



Contents

Politics

Development Cooperation

Business & Economy

Culture & Education

VISA & Consular Section

Varia

Facts & Figures

Dear compatriots and friends,

What a year so far for all of us, as we have been overwhelmed in the past few weeks with news regarding the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. The pandemic has a huge impact on all countries around the world. In Switzerland, we have seen the start of programs for going back to "normal life" and in Ghana a temporary lockdown has been lifted. During these difficult times, the teams of the Embassy in Accra, the Consulate in Lomé and the Cooperation Office in Cotonou did, and continue to do their best to remain operational, provide services and assist our stranded tourists and compatriots living in Ghana, Togo and Benin. A special highlight for my colleagues was certainly the successful handling of the repatriation flight from Accra to Zurich in April with which the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) concluded its biggest rescue action ever.

I invite you, without giving in to panic, to take all the necessary precautionary measures, respect the common "social distancing" rules and look after your health and that of your loved ones in these special times. Please consult and follow the recommendations published by the Ghanaian Government, the Federal Office of Public Health and the WHO.

Switzerland's bilateral relationship with Ghana is traditionally very strong and a more and more diversified one. With the historic state visit of the President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to Switzerland at the end of February, our solid bonds of friendship and mutual support were further strengthened.

We would like to inform you about these and many other developments in various fields of our cooperation, with this new edition of our Newsletter. To stay up to date with our activities, you are also invited to follow us on www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra/ and on our [website](#).

If you have questions or concerns, you can reach us via the FDFA helpline (Tel. +41 800 24-7-365 / +41 58 465 33 33, helpline@eda.admin.ch) or the mail box of the Embassy (accra@eda.admin.ch).

Philipp Stalder

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

Chers compatriotes et amis,

Quelle année jusqu'ici pour nous tous, ayant été accablés ces dernières semaines avec les nouvelles sur l'épidémie du Coronavirus (Covid-19). Cette pandémie a impacté tous les pays du monde entier. En Suisse, des programmes sont mis en place pour un retour à « une vie normale » et au Ghana le gouvernement vient de lever le confinement provisoire. En ces temps difficiles, l'équipe de l'Ambassade à Accra, du Consulat à Lomé et du bureau de la Coopération à Cotonou ont mis, et continuent de mettre tout en oeuvre pour rester opérationnels, assurer les services et aider les touristes en détresse ainsi que nos compatriotes résident au Ghana, au Togo, et au Bénin. Un hommage mérité à mes collègues pour la gestion réussie du vol de rapatriement de Accra à Zurich en avril dernier, opération mettant ainsi un terme à la plus grande action de sauvetage jamais entreprise par le DFAE.

Je vous invite toutes et tous, sans céder à la panique, à respecter les mesures barrières et les règles de distanciation et à prendre bien soin de vous et de tous ceux qui vous sont chers en ces moments particuliers. Je vous invite à consulter et à suivre les recommandations publiées par vos gouvernements respectifs, par l'Office Fédéral de la Santé Publique, ainsi que par l'OMS.

Les relations bilatérales entre la Suisse et le Ghana ont de tous temps été très solides et se sont de plus en plus diversifiées. Ainsi, suite à la visite d'Etat historique en Suisse du Président de la République du Ghana, S.E. Monsieur Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, à la fin du mois de février, nos liens d'amitié et de soutien mutuel ont été renforcés. Nous tenons à vous informer de nos activités et de leurs développements dans divers secteurs de coopération à travers la nouvelle édition de notre Newsletter. Pour garder une vue d'ensemble, vous pouvez nous suivre sur www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra/ et sur notre [site web](#). Si vous avez des questions ou préoccupations, vous pouvez nous joindre sur la helpline du DFAE (Tel. [+41 800 24-7-365](tel:+41800247365) / [+41 58 465 33 33](tel:+41584653333), helpline@eda.admin.ch) ou sur la boîte mail de l'Ambassade (accra@eda.admin.ch).

