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**Georg Steiner**  
Ambassador of Switzerland to  
Pakistan

### Dear Swiss Compatriots

I hope you are all doing fine!

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to meet many of you over the last several months. It has always been very enriching and interesting to get to know more about you and your beloved families and I am looking forward to continuing this exchange.

With this Newsletter, the Embassy would like to give you a little insight into some of its activities and provide some, hopefully, useful information. Your comments and proposals in this respect are, of course, most welcome.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to an App that offers Swiss citizens living abroad quick and convenient access to information from their Swiss representations and the authorities back home, even while on the go. It allows you to keep Switzerland in your pocket! **You can download the App from [www.swissintouch.ch](http://www.swissintouch.ch).** I very much recommend it.

In closing, I would like to underline that the whole team of the Embassy of Switzerland in Islamabad is always happy to be at your disposal and to serve you to the best of our abilities.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and let's stay in touch!

Kind regards

Georg Steiner



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Consular Section

### Important Notice!

#### Fraudulent website and false contact information for the Embassy of Switzerland on Google

In Google search results, fraudulent entities have entered false contact information of this Embassy.

Please do not contact the number given in Google search for this Embassy.

The correct phone number of the Embassy is: +92 51 209 88 00.

Furthermore, you will find the full contact details on this Embassy's [website](#).

### Swiss citizens turning 18 years of age

All Swiss citizens registered with the Consular Section in Islamabad are asked to register individually when they turn 18. To ensure that they receive the consular welcome package with important information, parents are kindly requested to keep their contact details (address, email, telephone) up to date via the [Online Desk](#).

Stay tuned to be informed on our next Young Citizens Event to be held at the Embassy soon!

### Passport and ID card applications and renewals

Please start the [application](#) process early to ensure that your documents arrive in good time before any planned travel abroad.

### Technology and IT strategy of the Swiss Government

The pandemic has shown us just how important the digital transformation is, not only for the private sector, but also for governments. The crisis has accelerated the development and introduction of new technologies to digitalize the services for our citizens as well as the workflows for the government employees.

This cultural change requires increased agility from our clients, our partners as well as our employees, who must acquire the skill set to work with the new tools. This year, three new platforms for communication and registration/archiving will be introduced at the Embassy. This will, of course, not impact our services to the Swiss community.

Some cantons are running trial runs for the online voting. The Federal Council granted the cantons of Basel-Stadt, St Gallen, Thurgau and Graubünden licenses for trials with online voting. In all these cantons you can vote online until 2025 and in Graubünden until 2026. The cantons are using Swiss Post's e-voting system with complete verifiability. More on this [website](#)



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Commercial Section

### Bilateral Economic Relations between Switzerland and Pakistan

Switzerland and Pakistan enjoy cordial trade and economic relations. For many years, by virtue of Swiss companies, Switzerland has been one of the largest foreign direct investors in Pakistan. Currently, 27 Swiss based multinational companies are operating in the country in the sectors of agriculture, food, beverages, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, textile, chemicals, energy/electricity generation and banking. 15 companies have their headquarters in Karachi while 7 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. The Embassy provides support to the Swiss firms in various ways, whenever required.

Annual bilateral trade between Switzerland and Pakistan amounts to half a billion Swiss francs approximately.

### 14<sup>th</sup> International Women Leaders' Summit

New World Concepts, a corporate marketing and management consultancy firm based in Karachi, organized the 14<sup>th</sup> International Women Leaders' Summit 2025 to discuss the importance of the role being played by the women in the corporate sector. Ambassador Georg Steiner participated in the summit as a panellist and highlighted the importance of women inclusion.



### Visit of Swiss Business Council

The Swiss Business Council (SBC), founded in 2008, unites all Swiss companies with a subsidiary in the country or otherwise active in Pakistan. It is an important partner for the Embassy in organizing events to promote Switzerland as an economic partner as well as business-2-business trips to Pakistan and Switzerland.

The affairs of the SBC are managed by an Executive Committee. Ambassador Georg Steiner, being the Patron-in-Chief of the SBC, chaired its 194<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting held in Karachi on 31 January 2025.



### Visit of Polygal Pakistan

Polygal AG is a Swiss company associated globally with processing natural hydrocolloids for industrial usages. In Pakistan, their local subsidiary Polygal Pakistan is producing adhesive gums for industrial purposes using guar as the main raw material. A delegation of the Embassy, led by Ambassador Georg Steiner, visited the manufacturing facility of Polygal Pakistan in Karachi on 31 January 2025 to witness its production process.



