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Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines

Consular Infoletter

of the Swiss Embassy in Manila

Nr. 1, December 2018



Dear Swiss Citizens,

It is a pleasure to send you herewith the first consular infoletter of this Embassy.

In this first edition, we would like to familiarize you with the Swiss Abroad Act, as well as the Swiss Nationality Law. Even though you already possess the Swiss citizenship, this information may still be useful to you, and you can even pass on your acquired knowledge to your Filipino family members or Filipino friends and acquaintances with a close link to Switzerland.

We will also certainly use this infoletter to report about our consular consultations outside Manila and to promote the Swiss Club in Manila.

In this edition you will find a list of websites, which could be interesting for you, as a Swiss living abroad and also recipes of two Swiss delicacies.

We would like you to pay special attention to the section “Important Addresses in Case of an Emergency” at the end of the infoletter. This section was placed intentionally at the end, as we advise you to print out the page and store it so that you can retrieve this page quickly with all the telephone numbers and recommendations.

We thank you for your interest, we wish you a good start into the year 2019 and look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Swiss Abroad Act

The Swiss Abroad Act governs the rights and obligations of Swiss nationals who live and travel abroad.

Personal responsibility

The Confederation's expectation is that each and every individual will assume personal responsibility when planning and undertaking a period abroad or pursuing an activity abroad, act in a risk-appropriate manner, and try to overcome any difficulties on his or her own.

Obligation to register

According to the Swiss Abroad Act, Swiss citizens who are not domiciled in Switzerland must register with a representation abroad (Embassy, Consulate General). Their data are entered in the Register of the Swiss Abroad, subsequently simplifying the provision of consular services including consular protection.

Swiss citizens who leave Switzerland must register with a Swiss representation within 90 days of deregistering from their Swiss municipality of residence.

Registration with a Swiss representation

According to the Swiss Abroad Act, anyone who is registered with a given representation and listed in the Register of the Swiss Abroad is regarded as a Swiss national living abroad. In order for individuals to exercise political rights, they must be included in the Register of Swiss Abroad.

Exercising political rights

Swiss citizens who have reached the age of 18 and are of legal age enjoy political rights regardless of whether they are domiciled in a Swiss municipality or abroad.

Swiss nationals living abroad with voting rights can register, deregister and reregister at any time for the purpose of exercising their political rights.

Social welfare

Under the terms of the Swiss Abroad Act, Swiss nationals living abroad who are in need can apply for social welfare even if they live abroad. Where an application is approved, the Confederation will provide welfare benefits or help the individual in need to return to Switzerland.

Swiss nationals are deemed to be in need if they can no longer support themselves through their own means and resources or through financial assistance from private sources or their country of residence.

Consular protection

The Swiss Abroad Act governs consular protection for Swiss nationals abroad who require emergency assistance or are situated in a crisis or disaster area.

However, there is no legal entitlement to consular protection. Cases are always assessed on an individual basis.

Internet link:

<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20133127/index.html#>

Swiss Nationality Law

Swiss citizenship is the status of being a citizen of Switzerland and it can be obtained by birth or naturalization.

Swiss nationals are citizens of their municipality of origin, their canton of origin, and the Confederation, in that order: a Swiss citizen is defined as someone who has the bourgeoisie of a Swiss municipality. They are entered in the family register of their place of origin. The manner by which a Swiss citizen acquires their place of origin differs depending on whether they acquired Swiss citizenship by filiation, ordinary naturalization, or facilitated naturalization.

Acquisition by filiation

A child is Swiss by birth if they are a child of a married couple of whom at least one parent is Swiss or they are a child of a Swiss mother not married to the child's father. A child of a Swiss father not married to the mother is considered Swiss by birth when a link of paternity is declared. A child adopted by a Swiss parent acquires Swiss nationality and the place of origin of the Swiss parent.

Acquisition by naturalization

Ordinary naturalization

Ordinary naturalization in Switzerland is a cantonal competency but regulated by federal legislation. The federal nationality law imposed to formal conditions which an applicant for naturalization must satisfy:

- Be a permanent resident.
- Ten years of lawful residence in Switzerland including three of the five years immediately preceding the application. The applicant can keep the first nationality. Dual or multiple citizenships are since 1992 possible in Switzerland.

