Vorstand der ASO zum

Electoral Officer für Südafrika ernannt. Ich habe die Präsidenten der neun obenerwähnten Vereine über den Wahlmodus informiert. Jeder Verein, ob gross oder klein, hat ein Stimmrecht pro Kandidat. An den Sitzungen in Bern wird deutsch oder französisch gesprochen. Es ist wichtig, zwei Schweizerinnen oder Schweizer zu finden, die bereit sind und die Zeit haben, sich für vier Jahre als ASR Delegierte wählen zu lassen und als unsere Vertreter in Bern aktiv mitzuarbeiten. Interessierte Kandidaten finden unter [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) einen ausführlichen Bericht zur Neubestellung des ASR.

### 700'000 Auslandschweizer

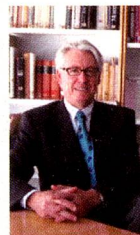
Der Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) ist das repräsentative Organ der Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer. Er vertritt die Interessen aller ausgewanderten Schweizerinnen und Schweizer in den politischen Kreisen der Schweiz. Der ASR spielt somit eine entscheidende Rolle für die Wahrung der Interessen der Auslandschweizer. Er ist das „Auslandschweizer-Parlament“, das legislative Organ der Auslandschweizer-Organisation (ASO) und tritt zweimal jährlich in der Schweiz zusammen. Von den insgesamt 700'000 im Ausland lebenden Schweizern sind fast 120'000

im Wahlregister eingetragen, um von ihrem Stimmrecht Gebrauch zu machen. Wenn alle Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer einen Kanton bilden würden, wäre dieser bevölkerungsmässig der drittgrösste der Schweiz. Es ist deshalb wichtig, dass ihre Interessen auch in der Schweiz vertreten werden.

*François Jeannerat, Electoral Officer, [francois.jeannerat@bluewin.ch](mailto:francois.jeannerat@bluewin.ch)*

## Hans-Ulrich Tanner's review

**Swiss Consul General Hans-Ulrich Tanner says goodbye after three years in Cape Town and South Africa.**



Looking back different thoughts come into my mind: Not long after my arrival Helen Zille took over the Mayor's Office from Nomaindia Mefeketo. By opening up council business to the public, the DA administration successfully created a different image. Zilles credo to cut down symbolism and get to substance had a positive impact on the working relation between the Consulate General and the City. One good example of cooperation between the City and the Consulate was the exhibition "Etre - The Face of Human Rights" which was officially opened in the Civic Centre by the Mayor in February 2007, coinciding with the Mayor's

Welcome Reception for Parliamentarians on the same day. I needed some time to realise how contested my host city is. Cape Town is not in time with South Africa, partly because its racial make-up and attitudes differ from other provinces.

### Adolf Ogi's impact

On my agenda as Consul General the contact to nongovernmental organizations, the support and assistance to Micro Business and the involvement in integration and cultural projects in the disadvantaged areas of the Cape Flats played an important role. Several initiatives resulted from the visit in Cape Town of Adolf Ogi, the United Nations Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace. Ogi gave speeches at workshops at the Western Cape University and visited projects in townships. After only 3 months in my position, Ogi's visit opened the doors to valuable contacts for future projects in the field of development and sport.

The business climate between South Africa and Switzerland is a positive one. While visiting Cape Town in 2007, the Swiss Secretary of State, Michael Ambühl, reiterated the Swiss intention to use South Africa as an anchor country for its exploration of opportunities within the African Continent. In close cooperation with Pro Helvetia Cape Town my Office took part in many cultural projects.

Cape Town as the legislative capital of South Africa had a big impact on my work. The relationship between my office and the Parliament were excellent and versatile.

*Continued overleaf/...*



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## New Swiss Ambassador to South Africa

**Rudolf Baerfuss is the new Swiss Ambassador in South Africa. In December he met with the South African president Kgalema Motlanthe.**

Rudolf Baerfuss, new Swiss Ambassador to South Africa, arrived in Pretoria on 23 October 2008. He is an economist (Universities of St. Gallen and Zurich) and he did postgraduate studies on development at ETH-Z.

He entered the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1977. His first postings were in Bern and Lisbon. He returned to Bern in 1979 and was

attached to the Division of commerce at the Federal Department of Economy (FDE), today Seco. He was then successively posted in Brasilia and Brussels. In 1986, Rudolf Baerfuss joined the Bureau of Integration FDFA/FDE and participated in the negotiations on the European Economic Area. In 1993, he joined the Federal Office for Environment, Forestry and Landscape, as Head of the International division. In 1996, the Federal Council appointed him as Ambassador and Head of Political Division V, Coordination (FDFA). As an Ambassador,

Rudolf Baerfuss successively served in Mozambique and Angola, with residence in Maputo, and Brazil until Summer 2008.

