



Newsletter

Schweizerische Botschaft in Hanoi

Schweizerisches Generalkonsulat in Ho-Chi-Minh-Stadt

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Grusswort des Botschafters / Message de l'Ambassadeur / Messaggio dell'Ambasciatore / Ambassador's message



Sehr geehrte Leserinnen und Leser,
liebe Schweizerinnen und Schweizer in Vietnam,

Zu Beginn des ausgehenden Jahres, knapp zwölf Monate nach Ausbruch der Covid-Pandemie blickte ich in meinem Vorwort zum damaligen Newsletter für Vietnam verhalten hoffnungsvoll auf das angebrochene Jahr des Büffels. Die Fallzahlen lavierten in Vietnam auf rekordverdächtig tiefem Niveau, Covid-Impfdosen wurden in zunehmenden Umfang verfügbar und die Wirtschaftsleistung des Landes erwies sich als ebenso krisenresistent wie die Bevölkerung. Es sah also für Vietnam und auch das Engagement unserer Botschaft insbesondere zur Feier des Fünfzigsten Jubiläumsjahrs unserer diplomatischen Beziehungen hoffnungsvoll aus. Aber wie es bereits Mark Twain so trefflich festhielt: «Voraussagen soll man unbedingt vermeiden, besonders solche über die Zukunft. »

Nun, das auslaufende Jahr brachte viel Unerwartetes. Vorab die Covid-Pandemie mit ihren gesundheitlichen, wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Erschütterungen konfrontierte auch Vietnam mit vielfältigen Herausforderungen. Dank grossen Bemühungen der Regierung, der Wirtschaft und vor allem der Bevölkerung konnten auch mit der Unterstützung der internationalen Gemeinschaft viele Probleme überwunden werden. Klar ist, dass zahlreiche Herausforderungen weiter bestehen und Vietnam auch im kommenden Jahr fordern. Auch die Schweiz – sowohl die Regierung also auch die Schweizer Wirtschaft und zahlreiche weitere Organisationen - wie auch viele von Ihnen, liebe Leserinnen und Leser, haben sich vielfältig und oft ganz persönlich für und mit unserem Gastland engagiert. Für dieses Engagement danke ich Ihnen.

Selbst wenn sich nicht alle im Januar gemachte Voraussagen bewahrheiteten, können wir doch auf ein gelungenes Jahr zurückblicken. Als übergreifendes Thema begingen wir das 50. Jubiläum unserer diplomatischen Beziehungen, das sowohl hier in Vietnam als auch in der Schweiz gefeiert wurde. Eindeutige Höhepunkte der Serie von Aktivitäten bildeten die beiden offiziellen Besuche von Vizepräsident und Bundesrat Ignacio Cassis in Hanoi Anfang August sowie von Präsident Nguyen Xuan Phuc Ende November in der Schweiz. Zu beiden Besuchen, über die in den hiesigen Medien ausführlich berichtet wurde, finden Sie in diesem Newsletter einen kurzen Rückblick. Ein weiterer Markstein bildete der Ende November eröffnete, dem vietnamesischen Aussenministerium von der Schweiz für das neue Universitätsgebäude der «Diplomatischen Akademie Vietnams DAV» offerierte «Geneva Conference Room». Auch hierzu wie auch zu Grégoire Du Pasquier, dessen Architekturbüro G8A hier in Hanoi das Konzept für den «Geneva Conference Room» in die Praxis umsetzte, finden Sie ebenfalls einen Beitrag.

Weiter finden Sie in diesem Newsletter kurze Artikel über die von Bundesrat Cassis und Planungsminister Nguyen Chi Dung gemeinsam präsidierte Lancierung des neuen vierjährigen SECO-Länderprogramms



für Vietnam sowie diverse weitere Beiträge über die Entwicklungs- und Wirtschaftsaktivitäten der Botschaft. Und natürlich informieren wir Sie wie immer über konsularische, administrative und gesellige Neuigkeiten. Ich hoffe, dass Sie diese Beiträge informativ und interessant finden.

Da sich meine Prognosen für 2021 als wenig schlüssig erwiesen, werde ich diese für das kommende Jahr unterlassen. Auf keinen Fall versäumen möchte ich es hingegen, Ihnen allen für die Festtage und auf den Jahresbeginn 2022 hin frohe Weihnachten und im neuen Jahr viel Glück, Erfolg und ausgezeichnete Gesundheit wünschen.