## Technical Demonstration Event of Katadyn Group

Katadyn Group is Switzerland's leading manufacturer of water treatment solutions for humanitarian applications. A 'technical demonstration event' of their products, "Aquifer 4000" and the "Rapidyn Water Filter", to be introduced in Pakistan, was organized at the Swiss Ambassador's residence in February 2025. Mr. Johann Wille, General Manager Asia, and Mr. Yong Zheng, Head of Operations of the Katadyn Group, joined from the regional office of the Katadyn Group in Singapore to perform a live demonstration of their products. "Aquifer 4000" is the world's only mobile desalination system capable of producing up to 20,000 litres of fresh water daily and has been deployed in various crisis situations, including Gaza. The "Rapidyn Water Filter", featuring a Swiss-made ceramic candle with unmatched flow rate and lifespan, ensures sustainability for every Household Water Treatment System (HWTS) project. It has also been selected by UNICEF's supply division as their household filtration solution of choice.



## Hitachi Energy Days in Pakistan

Hitachi Energy is a power technology company headquartered in Switzerland. Their local subsidiary in Pakistan organized the 'Hitachi Energy Days' in Lahore on February 11, 2025. The event focused on advancing a sustainable energy future for Pakistan and aimed at showcasing their highly innovative and quality products and solutions to potential customers.

A delegation of the Embassy, led by Ambassador Georg Steiner, attended and contributed to the event.



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Cultural Section

### Cultural Event at the Embassy

To celebrate International Women's Day 2025, the Swiss Embassy collaborated with the Adventure Club of Pakistan to promote women's participation, leadership, and inclusivity in sports. The event showcased young Pakistani women rock climbers and promising young athletes. During the event, Ambassador Georg Steiner expressed gratitude to Mr. Tahir Imran Khan, the founder of the Adventure Club of Pakistan, and his dedicated team for their efforts in creating sports opportunities, especially for women in the country. The Ambassador also interacted with women and young athletes, listening to their stories and accomplishments in their respective fields. Winners of the rock-climbing competition received certificates and shields in recognition of their achievements.

See more: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1897107>



### Braided Bread Recipe

Creating a beautiful Zopf takes practice. However, with this simple tutorial by Maya, you'll be able to produce the perfect loaf every time:

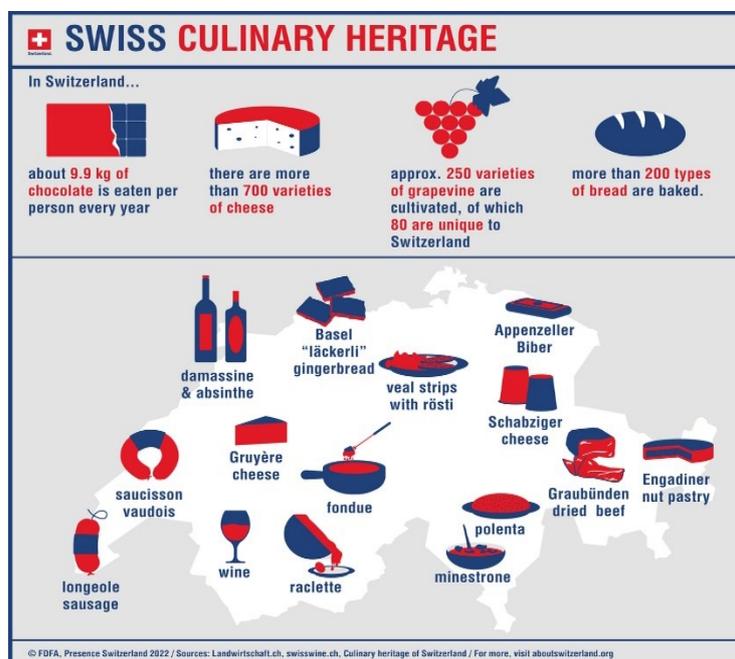
<https://www.missione1agosto.org/en/diy/braided-bread/>



### Culinary Heritage of Switzerland

Discover the diverse and delicious Swiss culinary heritage rooted in our culture and traditions.

Check out the infographic 



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## News from the Defense Section

### Aman Dialogue 2025

Since 2007, the Pakistan Navy has been organising the AMAN series of multinational naval exercises, biannually in and around Karachi. AMAN means "Peace" in Urdu and the aim of the exercises is the promotion of regional cooperation and stability, increased interoperability between various navies of the Indian Ocean Region (and beyond) and a display of united resolve against terrorism, piracy, and other crimes in the maritime domain.