Philipp Stalder

Ambassadeur de Suisse auprès de la République du Ghana, du Bénin, et du Togo

Politics

Anniversary of diplomatic relations



Our official 60th Anniversary logo created by Presence Switzerland (PRS)

This year, the Swiss Embassy in Ghana celebrates its 60th anniversary this year of the existence of an Embassy located in North Ridge/Accra.

Switzerland recognized the Republic of Ghana on 6 March 1957. Already in 1938, Switzerland had established its Consulate in Ghana, which was upgraded to a Consulate general in 1957. In 1960, indeed 60 years ago, the Consulate general became a full-fledged Swiss Embassy. Today, our Embassy is one out of 11 Embassies Switzerland

maintains in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Swiss Embassy in Accra is responsible for the diplomatic and consular affairs in Ghana, Togo und Benin.

What are the relevant facts & figures about the broad presence and the engagement Switzerland has in and with Ghana since two centuries? This newly created [factsheet on Swiss-Ghanaian relations of the Embassy](#) hopefully answers all your questions.

Historic state visit to Switzerland



President Sommaruga and other officials receiving the Ghanaian delegation

On February 28 and 29, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councilor Simonetta Sommaruga

hosted her Ghanaian counterpart, President Nana Dankwa Akufo-Addo for a two-day state visit. It was the first state visit of a Sub-Saharan African leader in more than sixty years.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Foreign Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation on environmental matters. The goal is a future bilateral agreement on cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Climate Agreement and Switzerland highly values this pioneering partnership with Ghana. Given that Ghana is Switzerland's largest supplier of cocoa beans, the programme of the state visit could not end without a visit to a chocolate factory where President Akufo-Addo and his delegation could familiarize with the state-of-the-art production facility of Chocolats Halba in Pratteln/BL.

Embassy engages the press

A few days ahead of the historic state visit of President Akufo-Addo, the Embassy held a breakfast meeting to engage with the media. The encounter was meant to provide an overview of the status of bilateral relations and the planned activities of the Embassy for the year 2020. Numerous representatives of the press attended our event and as a result more than 20 articles were published and aired through TV & radio stations, print media and online platforms. Of course, the state visit of the Ghanaian President raised a particular interest among media outlets. After the visit the Embassy also placed an [Op-Ed at B&FT](#).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zLBBz95B2c>
- <https://www.pulse.com.gh/news/local/president-akufo-addo-to-pay-a-historic-state-visit-to-switzerland/jz5vtv7>
- <https://ghananewsagency.org/politics/president-akufo-addo-set-for-historic-state-visit-to-switzerland--164572>



Ambassador Philipp Stalder (middle) interacting with some media personnel

Switzerland and Ghana committed to deepen cooperation on climate change

During the state visit of President Nana-Addo, both countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation on climate change in the framework of the Paris agreement on climate change. The bilateral cooperation specifically relates to the financing of CO2 mitigation projects in Ghana and the bilateral trade in CO2 emission reduction outcomes.

A series of meetings at the technical levels between Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Switzerland's Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) had taken place since 2019. The negotiations should pave the way for a formal agreement. Ghana is among the first cohort of countries with which Switzerland intends to strengthen its bilateral cooperation on climate change in order to meet its own climate reduction targets. We are confident that the COVID-19 situation should not hold back on such an important and innovative field of collaboration.



Signing of MoU by Ghanaian and Swiss government representatives

President Akufo Addo attends World Economic Forum in Davos



President Akufo-Addo at the WEF. © Government of Ghana

President Akufo-Addo joined other world leaders, front runners of international civil service, and captains of multinational companies at this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. The president made a strong case for Ghana as a desired business destination, while touting the country's positive economic indicators. His entourage included Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investments Promotion Center (GIPC), R. Yofi Grant.

The [World Economic Forum](#) Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters is the foremost creative force for engaging the world's top leaders in collaborative activities to shape the global, regional and industry agendas at the beginning of each year.

Development Cooperation

Switzerland steps up aid in the global fight against COVID-19



Swiss humanitarian aid © Keystone/Legnan Koula/Swissinfo.ch

Switzerland is committed to global solidarity in the fight against COVID-19 and has stepped up its aid on many fronts. The Swiss government dispatched relief supplies to several countries in Europe, Africa and Asia.