Ihr Ivo Sieber

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Chères lectrices et chers lecteurs
Chères/chers compatriotes au Vietnam

Au début de l'année dernière, à peine douze mois après le début de la pandémie de Covid, je jetais un regard plein d'espoir sur l'année du Buffle qui s'annonçait dans mon avant-propos de la newsletter d'alors pour le Vietnam. Le nombre de cas au Vietnam se situait à un niveau bas record, les doses de vaccin Covid étaient de plus en plus disponibles et la performance économique du pays se révélait aussi résistante à la crise que la population. Tout semblait donc prometteur pour le Vietnam et pour l'engagement de notre ambassade, notamment à l'occasion du 50ème Anniversaire de nos relations diplomatiques. Mais comme le disait si bien Mark Twain : "Il faut absolument éviter les prédictions, surtout celles qui concernent l'avenir".

Or, l'année qui s'achève a apporté son lot d'imprévus. La pandémie de Covid, avec ses bouleversements sanitaires, économiques et sociaux, a confronté le Vietnam à de nombreux défis. Grâce aux efforts considérables du gouvernement, de l'économie et surtout de la population, de nombreux problèmes ont pu être surmontés avec le soutien de la communauté internationale. Il est clair que de nombreux défis subsistent et que le Vietnam devra continuer à les relever l'année prochaine. La Suisse - aussi bien le gouvernement que l'économie suisse et de nombreuses autres organisations - ainsi que nombre d'entre vous, chers lecteurs, se sont engagés de manière variée et souvent très personnelle pour et avec notre pays hôte. Je vous remercie pour cet engagement.

Même si toutes les prévisions faites en janvier ne se sont pas vérifiées, nous pouvons nous féliciter d'une année réussie. Nous avons célébré le 50ème Anniversaire de nos relations diplomatiques, tant au Vietnam qu'en Suisse. Les deux visites officielles du vice-président et conseiller fédéral Ignacio Cassis à Hanoi au début d'août et du président Nguyen Xuan Phuc en Suisse à fin novembre ont été les points forts de cette série d'activités. Vous trouverez dans cette newsletter une brève rétrospective de ces deux visites, qui ont été largement couvertes par les médias locaux. L'inauguration fin novembre de la "Geneva Conference Room", offerte par la Suisse au Ministère vietnamien des affaires étrangères dans le nouveau bâtiment universitaire de l'Académie Diplomatique du Vietnam (DAV), a constitué un autre événement marquant. Vous trouverez un article sur ce sujet ainsi que sur Grégoire Du Pasquier, dont le bureau d'architectes G8A a mis en pratique le concept de la "Geneva Conference Room" à Hanoi.

Vous trouverez également dans cette newsletter de courts articles sur le lancement du nouveau programme national quadriennal du SECO pour le Vietnam, présidé conjointement par le conseiller fédéral Cassis et le ministre de la planification Nguyen Chi Dung, ainsi que divers autres articles sur les activités de développement et économiques de l'ambassade. Et bien sûr, comme toujours, nous vous informons des nouveautés consulaires, administratives et conviviales. J'espère que vous trouverez ces articles informatifs et intéressants.

Mes prévisions pour 2021 s'étant révélées peu concluantes, je m'en abstiendrai pour l'année à venir. En revanche, je ne manquerai pas de vous souhaiter à tous de Joyeuses Fêtes ainsi qu'une Bonne et Heureuse Année 2022 avec beaucoup de bonheur, de succès et une bonne santé.

Ivo Sieber

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Cari lettori
Cari concittadini in Vietnam

All'inizio dell'anno, quasi ad un anno dallo scoppio della pandemia del covid-19, mi sentivo speranzoso nello scrivere il prologo della nostra newsletter del Vietnam sull'Anno del Bufalo. Il numero di casi in Vietnam aveva raggiunto un livello record, le dosi di vaccino contro il Covid-19 diventavano sempre più disponibili e la performance economica del paese stava dimostrando di essere resistente alla crisi, tanto quanto la sua popolazione. Quindi le cose sembravano promettere bene per il Paese e anche per l'impegno della nostra ambasciata, che celebrava il cinquantenario delle nostre relazioni diplomatiche con il Vietnam. Ma come Mark Twain ha giustamente affermato: "Le previsioni dovrebbero essere evitate a tutti i costi, specialmente quelle sul futuro".

