



## What's inside?



News from the Consular  
Section



Small Actions Projects by  
the Embassy



News from the  
Commercial Section



News from the Cultural  
Section



News from the Defense  
Section



**Georg Steiner**  
Ambassador of Switzerland to  
Pakistan

### Dear Swiss Compatriots, dear Readers,

I hope you are all doing fine!

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you and your families on the Swiss National Day this year. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to exchange with you and hear from you. I look forward to continuing these meaningful exchanges in the future.

In this Newsletter, the Embassy is pleased to share with you a few updates and highlights regarding some initiatives we have been working on over the past few months.

The Embassy team has continued to support and engage with many counterparts through a wide range of activities – political conversations, consular services, cultural events, and economic initiatives designed to strengthen bilateral ties and maintain Switzerland's visibility in Pakistan.

I encourage you to follow us on our official website and social media platforms. There, you will find information on the Embassy's activities and events, as well as the latest updates on innovation, culture, and other initiatives in Switzerland.

The Embassy remains fully committed to providing meaningful support to the Swiss community, fostering networks among Swiss professionals, and creating more opportunities to celebrate Swiss culture together.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your input and suggestions, and let's stay in touch!

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Kind regards

Georg Steiner

# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Consular Section

### **The Schengen Entry/Exit System: what Swiss citizens and their non-Swiss family members need to know**

The Schengen Entry/Exit System (EES) is an automated IT system that will electronically register entries and exits of non-Swiss and non-EU/EEA citizens into and out of the [Schengen Area](#) - which Switzerland is a member of. With the introduction of the Entry/Exit System the current practice of manually stamping the passports of non-Swiss and non-EU/EEA citizens at the Schengen border will no longer be necessary. The system will automatically calculate how long a person has been staying in the whole of the Schengen Area. The Entry/Exit System is expected to start operating in 2025.

The Entry/Exit System will not apply to Swiss and EU/EEA citizens if they evidence their citizenship with a valid Swiss or EU/EEA travel document. [All you need to know about the Schengen Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)

## Small Action Projects by the Embassy

### **Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure for Livelihood Recovery in Upper Dir**

Implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Pakistan, this project aims to rehabilitate and upgrade damaged irrigation and protective structures to restore agricultural productivity, stabilize vulnerable slopes, and strengthen community resilience. The planned works include rehabilitating approximately 2,370 feet of irrigation channels, reconstructing 50 feet of flood-damaged headwalls, and constructing 80 feet of retaining walls to prevent erosion and safeguard farmland. This focused scope enables the project to deliver tangible results within a short period while ensuring quality and long-term sustainability.



*The Embassy of Switzerland and Helvetas  
Small Action Project in Upper Dir, KP.*

### **Access to Justice and Gender Empowerment through Legal Literacy and Awareness**

Implemented by AGHS Legal Aid Cell, this project aims to promote a gender-responsive legal system for survivors of gender-based violence by providing free legal aid and building the capacity of lawyers and service providers at Protection Centres in three districts of Punjab. AGHS will represent 50 cases in court for women seeking legal remedies for violence and abuse. Additionally, AGHS will train at least 60 lawyers across the three districts to strengthen their ability to represent women and to ensure the effective implementation of laws enacted for women's protection.



**AGHS**  
LEGAL AID CELL

### **Celebration of Swiss National Day**

The Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Georg Steiner, hosted the 734<sup>th</sup> National Day at his residence in Islamabad on August 1, welcoming Swiss nationals and their families. This gathering served not only as a celebration of Swiss heritage but also to strengthen ties among the Swiss community in Pakistan.