It pledged CHF 18 million and plans to commit another CHF 400 million for international organizations to combat the COVID-19 and its negative effects internationally, supporting health systems in affected countries

and providing humanitarian aid. This includes contributions to the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the World Bank and the Global Fund.

In Ghana, a priority country for the economic development cooperation of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), ongoing programs are being adjusted to support the government's efforts to combat COVID-19. For instance, SECO decided to adjust its decentralized budget support to support preventive and mitigation activities at the district level. The medium-term social and economic consequences of the crisis will also be factored into the planning for the new four-year cooperation program for 2021 to 2024. Read more about Switzerland's Covid response in Ghana in the [factsheet on Swiss-Ghanaian relations of the Embassy](#).

Representatives of SECO meet COCOBOD



Field tour of a cocoa farm

On January 20, representatives of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) met with the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) under the umbrella of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SPSC), in order to continue the dialogue on evolving sustainability issues in the cocoa sector and possible solutions. In the center of attention were the four projects, which are financed and implemented under the Platform jointly with

Barry Callebaut, Chocolats Halba, Lindt and Nestlé. The discussions involved topics such as agroforestry, child labor, service delivery to small holder farmers and innovative planting approaches.

The meeting was organized during the visit of Mr. Christian Robin who is SECO's focal point for cocoa and Deputy Head of Trade Promotion Division. During a field visit, he was also able to witness the advancing of the mentioned programs. The SPSC brings together the Swiss chocolate industry, research and civil society with the commitment to source 80 % sustainable cocoa until 2025. SPSC also supported a new study on the effects of income changes amongst small holder cocoa farmers and child labour. [Read more about the study.](#)

Swiss Recycling Industries project & launch of the World Resources Forum (WRF)



Press conference during the launch of the WRF 2020

On March 3, Ambassador Philipp Stalder opened the Swiss Residence to host the launch of the second phase of the Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) program, which is to address e-waste issues in Ghana. The launch took place in the presence of Ghana's Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng and many other prominent experts on this issue.

At the same event, the audience and invited representatives of the press witnessed the announcement of the [World Resources Forum](#). The

introduction was made by the president of the WRF association, Mr. Bruno Oberle who is the former Director of the Federal Office for the Environment (FNOE). WRF conferences are held every second year in Geneva and WRF 2020 should have taken place in Accra this June but due to COVID-19 the conference has been postponed to June 2021.

- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/2nd-phase-of-swiss-funded-waste-management-project-launched.html>
- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Electronic-waste-management-project-outdoored-887275>
- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/2020-World-Resources-Forum-launched-in-Accra-886465>

Switzerland launches a new phase of support to Ghana's pension sector



© msd consulting - Urs Heierli

Switzerland through SECO committed an additional amount of CHF 1.8 million to continue the support to the National Pensions Regulatory Authority of Ghana (NPRA) for a second phase. The aim is to establish a well-functioning supervisory authority and thus to enhance NPRA's governance, management and oversight capacity. The project is planned to run until 2022.

As part of the inception phase, two project missions involving exchanges with NPRA leadership and heads of divisions, pension market stakeholders and academics took place. Furthermore, an inaugural project steering committee meeting kick started the implementation processes. Due to COVID-19 and in respect of social distancing rules, the steering committee took place virtually on March 12.

Swiss support to the AfCFTA secretariat in Accra



Launch of the AfCFTA

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was created by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 54 African nations. It will become the largest in the world in terms of the number of participating countries. It aims at accelerating intra-African trade and boosting Africa's trading position in the global market by strengthening Africa's common voice. In 2019, Ghana was selected to host the AfCFTA secretariat in its capital. On the request of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Switzerland will be supporting Ghana with a comparative analysis of the national intellectual property policy frameworks and institutional support infrastructure of several other African countries. The support is part of the Swiss Ghana Intellectual Property Right project, which aims at supporting the set-up of an appropriate IP environment in Ghana.