Il 2021 ha portato molte cose inaspettate. Prima di tutto, la pandemia del covid-19 con i suoi shock sanitari, economici e sociali ha messo il Vietnam di fronte a molte sfide. Grazie a grandi sforzi del governo, dell'economia e soprattutto della popolazione, molti problemi sono stati superati, anche con il sostegno della comunità internazionale. È chiaro che molte sfide rimangono e continueranno a sfidare il Vietnam nel prossimo anno. La Svizzera - sia il governo che la comunità economica svizzera e numerose altre organizzazioni - così come molti di voi, cari lettori, sono stati coinvolti in molti modi e spesso anche personalmente a dare supporto al nostro paese ospite. Vi ringrazio per il vostro impegno.

Anche se non tutte le previsioni fatte a gennaio scorso si sono avverate, possiamo comunque considerare il 2021 come un anno di successo. Il tema principale è stato il 50° anniversario delle relazioni diplomatiche tra i nostri paesi, celebrato sia qui in Vietnam che in Svizzera. La visita ufficiale del vicepresidente e consigliere federale Ignacio Cassis ad Hanoi all'inizio di agosto e quella del presidente Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Svizzera alla fine di novembre sono stati punti salienti di una serie di attività. Nella presente newsletter, troverete una breve recensione di entrambe le visite, riportate in dettaglio dai media locali. Un'altra pietra miliare è stata l'apertura a fine novembre della sala delle conferenze di Ginevra offerta dalla Svizzera al Ministero degli Affari Esteri vietnamita per il nuovo edificio universitario della "Accademia diplomatica del Vietnam DAV". Un articolo su questo e su Grégoire Du Pasquier, il cui studio di architettura G8A ha messo in pratica il concetto di "Geneva Conference Room" qui ad Hanoi, è disponibile in questa newsletter.

Inoltre, di seguito troverete anche brevi articoli sul lancio del nuovo programma quadriennale del SECO per il Vietnam, co-presieduto dal consigliere federale Cassis e dal ministro della pianificazione Nguyen Chi Dung, nonché vari altri articoli sulle attività economiche e di sviluppo dell'Ambasciata. E naturalmente, come sempre, vi informiamo sulle novità consolari, amministrative e sociali, nella speranza che troviate questi contributi informativi e interessanti.

Poiché le mie previsioni per il 2021 si sono rivelate inconcludenti, eviterò di farne altre per il prossimo anno!

Colgo l'occasione di augurare a tutti voi Buone Feste e un felice anno nuovo pieno di felicità, successo e salute.

Vostro, Ivo Sieber

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Dear Readers

Dear compatriots in Vietnam

At the beginning of this year, almost twelve months after the outbreak of the covid pandemic, I was cautiously hopeful in my foreword to the then Vietnam newsletter about what was to be the Year of the Buffalo. The number of cases in Vietnam was at a record low level, covid vaccine doses were becoming increasingly available, and the country's economic performance was proving to be as crisis-resistant as its population. So, things looked hopeful for Vietnam and also for our Embassy's engagement, especially in preparation for the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of our diplomatic relations. But as Mark Twain so aptly put it, "Predictions should be avoided at all costs, especially those about the future."

Well, the year that ended brought many unexpected things. First of all, the covid pandemic with its health, economic and social shocks confronted Vietnam with a variety of challenges. Thanks to the efforts of the government, the economy and above all the population, many problems were overcome, also with the support of the international community. It is evident that numerous challenges remain and will continue to test Vietnam in the coming year. Switzerland - both the government and the Swiss business community as well as numerous other organizations – but also many of you, dear readers, have been involved in many ways and often in a very personal fashion to support our host country in these trying times. I would like to sincerely thank you for this commitment.

Even if not all the predictions made in January came true, we can still look back on a successful year. The overarching theme was the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, which was celebrated both here in Vietnam and in Switzerland. The two official visits of Vice President and Federal Councillor Ignacio Cassis to Hanoi at the beginning of August and of President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to Switzerland at the end of November were the clear highlights of the series of activities. You will find a brief review of both visits, which were reported in detail in the local media, in this newsletter. Another milestone was the opening of the Geneva Conference Room at the end of November, which was offered by Switzerland to the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the new university building of the "Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam DAV". You will also find an article on this as well as on Grégoire Du Pasquier, whose architectural firm G8A put the concept for the "Geneva Conference Room" into practice.