*Swiss National Day 2025 at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland.*

## **Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan** **News from the Commercial Section**

Switzerland and Pakistan enjoy solid trade and economic relations. For many years, Swiss companies have been one of the largest foreign direct investors in Pakistan. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the country's net inward equity position as of the fiscal year 2025 stands at USD 2.7 billion. Currently, 28 Swiss based multinational companies are operating in the country in the sectors of agriculture, food, beverages, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, textile, oil marketing, chemicals, energy/electricity generation, and banking. 15 companies have their headquarters in Karachi while 8 companies are based in Lahore, 3 companies are headquartered in Islamabad while 1 company each has its main office in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. 12 companies also have their manufacturing facilities in Pakistan; the number of these manufacturing units currently stands at 19. These companies provide direct employment to about 15,000 persons and a multiple number of third-party contract workers in Pakistan.

Annual bilateral trade between Switzerland and Pakistan amounts to half a billion Swiss francs approximately. Switzerland mainly exports pharmaceuticals, machines, dyeing extracts and colours, watches, and chemicals while Pakistan exports textiles, leather articles, and agricultural products.

### **Visit of Mr. Laurent Cousinou to Sheikhpura and Lahore from 19 to 21 August 2025**

A delegation of the Embassy, led by Mr. Laurent Cousinou, Deputy Head of Mission, visited Sheikhpura and Lahore from 19 to 21 August 2025. The delegation visited Nestlé Factory in Sheikhpura, a town 57 Kms from Lahore. Nestlé Sheikhpura factory is one of the largest manufacturing facilities of Nestlé in the world producing products related to dairy, bottled water and fruit juices. The delegation also held meetings at ABB Pakistan and Hitachi Energy where it was briefed about their operations in Pakistan. The delegation also visited PARCO Gunvor, a Swiss company operating in the oil marketing and retailing sector of Pakistan.



*The Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Laurent Cousinou, with the Nestlé team in Sheikhpura factory.*





*A group photo with the management of ABB Pakistan.*



*Mr. Hassan Ejaz, Head of Marketing and Sales, Hitachi Energy, presenting a memento to Mr. Laurent Cousinou.*



*A group photo with the management of PARCO Gunvor*

### **Ambassador's visit to Karachi from 21 to 23 October 2025**

Ambassador Georg Steiner visited Karachi to participate in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Swiss Business Council. The AGM was organized at the premises of Givaudan, a Swiss company based in Karachi. During the visit, the Ambassador also held courtesy calls with the managements of Habib Metropolitan Bank and Kuehne+Nagel.



*A group photo with the members of Swiss Business Council.*



*A group photo with the management of Kuehne+Nagel.*



*A group photo with the management of Habib Metropolitan Bank.*



## DAVOS Startup Challenge Pitching – Final Round

Pathfinder Group's Centre for Innovation, Technological Advancement, Digital Entrepreneurship and Leadership (CITADEL) organized the final round of DAVOS Startup Challenge Pitching on 25 October 2025 where Ambassador Georg Steiner participated as the Chief Guest. Some of Pakistan's most promising start ups showcased their projects at the event.



*Ambassador Georg Steiner presenting shield as a Chief Guest at the event for the final round of Davos Startup Challenge in Islamabad.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sante Graine De Vie Pharma

Sante Graine De Vie Pharma, a Swiss company in the alternate medicine sector, organized its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Murree on 14 November 2025 where Ambassador Georg Steiner participated as Chief Guest. The event was widely attended by homeopathic practitioners and distributors from across Pakistan.



*Group Photo of Ambassador Georg Steiner with the management of Sante Graine De Vie Pharma.*



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Cultural Section

### International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day 2025, the Embassy of Switzerland hosted an Award Ceremony in collaboration with the Adventure Club-Pakistan to promote women's participation, leadership, and inclusivity in sports on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Ambassador Georg Steiner praised the efforts of the distinguished guests to redefine excellence and success in their chosen professions and sports. During a question-and-answer session, the participants also shared their personal stories and struggles with the Ambassador. Winners of the climbing competitions were presented with certificates and shields in recognition of their performance and accomplishments.