Protection for African Migrants Working in the Middle East



©Leila Alaoui/ILO

A new inter-regional initiative from Switzerland, the FAIRWAY programme, aims at better protecting women and men from African countries who are working in the Arab States. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the FAIRWAY programme addresses underlying causes of decent work deficits faced by migrant workers through national-level interventions in selected countries in East, West and North Africa, in addition to complementary activities in the Arab States. Ghana is included into the sub-regional component of the FAIRWAY programme. The FAIRWAY programme will foster a more collaborative and equitable approach to agenda setting between origin and destination countries by supporting inter-regional dialogue between Africa and Arab States in specific policy areas, including on fair recruitment, skills development and matching, bilateral labour agreements as well as domestic work. For more information please see SDC's [press release](#).

Business & ECONOMY

Swiss Ambassador interacts with Swiss business community



Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation, Mr. Matthias Feldmann (2nd right), introducing results of the business survey

On February 19, Ambassador Philipp Stalder invited representatives from the Swiss business community for another Swiss Business Lunch. During the networking event, our guest speaker, Mr. Franklin Cudjoe from the well-

known policy think tank IMANI, shared his views on the economic and political priorities in Ghana in 2020 in light of the upcoming presidential and general elections.

Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Matthias Feldmann, also shared results of the business survey the Swiss Embassy conducted at the end of 2019. The survey focused on the nature of Swiss companies in Ghana, the quality of service delivery of the Embassy and an assessment of Ghana's economic climate. More than half of the approached enterprises responded to the survey.

The results will help the Embassy to better understand the landscape of Swiss businesses in Ghana, tailor its services to their specific needs and getting first-hand intelligence on how Swiss companies perceive the business environment and future opportunities.

Switzerland rolls out large economic support package for domestic economy



Quick and unbureaucratic support © SNB

In a bid to manage the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Swiss government has implemented exceptional measures to support the domestic economy. The measures are intended to maintain employment, safeguard wages, support the self-employed and prevent insolvencies due to liquidity bottlenecks. Among the measures are the establishment of credit facilities for SMEs to bridge liquidity shortfalls. Credits are largely guaranteed by the Swiss government and will be provided with as little bureaucracy as possible.

Swiss business community support Ghana's fight against Covid-19



Representatives of the Rebecca Foundation receive a donation from Nestlé Ghana.

As the fight against Covid-19 continues, numerous organizations have come up to support the efforts of the government of Ghana to limit the spread of the virus.

Several Swiss companies in Ghana have contributed, too. For instance, HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd donated protective gear, infrared thermometers, information brochures and funds for an isolation and management center to the Upper West Akim District and the Nsawam Government Hospital. ECOM West Africa, supported cocoa farmers with 1.2 million bottles of liquid soap which was donated to the Ghana Cocoa Board. Also Barry Callebaut presented relief supplies including assorted food items to the Kpone Katamanso and Ashaiman Municipal Assemblies. Nestlé Ghana in partnership with the Ghana Red Cross Society reached out to 50,000 families in Accra and Kumasi with livelihood packages worth GHC 1,270,000. Nestlé also donated USD 64,000 to the Red Cross Society for the purchase of equipment for a hospital isolation center, and for the provision of hand washing facilities in selected public places. In response to the Relief Boxes Challenge, Nestlé donated beverage products to the Rebecca Foundation.

First Sustainability Week in Africa



Two organisers of the first Sustainability Week in Africa.

On 2nd March 2020, the first [Sustainability Week Accra \(SWA\)](#) took place at the University of Ghana. Jeffrey, Kweku, Nii Noi and Nabeela, together with the support of many helpers and the Swiss Embassy in Accra organised a week full of activities, such as panel discussions, a cloth swap, workshops, an aerobics, music and poetry slam, tree planting and a party to create awareness amongst fellow students on how to achieve the UN-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their everyday life.

The idea of student-run sustainability weeks was born at the ETH Zurich. From there, the concept of the action week spread out to universities around the world. The Sustainability Week Accra was the first of its kind in Africa.

Glimpses from the start-up landscape in Ghana



The start-up landscape in Africa has gained national and international attention over the years. “Start-ups develop their business out of local needs. They work in vibrant environments and are always catching up with the latest trends”, says Maurice Caschinco, CEO of KumasiHive, one of Ghana’s largest innovation hubs that supports local small-scale manufacturers to set up businesses.