In addition to the formal conditions, the federal nationality law also imposed material conditions which an applicant for naturalization must meet:

The applicant must be well integrated; must be familiar with the life in Switzerland; must not endanger Switzerland's interior or exterior security; must show respect for public order and security; must respect the values of the federal constitution; must be able to communicate in a national language.

Simplified naturalization

The decision to grant facilitated naturalization is in the sole responsibility of State Secretariat of Migration SEM.

The facilitated naturalization particularly benefits foreign spouses of Swiss nationals and children of a Swiss parent who do not yet hold Swiss nationality.

Foreign spouses of Swiss nationals who have lived in Switzerland for a year may apply for facilitated naturalization after three years of marriage, provided they have lived in Switzerland for a total of five years. People who have close ties with Switzerland may apply for facilitated naturalization even if they are resident abroad. In such cases, however, they must have been married to a Swiss spouse for at least six years.

Beside six years of marriage to a Swiss citizen, the applicant must have close ties to Switzerland, i.e. travelling regularly to Switzerland; must be able to communicate in a Swiss national language, being an active member of a Swiss club abroad etc.

You will find all the detailed information, also about the simplified naturalization for third generation's immigrants, in the following link of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM.

Internet Link:

<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/buergerrecht/faq.html>



Consular Consultations

In the past twelve months, the Swiss Embassy in Manila organized two consular consultations followed by an aperitif and dinner in cities outside Manila, where there are large Swiss communities. The first was held in Angeles City in mid-April 2018 and the second in Iloilo City in mid-October 2018. There was great interest among the local Swiss residents in both cities, and the opportunity was used to know one another better and to establish contacts.



Swiss Club

The Swiss Club organizes social events, where Swiss traditional values are fostered and passed on. These events give its members the opportunity to get to know other Swiss nationals and ensure that the homeland will not be forgotten.

The National Day Celebration on the 1st of August is by tradition the biggest event of the Club. In the last celebration, the Swiss Embassy was able to contribute to the success of the event by providing an entertaining contribution with the performance of «East meets West – Brugge baue».



If you are not yet a member of the club and are interested in membership, we encourage you to join the Swiss Club. You can apply for membership at the link below:

Internet Link:

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



Recipes for a Berner Zopf (Bernese braided bread) and for a Käserösti (Cheese-flavored grated potato pancake)



Ingredients for a Berner Zopf

- 1 kg flour
- 1 ½ tbsp salt
- 42 g yeast, crumbled
- approx. 550 ml full cream milk, lukewarm
- 150 g melted butter, cooled down
- 1 egg yolk with 1 tbsp full cream, stirred
- Baking paper for the oven

Preparation

1. Mix flour and salt, form a well in the middle. Dissolve the yeast in a little bit of milk, then pour into the well together with the rest of the milk and butter. Knead into a smooth dough. Cover and let rise at room temperature until the dough has doubled in volume.
2. Cut the dough in half, form two strands and twist into a braid. Put on a tray covered with baking paper, let rise again for 15 minutes. Brush with egg yolk.
3. Bake in the lower part of the preheated oven at 200°C for 45-55 minutes.

Ingredients for a Käserösti good for 4 people

- Cooking butter
- 800 g boiled potatoes*, peeled and grated
- 1 tsp salt
- 20 g butter, in flakes
- 100 g Raclette or fried cheese, grated

Preparation

1. Heat the cooking butter in the frying pan and add the potatoes, sprinkle with salt. Fry gently at medium heat while turning it from time to time until golden brown, form into a cake. Spread the butter along the side of the pan and fry again for some minutes over very low heat. Turn the cake over using the lid of the pan and let it slide back into the freshly-buttered pan.
2. Spread cheese over the Rösti, cover and continue to fry for another 5 minutes until cheese has melted.

*Preparation of boiled potatoes for a perfect Rösti

1. Boil water in a large pan.
2. Add preferably same-sized, washed but unpeeled potatoes in the boiling water.
3. Cook potatoes with enough boiling water to cover them over medium heat for approx. 25 minutes until soft (if potatoes are big, cooking time will be stretched up to 50 minutes).
4. How to see if the potatoes are done: Stick a sharp knife into the middle of the biggest potato. If soft (no resistance can be felt) then all the potatoes are cooked.