*Group Photo with winning Young Women Climbers at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland on International Women's Day.*



*Group Photo with Women Climbers on International Women's Day.*

### Celebration of La Fête de la Francophonie 2025

In April 2025, the Embassy of Switzerland in Islamabad and the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) collaborated to showcase the beauty of the French language. The students showcased their talents through French songs and skits, while the audience enjoyed the Swiss short film "La Femme et le TGV."

H.E. Ambassador Georg Steiner commended the students for their performances and encouraged them to take full advantage of the University's excellent facilities and to never give up on their dreams. Ambassador Georg Steiner and officials from the Embassy of France also awarded certificates to students who successfully passed the DELF exams on this occasion.



*Ambassador Georg Steiner and Ms. Domitille Robert, Education Officer of the Embassy of France, present a DELF Certification to a successful student at the National University of Modern Languages.*



*Group photo with faculty and students from the National University of Modern Languages.*



## Charity Event with Pakistan Foreign Women's Association

In May 2025, the Embassy of Switzerland and 27 other missions collaborated with the Pakistan Foreign Women's Association for a charity event to support girls' education and underprivileged communities in the country. The event, "Taste the World," featured cultural stalls and a variety of delectable delights at Serena Hotel Islamabad. Everyone present enjoyed the wonderful variety of foods on display and shared cordial moments together.



*Swiss Food Stall at the charity event.*



*Inauguration by CEO of Serena Hotel, Mr. Aziz Boolani, and the President of IFWA, Mrs. Dianne Hawkins, of "Taste the World – A celebration of global cultures through cuisines."*

## International Environment Day

To mark #InternationalEnvironmentDay2025, the Embassy of Switzerland's team partnered with the Adventure Club-Pakistan and its partners on June 1, 2025, for a successful plastic waste cleanup and eco-climbing event at the Margalla Hills in Islamabad. Ambassador Georg Steiner applauded the participants for their joint efforts to protect the environment and keep Islamabad green and beautiful.



*The staff of the Embassy of Switzerland with Adventure Club Pakistan collecting plastic waste at the Margalla Hills to help overcome plastic pollution.*



*Group Photo with the participants of Plastic Waste clean-up drive and eco-climbing competition.*



*CEO of Adventure Club-Pakistan with participants of eco-climbing competition.*

## **An Exchange Event Highlighting Swiss-Pakistani Collaboration for Earthquake Resilience**

On July 14, 2025, Ambassador Georg Steiner hosted an engaging exchange event for Swiss and Pakistani scientists and practitioners dedicated to enhancing engineering practices for earthquake resilience. This event, held in collaboration with the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), encouraged the sharing of ideas for joint research projects focused on disaster risk management. It also facilitated networking opportunities and underscored the potential for valuable cooperation between Switzerland and Pakistan in this critical area.



*Director General National Institute of Disaster Management, Mr. Tanveer Piracha, addressing the participants at the Hybrid Event on Earthquake resilience hosted at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland.*



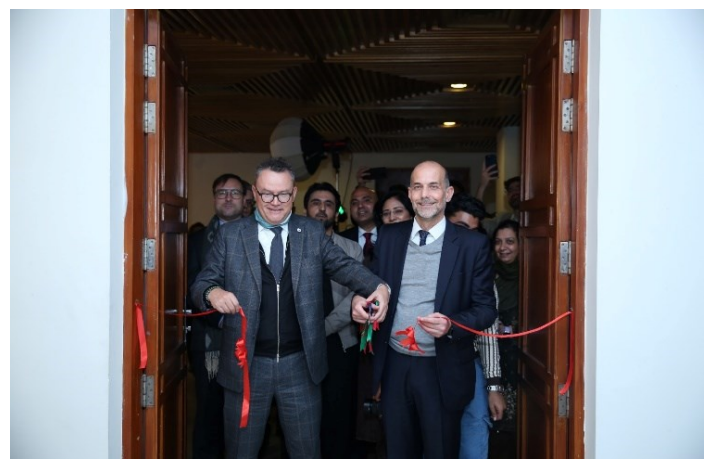
*Ambassador Georg Steiner's Group Photo with the scientists from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), NUST, NDMA and the University of Peshawar.*