Like KumasiHive, another 618 innovation hubs across Africa prepare the ground for new ideas and help starting entrepreneurs to center their business ideas. 202 of these hubs from 43 countries have joined [Afrilabs](#), Africa’s largest network for strengthening hub visibility and impact at all levels. The University of Basel and Afrilabs are co-organizing an entrepreneurs’ workshop each year at one of its hubs. [African and Swiss entrepreneurs](#) get together for a joint three days of pitching and business learning. The next workshop for Swiss and African entrepreneurs is planned for [October 2020 in Morocco](#), the deadline for application is June 28th, 2020

Culture & Education

El Anatsui exhibition at Kunstmuseum



Presidents Akufo-Addo and Sommaruga, viewing the artwork at Kunstmuseum Bern

Artwork by celebrated Ghanaian artist El Anatsui is exhibiting at the [Kunstmuseum Bern](#) since 13 March 2020.

Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga and her Ghanaian counterpart, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, had the pleasure to preview the artwork during the latter's state visit.

El Anatsui is arguably Africa's most renowned contemporary artist and famous for his large sculptures of recycled screw-tops that decorate whole walls like magnificent tapestries.

Two Ghanaians secure Swiss scholarships



The library of the University of Basel © University of Basel/Andri Pol

Two applicants from Ghana were qualified for the Swiss Federal Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Researchers 2020/2021. They will begin their PhD studies at the University of Basel. The Embassy congratulates both of them warmly and wishes them all the best on their academic journey.

The [Federal Scholarships of Excellence](#) are awarded each year to outstanding applicants from all over the world. Since the first award of these fellowships in 1960, a total of 22 Ghanaian researchers have been awarded them

Excellence in Africa : A successful first call for proposals



Ghana ranks amongst the top 5 applicants

Excellence in Africa (EXAF) is a joint initiative launched by UM6P (Mohammed VI Polytechnic University - Morocco) and EPFL in Lausanne and intended to foster excellent scientific research throughout the African continent. The first pillar of this initiative, the "Junior Faculty Development Program", is designed to pair up junior professors at African academic institutions and EPFL professors.

A first call for proposals was launched on 31st January 2020. The call proved to be a great success. More than 180 professors based in Africa submitted an application. Ghana is in the programme's top 5 countries with the highest number of applications. "Tis is great news", said Jerome Chenal, the Academic head of EXAF, "This large number of applications suggests that our innovative approach is timely, and it was welcomed by the scientific community in Africa". [Read more about the initiative.](#)

VISA & Consular Section

Switzerland's biggest repatriation action ends in Ghana, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso



Consul Jacqueline Graf Rodriguez coordinating the repatriation of stranded tourists

A total of 40 stranded tourists and members of the Swiss community in Ghana were repatriated with a special flight, organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Swiss Embassy in Accra. The repatriation flight from Accra to Zurich was carried out by Helvetic Airways on 29th April 2020.

The flight to Zurich [concluded the biggest repatriation action ever organised by Switzerland](#). More than 7'200 stranded Swiss citizens and residents all over the world were flown back home amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw many borders closed and travel routes suspended. In an [interview with the Swiss newspaper "St. Galler Tagblatt"](#), Ambassador Philipp Stalder shared impressions and experiences on how the Embassy in Accra assisted the stranded passengers.

Temporary suspension of consular services



Entrance of the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Civil Status Offices in Switzerland have temporarily put on hold the treatment of some civil status cases coming from abroad. In cases of an emergency regarding a civil status matter, please contact the Embassy by email on accra@eda.admin.ch.

For visa matters: In emergency situations, applications for taking up residency or visit of closest family members (spouse/children/parents only) in Switzerland can be accepted at the Embassy under some circumstances. Please, contact the Embassy by email on accra.visa@eda.admin.ch.

[ch](#) to get more specific information. Normal Schengen visa applications can only be submitted after the 15th June 2020 (depending on government decision).