From February 7-11, the AMAN exercise took place ashore and afloat, joined by ships, naval aircraft, marines, special operations forces, and explosive ordnance disposal teams from 15 countries and exercise observers from 60 countries. In parallel, on February 9 and 10, the maiden "AMAN Dialogue" was held at PNS Rahbar on Manora Island in Karachi – the Pakistan Naval Academy. Under the motto "Secure Seas – Prosperous Future", the AMAN Dialogue's purpose was to provide Chiefs of Navies and Coast Guards, academia, and other dignitaries an opportunity to exchange views on regional and global maritime security issues and create a platform for the exchange of innovative solutions to emerging maritime challenges.

While Switzerland is a landlocked country, it still has a vital interest in open sea lines of communication and unhindered maritime transport, both for the import and the export of goods. Maritime security challenges such as piracy, terrorism, smuggling, narcotics, and human trafficking, etc. affect Swiss interests too, which is why Switzerland, being represented by the Defence Attaché, was one of the observer countries attending this first AMAN Dialogue.

Panellists from all over the world, including Brazil, USA, Iran, Russia, Bangladesh, and Australia, to name but a few, applauded Pakistan's "convener power" that allowed for such a broad audience to gather in one single room. As another sign of Pakistan's commitment to international cooperation in the maritime domain, it was pointed out numerous times that Pakistan currently holds command of the so-called "Combined Task Force 151" (CTF-151). CTF-151 is the anti-piracy component of the Combined Marine Forces (CMF), a 46-nation naval partnership, based in Bahrain, with the aim of increasing security and stability in the Arab Sea, the Red Sea, and the Western Indian Ocean. CTF-151 has been invoked in 2009 and Pakistan holds command already for the 11<sup>th</sup> time now – more than any other country.



# Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

## More Information and Upcoming Events



### WHAT'S NEW?

- Mr. Laurent Cousinou has joined the Embassy as the new Deputy Head of Mission in March 2025.
- Laurent joins the Embassy from Bern, where he worked in the Financial Affairs section at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He previously worked at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bogota (Colombia).  
Welcome dear Laurent!

### Celebration of La Fête de la Francophonie

Once again, Francophonie Week will be celebrated in Pakistan with Francophone countries in April to honour diversity and inclusion. This celebration is rescheduled from March to April due to Ramadan.

In May 2025, the Embassy will join the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) to celebrate la Fête de la Francophonie, featuring competitions, performances, and a screening of the short film "La Femme et le TGV".

### Dialogue on Inter-Faith Harmony

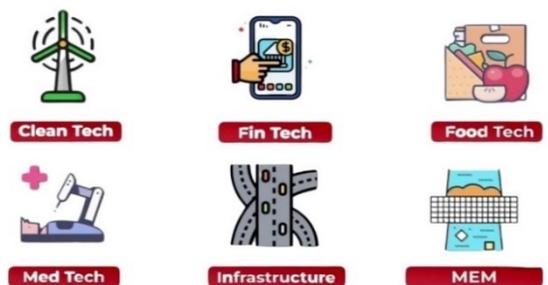
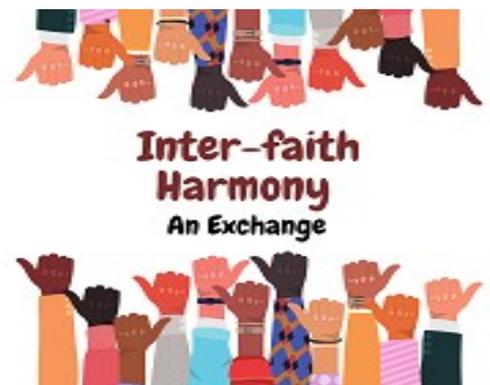
Inter-faith dialogue is a crucial aspect of understanding diverse societies like Pakistan. Keeping this in view, the Embassy of Switzerland is planning to hold a dialogue on interfaith harmony in 2025 in collaboration with various relevant stakeholders. This dialogue aims to understand and engage with all religious communities in Pakistan.

### Webinar on May 13, 2025, to showcase potential sectors in Pakistan

Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) is organizing a webinar in collaboration with the Swiss Business Council and the Embassy of Switzerland to showcase potential sectors in Pakistan for Swiss exporters. The Embassy will make a presentation on various aspects of the Economy of Pakistan at the webinar.

### Celebration of Swiss National Day 2025

The Embassy will again invite the Swiss nationals in Pakistan to celebrate Swiss National Day on August 1, 2025 at the Residence. This event is an excellent opportunity to connect, share experiences and strengthen our Swiss community. We look forward to celebrating this special day together!



## **A series of webinars about Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships**

The Embassy will conduct a series of webinars for university students in remote areas to inform them about the Swiss Government Excellence scholarships available for PhD and Postdoctoral studies.



**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) !**

**We are looking forward to meeting you at the Embassy or elsewhere in Pakistan!**