Rudolf Baerfuss wishes to focus throughout his mandate on emphasizing sustainable

development, intensifying the political dialogue between the two countries, further improving

the bilateral economic ties, strengthening the cultural relations, working with young people and making a contribution to skills development in the country. This is the core message that Rudolf Baerfuss delivered to H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa, to whom he presented his credentials on 11 December 2008 in Pretoria.

Mr Baerfuss is married with Ms Beatrice Baerfuss and has two adult sons.

### New Head of Chancellery

Since mid January the Chancellery of the Embassy in Pretoria is headed by Pia Gallegos Müller who arrived with her family from Buenos Aires.



From Page 1: Tanner's review

### An enriching experience

I have to admit that, I am leaving South Africa with the regret of not being given the chance to experience and represent Switzerland as Consul General in the 2010 World Cup. In my opinion South Africa has the capacity to host and organise the World Cup in given time and make this an unforgettable experience. It has been a wonderful experience – professionally very enriching and personally most rewarding. In South Africa I found new friends whom I would not want to lose. My path leads me back to Europe. Again in the function as Consul General, I will be responsible in Genua (Italy), for the third oldest Swiss representation abroad.

Hans-Ulrich Tanner



From left: H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Rudolf Baerfuss, Swiss Ambassador and his wife, Ms Beatrice Baerfuss.

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## Swiss Centre: Ein Ort der Begegnung

Das neueste von der Swiss Parents Association finanzierte und geleitete Projekt eines Swiss Centre an der DSJ wurde am letzten Schweizer Nationalfeiertag dem Gebrauch übergeben.



Richard Meichtry, SPA Chairman, and Brigitte Helmrich, Leiterin Vorschule.

Mit dieser inoffiziellen Übergabe kommt ein Projekt zum Abschluss, das mit viel Aufwand fast drei Jahre Zeit in Anspruch genommen hat. Das Resultat lässt sich sehen: ein attraktiver Raum, der sich als „Ort der Begegnung“ versteht.

### Multifunktionaler Raum

Der multifunktionale Raum bietet viele Arbeitsmöglichkeiten - passend für die Kindergartenschüler bis zu den Abiturienten. Eine großzügige multimediale Anlage und Bühne erlaubt Aufführungen, Vorträge, Lesungen, Ausstellungen und Vieles mehr. Eine IT-Ecke ermöglicht das Arbeiten an modernen Computern, während eine Bibliothek mit Büchern von Schweizer Autoren - passend für jede Altersgruppe - Einblick in Kultur der Schweiz ermöglicht.

### Bereits 2,4 Mio. investiert

Dieses nun fertiggestellte Swiss Centre ist nach dem Schweizer IT Zentrum 1 und 2 das dritte von der Swiss Parents Association finanzierte Projekt und bringt die getätigten Investitionen zu beträchtlichen 2,4 Millionen Rand. Im Speziellen danken wir dem Schweizer Bundesamt für Kultur, dessen offene und unkomplizierte Einstellung wir sehr geschätzt haben, aber auch der Göhner Stiftung in der Schweiz, deren substantielle Unterstützung ein wesentlicher Grundstein zum Erreichen unserer Ziele darstellte. Darüber hinaus gilt es auch dem Vorstand der Swiss Parents Association zu danken,

dessen unermüdlicher Einsatz kaum genügend gewürdigt werden kann.

Ursprünglich wurde die Swiss Parents Association gegründet, um sicherzustellen, dass mit den getätigten Investitionen die finanzielle Gleichbehandlung von Schweizer Schülern gewährleistet ist. Dieser Zweck ist seit langem nicht mehr gegeben und die Association versteht sich heute als Organisation, die im Sinne eines „good neighbour“ tätig ist und es mit ihren Aktivitäten der Schule ermöglichen will, Schüler von früher benachteiligten Volksgruppen zu unterstützen.

Die offizielle Eröffnung steht noch aus, wird aber sodann allen Beteiligten die Gelegenheit geben, sich dieses bleibende Zeichen eines schweizerischen Beitrages zur Verständigung der Menschen untereinander anzusehen.

Richard Meichtry, Chairman  
Swiss Parents Association

### Swiss Management Education in South Africa

**The Swiss Malik Management Zentrum St. Gallen, a world leader in holistic general management systems and specialist in general management education, is going to start operations in South Africa in April 2009.**

The programmes are based on Professor Malik's teachings and his long-time bestseller, *Managing Performing Living* and provide a proven foundation for the development of professional and effective managers. They give the knowledge and abilities required by every manager in private and public sectors to manage and perform well. Providing this knowledge to South African companies and institutions will give a competitive advantage especially in today's times of financial and economic world crises. Further information is available on [www.malik-mzsg.ch](http://www.malik-mzsg.ch).