Le Consulat général de Suisse à Lomé est fermé jusqu'à nouvel avis. En cas d'urgence, vous pouvez appeler le +228 2220 50 60 ou envoyer un message électronique à lomé@honrep.ch ou accra@eda.admin.ch

The Consulat in Sao Tomé is closed until further notice. In an emergency situation you may write an e-mail to: saotomé@honrep.ch or accra@eda.admin.ch

We kindly ask all our Swiss citizens who wish to come to the Embassy for any service to please make an appointment by e-mail accra@eda.admin.ch or by phone 030 222 81 85. Many thanks for your understanding.

Nous prions nos citoyens suisses qui désirent passer à l'Ambassade pour un service de prendre rendez-vous au préalable par e-mail accra@eda.admin.ch ou par tél. 0303 222 81 85. Merci de votre compréhension.

Wir bitten unsere Schweizerbürger und -bürgerinnen, bevor sie zur Botschaft kommen, einen Termin per E-Mail accra@eda.admin.ch oder per Tel. 0303 222 81 85 zu vereinbaren. Danke für Ihr Verständnis.

NEW: Swiss Embassy in Accra provides consular services in São Tomé e Príncipe



One of the beautiful beaches in São Tomé © Reto Scherraus-Fenkart

Since 1st of January 2020, the Swiss Embassy in Accra is also responsible for the consular affairs in [São Tomé e Príncipe](#), which can be reached by direct flights from Accra. Our honorary Consul in São Tomé, is Mr. Reto Scherraus-Fenkart.

Switzerland's diplomatic relations with the island state are unalterably represented by our Embassy in Luanda.

Itineris – Plan well, travel well.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Travel with the itinerisApp
Travel Advice, Helpline and important information.
Available on iOS and Android

Plan well. Travel well.

The Embassy strongly recommends Swiss 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 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.

Retirement after 14 years



Frederick Quartey will retire at the end of June

For an unbelievable 14 years Frederick Quartey was part of the team of the Swiss Embassy in Accra. On 26 June the esteemed security guard will now go into his well-deserved retirement.

Mr Quartey told us, he is proud of his 14 successful years at the embassy. Since his first grandchild was born on the 11th of May this year, he is however very much looking forward to spending his free time with the little boy. We remember and appreciate Frederick Quartey for his cordiality and reliability and thank him warmly for his outstanding dedication and loyalty at the service of the Embassy of Switzerland in Accra.

Akwaaba to Alex Tseh



Alex Tseh started his job in March

On March 16, Alex Tseh, joined the economic section of the Swiss Embassy as the national program officer in charge of trade and private sector development. He replaces Emmanuel Awuni, who left the Swiss Embassy at the end of October 2019. In the past Alex worked with non-governmental organizations, business associations and held various posts in the private sector. He studied Earth Science at the University of Ghana and holds a graduate degree from the KNUST. The entire team of the Embassy wishes him a warm welcome

Varia

Support for digital health care solution



Sesinam Dagadu and the Ambassador of Switzerland are signing the contract for Snoo Code Red.

In Ghana it is unfortunately not uncommon for severely injured or ill persons to be rushed from one hospital to the next because of the unclear capacities of a certain hospital

at a given moment. However, in an emergency situation, every second counts. Sesinam Dagadu and his team in Accra therefore work on a technology for emergency and public health. Their project aims to enable emergency responders to determine the nearest ambulance and hospital to the scene of a case, improving the response time and thus the patient's chance of survival.

Snoo Code Red is a derivative from the digital addressing system Snoo Code, originally built to facilitate logistics and postal services. A Snoo Code is a private and unique numeric code which allows location sharing and navigation, also without an internet connection. The young company earned recognition and awards from the United Nations World Summit, Oxford University and the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Embassy decided to support the project financially

Schweizer Gasthaus "The Wooden Tower"