*Professor Dr. Katrin Beyer, speaking at the Hybrid Event on Earthquake Engineering at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland.*

## **The Embassy of Switzerland & ICRC Jointly Hosts Exhibition "Dialogues on Humanity"**

The Embassy of Switzerland, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), hosted an exhibition titled "Dialogues on Humanity" on December 4, 2025, at Gallery 6 of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. This exhibition not only showcased the creative works of various artists but also facilitated meaningful conversations among participants. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in the "Dialogues on Humanity" through reflective encounters. The exhibition continued to run until the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, attracting large number of viewers to PNCA.



*Ambassador Georg Steiner and the Head of Delegation of ICRC, Mr. Christoph Sutter, inaugurating the exhibition "Dialogues on Humanity" at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.*





*The participants enjoying the exhibition at PNCA.*



*Ambassador Georg Steiner addressing the audience at the exhibition.*

### **Screening of Documentary “The Meltdown of Glaciers – Switzerland and Pakistan”**

The Embassy of Switzerland, in partnership with the Adventure Club-Pakistan and Explore n Exped, facilitated a documentary “The Meltdown of Glaciers - Switzerland & Pakistan” at the Swiss Ambassador’s Residence to highlight shared challenges and scientific insight related to climate change. The film was screened on December 11, 2025, on International Mountain Day at the Swiss Ambassador’s Residence. The documentary highlights how experts in Switzerland and Pakistan view the challenges posed by climate change and glacier melts, and why addressing them is essential for protecting vulnerable communities and building a better future.



*Ambassador Georg Steiner addressing the audience on International Mountain Day before the documentary screening at his residence.*



*Group Photo with distinguished guests .*

# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Defense Section

### 30 Years of GCSP: An Evening of Dialogue in Islamabad

On 6 November 2025, Colonel (GS) Sandro Mollet, Defence Attaché of Switzerland to Pakistan, hosted the Global Alumni Networking Night (GANN) of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) at his residence in Islamabad.

Around twenty alumni came together to celebrate thirty years of the GCSP and to renew the spirit of exchange within its alumni community.

The evening was dedicated to dialogue, engagement, and culinary diversity. The event also introduced «30 Recipes for Peace», a book created with GCSP alumni dedicated to peace and dialogue around the world. This special edition commemorates three decades of dialogue, collaboration and bridge-building in all parts of the world. Produced in collaboration with the chefs of the École Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL, the Hospitality School Lausanne), the book combines culinary expertise with cultural exchange, symbolizing a shared table where diversity is seen as enrichment.

The host, Colonel (GS) Sandro Mollet, contributed to the publication with a touch of Swiss tradition: Zürcher Geschnetzeltes with Rösti (veal chops Zurich style and hash browns). In the spirit of the occasion, the dish was served with other delicacies and warmly enjoyed by the guests.

The vivid conversations were complemented by the screening of a video message from Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Director of the GCSP, and Isabelle Gillet, Head of Alumni & Community Engagement. The message captured the GCSP's spirit of trust, exchange, and lifelong learning, and was followed with interest by the guests.

The ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake marked the symbolic highlight of the evening, as participants continued their conversations in a warm and open atmosphere – reflecting the GCSP's three decades of fostering global connection.



*Global Alumni Networking Night (GANN) in Islamabad.*



*A symbolic moment of togetherness: the cutting of the anniversary cake.*



*One table, one dialogue – living the GCSP spirit.*





*GCSP alumni listening to the video message from Ambassador Thomas Greminger and Ms. Isabelle Gillet.*



*Colonel (GS) Sandro Mollet ended the evening by gifting guests' Swiss chocolate.*

**Thank you for taking the time to read the Embassy's newsletter!**

**We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas — your feedback is very much appreciated.**

**Please share your comments and suggestions at  
[islamabad@eda.admin.ch](mailto:islamabad@eda.admin.ch) !**