### Call for Grant Applications

Pro Helvetia Cape Town, the Swiss Arts Council, is inviting applications for grants to support art projects that are innovative, professional and contemporary in any of the

disciplines and that support arts and culture exchange between Switzerland and South(ern) Africa (the Pro Helvetia mandate) or exchange between the countries of the SADC region through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) mandate.

Pro Helvetia: For projects involving exchange between Switzerland and South(ern) Africa. SDC: For projects involving exchange between the regions of South(ern) Africa. Deadline for both: 28 February 2009. Application forms on <http://www.prohelvetia.org.za/>

### The President of the Swiss Council of States visits SA

**The President of the Swiss Council of States, Christoffel Braendli, paid an official visit to South Africa between 30 October and 7 November 2008. He was invited by the Speaker of the National Assembly, H. Hon. G. Mahlangu-Nkabinde.**

The main objective of this visit was to foster the relations and the cooperation between the Swiss and the South African parliaments. During the first part of his official visit in Pretoria, Christoffel Braendli met with H.E. M. Mangena, Minister of Science and Technology, as well as with H.E.S. van der Merwe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In Cape Town, the President of the Council of States discussed with H. Hon. Mahlangu-Nkabinde and her delegation about the state of the relations between the two parliaments, and paid a courtesy call on Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition Sandra Botha (Democratic Alliance). Christoffel Braendli also took the opportunity to visit a project related to the issue of HIV/AIDS, led by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Diepsloot, as well as small and medium enterprises supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco) in Cape Town.

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard visited the country in 2007 and, earlier this year in Switzerland, Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and H.E. N. Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The

official visit of the President of the Council of States, on the highest legislative level, completes the effective co-operation between the executive powers and represents a further step in strengthening our bilateral relations.

### SwissCham year-end dinner

On November 13, 2008, SwissCham Southern Africa - South Africa Chapter held its first year-end dinner at the Grace Hotel in Johannesburg.

SwissCham President Jürg Schalch, welcomed the members and guests of honour, Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa, HE Rudolf Bärffuss and Mrs Bärffuss. A special welcome was extended to the newest members: ADS Engineering, Barbara Wickli & Ass., Hilti, Logitech, Mobile Merchant, Peregrine Holdings, Prosono Timbers, Prowork Project Management, Simon Organ, SM Business Consultants, Swisscontact, Telfree Group, V-Tech, William Tell Industries and Xstrata.

The President gave a short overview of the Chamber's activities to date which included a membership drive, the production of the Chamber Profile, advertisements and editorials placed in the Swiss Review as well as the Swiss Business Hub Review. He mentioned the successful membership luncheon with Dennis Dykes, Chief Economist from Nedbank which was held in September and its linkage to the main website with the SwissCham parent organization SwissCham Southern Africa in Zurich.

A number of exciting events are planned for 2009, including a Formula A event with the Swiss Business Hub in February and a joint event with the Nordic South African Business Association.

SwissCham's first AGM will take place on 2 April 2009.



### IMPRESSUM

Editor: Gisela Piercey,  
P.O. Box 408, Kenton-on-Sea 6191,  
South Africa  
Tel 046 648 2632 Fax 0860 602 0489  
E-mail [gisela@tanglewoods-lodge.com](mailto:gisela@tanglewoods-lodge.com)  
Read Swiss Review  
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(distribution 14 October)

## Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

### JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia,  
31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley,  
Midrand, office: Debora Lanz,  
T/F 011 805 3039, C 082 651 6152,  
swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za,  
Swiss Country Club Restaurant  
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revamping our Swiss Country Club  
and now we can enjoy our nice  
facilities. In January most of our  
Clubs of Society had their AGM's  
and start with their activities. Our  
Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge,  
Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia,  
Skittling. Associated Groups: Swiss  
Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf,  
G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets  
every 2nd Saturday of the month  
for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every  
4th Thursday of the month for  
Lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 4640

### PRETORIA

Swiss Embassy - 012 452 0660  
Swiss Society Alpina,  
Hans-Georg Bosch, President,  
T 012 347 8310,  
C 082 551 0222,  
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,  
Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary,  
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com

### CAPE TOWN

Swiss Consulate General  
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Swiss Social and Sports Club,  
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eppen@mweb.co.za  
Nicky Rodrigues T 072 218 5759  
nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com  
www.swissclub.co.za

### SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber,  
T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107,  
hansg@saol.com

13.-15.2.09 Outing, details tba;  
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Sonntagstreff von 2009.

### SWAZILAND

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calabash@swazi.net

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3347, swiss.consul@intnet.mu  
Club Suisse de Maurice,  
Jean-Louis Goetz,  
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chmu14@intnet.mu

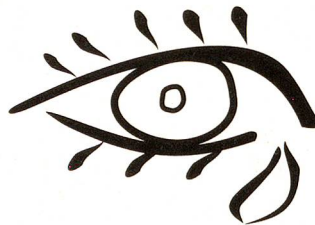
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