Botschafter Stalder mit Markus Krattiger und Renate Ullmann

Gut zwei Stunden Autofahrt nordwestlich von Kumasi entfernt, befindet sich in der Ahafo Region bei Kenyasi No 1 das Gasthaus «The Wooden Tower», das vom Thurgauer Ehepaar Markus Krattiger und Renate Ullmann geführt. Von der freundlichen Atmosphäre, den nach Schweizer Qualitätsstandards eingerichteten Gästezimmern und der exzellenten Küche konnte sich Botschafter Philipp Stalder bei seinem Besuch im Mai selber überzeugen und sich ferner einen Eindruck von der ländlich-schönen Gegend verschaffen, die für seinen Goldreichtum bekannt ist. Mit dem Hotel- und Restaurantbetrieb sowie einem Cateringservice für die Belegschaft der ortsansässigen Firmen sorgt dieses Schweizer Investment für 40 lokale Arbeitsplätze und wartet darauf, von Einheimischen und ausländischen Gästen gleichermassen entdeckt zu werden.

Swiss officers at KAIPTC recalled home



Two Swiss officers at the KAIPTC on their way back home.

Due to the current pandemic, the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre in Accra (KAIPTC) has suspended its activities until further notice. Therefore, two Swiss Officers, Maj Flavio Marek and Maj Federico Lombardi, have been recalled to Switzerland, to support the Swiss International Command in Stans and left Ghana on a repatriation flight.

However Col. Albert Ulrich remains in Accra to support the Embassy and the two other Swiss Officers will come back to Ghana, as soon as the KAIPTC has the possibility to restart their international courses.

Facts & Figures

SWITZERLAND

8.8 Mio. Einwohner
43 880 km²

Staatsbesuch am 28. + 29.2.2020 in Bern

TRADITIONSREICHE BEZIEHUNGEN
Die Schweiz anerkennt die Republik Ghana seit dem 6. März 1957, dem Tag der ghanaischen Unabhängigkeit.

WIRTSCHAFTLICHER AUSTAUSCH
Ghana ist der zweitwichtigste Handelspartner der Schweiz in Afrika – und der wichtigste Kakaolieferant.

ZIELE DES STAATSBESUCHS
Würdigung der traditionsreichen Kontakte und Ausloten des Potentials für noch engeren Austausch, u.a. im Umweltbereich.

GHANA

28.8 Mio. Einwohner
239 535 km²

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Switzerland.

THINK SWISS

In 2017, Switzerland spent over CHF 22.5 billion on research and development. Private business (esp. the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and technology sectors) and the higher education sector are the major actors.

Higher education institutions: 28%

Private sector: 69%

At 3.4% of GDP, Switzerland's spending on research and development in 2017 was among the highest in the world:

South Korea	4.6%
Israel	4.5%
Switzerland	3.4%
Sweden	3.3%
Japan	3.2%

Total OECD: 2.4%

RANKED HIGHEST

- Global Innovation Index 2019
- European Innovation Scoreboard 2019
- Most internationally registered patents (triadic families) per million inhabitants in 2016

DOCTORATES

3.2% of Swiss age cohorts obtain a doctorate, which is the second highest rate within the OECD (after Slovenia).

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), OECD educationtoday / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org

Events & Links

Das Kunstmuseum Bern zeigt in Kooperation mit dem Haus der Kunst, München eine grossangelegte [Ausstellung des ghanaischen Künstlers El Anatsui](#). El Anatsui ist wohl Afrikas prominentester Künstler der Gegenwart. Die ursprünglich bis Juni geplante Ausstellung ist im Zuge der Corona Pandemie bis zum Herbst verlängert.



The Swiss Embassy in Accra on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyAccra/



Information about Swiss Administration: www.ch.ch



Switzerland.

Discover Switzerland: www.swissworld.org



Switzerland.

Switzerland Tourism: www.MySwitzerland.com



Auslandsschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organizaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester
Alpenstrasse 20
CH-3006 Bern

Organisation of the Swiss abroad: www.aso.ch

Please regularly check our webpage and our new [Facebook](#) account for news and events:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/accra>

Embassy of Switzerland in Accra

Embassy of Switzerland

Hilla Limann Hwy /

Kenneth Kaunda Rd

North Ridge Area

Accra

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/accra>

Subscribe

Copyright © 2020 Embassy of Switzerland in Accra. All Rights Reserved.