En Quete!!

The online presence of the Swiss Embassy and additional useful links

In the first link below, you will be taken to a wide selection on the website of the Swiss Embassy. For example, if you open the tab “Services”, you will find all the services offered by this representation in alphabetical order. Click on your desired service and you will be directed to your desired topic and find there the corresponding checklists and/or forms, along with many useful information.

The second link brings you to the Facebook page of this Embassy with daily posts related to Switzerland and has almost 65'000 followers. New followers are very much welcome.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/philippines/en/home/representations/embassy.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyManila>

LIVING AND WORKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

A guidebook on residence in the Philippines.

https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/de/documents/publications/AuslandschweizerinnenundAuslandschweizer/dossier-auswandern/leben-und-arbeiten-philippinen_DE.pdf

ONLINE DESK FOR SWISS ABROAD

With the online desk you have the possibility to access consular services, such as registering in the Swiss Abroad Register, notifications of changes of civil status, changes of address.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/services-and-publications/dienstleistungen-schweizer-ausland/online-schalter.html>

SwissID

The SwissID provides the legal and technical prerequisites for electronic business transactions.

<https://www.swissid.ch>

SWISS LIVING ABROAD

This link directs you to a website, which is custom-tailored for you as a Swiss living abroad.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/living-abroad/fifth-switzerland.html>

THE SWISS ABROAD ACT IN DETAIL

Here you can study the complete law in detail.

<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20133127/index.html>

ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD (OSA)

You are the target client of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. The website gives you a wide range of information and also gladly provides answers to your inquiries.

<https://www.aso.ch/en>

SwissCommunity

SwissCommunity is a free and qualitative online platform, which is aimed at the Swiss all over the world.

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/homepage>

CH.CH

Here you will find all useful and official information about the Swiss administration and the federal, cantonal and municipal authorities.

<https://www.ch.ch/en/>

EDUCATIONSUISSE

This website provides detailed information about educational matters in connection with Switzerland.

<https://www.educationsuisse.ch/en/home-en>

THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD (FYSA)

The FYSA helps Swiss children living abroad to spend their holidays in their home country.

<https://sjas.ch/en/>

SWISSINFO

Swiss news in 10 languages.

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng>

SCHWEIZER RADIO UND FERNSEHEN (SWISS RADIO AND TELEVISION)

Check out the collection of audios, videos, news and programs of the Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (SRF).

<http://www.srf.ch/>

ZEITUNGEN.CH

Here you will find an overview of all German-language newspapers and magazines.

<http://www.zeitung.ch/>

PHILIPPINE SWISS BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Philippine Swiss Business Council serves as a bridge between Switzerland and the Philippines

<http://www.philippineswissbusiness.com/about-philippine-swiss-business-council/>



Important Addresses in Case of an Emergency

We advise you to print out this page, click on the internet links provided and print out as well the sites relevant to you.

HELPLINE EDA

If you find yourself in an emergency where you are in need of the assistance of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), you may reach the **HELPLINE of the FDFA** anytime at the following number:

0041 800 24 7 365 or **0041 58 465 33 33**

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/de/home/das-eda/organisation-deseda/direktionen-und-abteilungen/konsularische-direktion/zentrum-fuer-buergerservice/helpline-eda.html>

Itineris

You and your family members have the possibility of recording data of your tourist, visit and business trips abroad on this portal.

<https://www.itineris.eda.admin.ch/home>

Travel Advisory of the FDFA for the Philippines

The travel advisory of the FDFA offers information about the security situation in the Philippines. The information is up-to-date and applies not only to travelers, but also for the Swiss who are living in the Philippines.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/de/home/laender-reise-information/philippinen/reisehinweise-philippinen.html>

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National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC)

We recommend that you gather the contact details of the local representative of the NDRRMC in your place of residence and note them on this list.

Telephone number of NDRRMC:

Emergency numbers

We recommend that you note here the most important local emergency numbers.

Police	117 or	Doctor
Ambulance	16911 or	Hospital 1
Fire station	Hospital 2