Likewise, the newsletter will offer you short articles on the launch of the new four-year SECO country program for Vietnam, co-chaired by Federal Councillor Cassis and Planning Minister Nguyen Chi Dung, as well as various other articles on the Embassy's development and economic activities. And of course, as always, we inform you about consular, administrative and social news. I hope you will find these contributions informative and interesting.

Since my predictions for 2021 turned out to be somewhat lacking of prophecy, I will omit them for the coming year. This said, I would of course not want to miss this occasion to wish you all a joyful festive season, Merry Christmas for the New Year best of luck, success and most of all excellent health.

Your Ivo Sieber

50-year anniversary in 2021 - an eventful and promising year for diplomatic relations

Despite Covid-related challenges, the Embassy managed to organize this year two high-level visits (one in Hanoi, one in Bern) and to hand over a new, Swiss-designed “Geneva Conference Room” (see next article) as a lasting gift, symbol of friendly relations and memory of the 2021 jubilee year.



The two high-level visits to celebrate the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations naturally led to discussions on how the dynamic cooperation between the two countries can be further enhanced in the future.

From 4-6 August, Swiss Vice-President and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, accompanied by Céline Vara (Member of the Council of States) and Laurent Wehrli (Member of the National Council) as well as a small EDA delegation, visited Hanoi. Federal Councilor Cassis was received by new Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Vice-President Mrs. Vo Thi Anh Xuan and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son. He also held a meeting with the new Minister of Industry and Trade, emphasizing Switzerland’s strong interest to conclude the negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Vietnam. This high-level visit was accompanied by Swiss Humanitarian Aid to support Vietnam in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic (13 tons of medical material worth around CHF 5 million).



During his visit, Federal Councilor Cassis and his delegation laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi



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Last 26 November, Swiss President Guy Parmelin welcomed Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Bern. The visit offered a renewed opportunity for the two countries to demonstrate their political will and interest in wrapping up negotiations for a progressive and mutually beneficial FTA which should offer new export opportunities for businesses on both sides and encourage further Swiss direct investments in Vietnam. SECO and Economiesuisse hosted a Business Summit, which allowed the two Presidents, business associations and companies to exchange on how to do better business with each other, incl. improving Vietnamese framework conditions for foreign companies and investors. Other key topics included Vietnam’s interest in increasing bilateral cooperation in research, science and innovation, as well as Switzerland’s candidacy to the UN Security Council in 2023-24 (Vietnam confirmed its support).



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2021 was an important year for Swiss diplomacy in Vietnam: Coinciding with the Vietnamese leadership change earlier this year, it allowed Swiss diplomacy to immediately establish important contacts at highest government levels - with the new Vietnamese Prime Minister and the new President.

A Geneva Conference Room at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam in Hanoi



On 24 November, Ambassador Ivo Sieber together with Dr. Pham Lan Dung, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) opened the Academy's new "Geneva Conference Room". The inauguration was endorsed by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son as part of the launch of the DAV's new university building.

The Geneva Conference Room located in the Academy's new building is a joint project between the Swiss Embassy Hanoi and the DAV and is sponsored by the Swiss Foreign Ministry/FDFA. Its interior design was created by the Swiss-Vietnamese architectural firm G8A, reflecting both Geneva's natural surroundings, including the mountain scenery and the shores of Lake Léman, and the spirit

of "international Geneva as capital of peace". With its special symbolism, the conference room offers an inspiring connection between Switzerland and Vietnam.

The DAV is Vietnam's primary research and training institution in the field of international relations and functions under the umbrella of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Geneva Conference Room will be used for both high-level diplomatic encounters and academic conferences, including the DAV's annual South China Sea Conference.



Representing the largest conference room at the DAV's new campus facility, the room offers a high visibility not only on Switzerland's bilateral engagement with Vietnam but also on the role of International Geneva as a key pillar of Switzerland's foreign policy. The Geneva Conference Room is a highlight of the 50th anniversary celebrations of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Vietnam in 2021.



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Grégoire Du Pasquier of G8A Architects, pushing forward Vietnamese sustainable design



In February 2010, **Grégoire Du Pasquier** took the leap, bringing his wife and two children from the calm of Geneva to the havoc of Hanoi. “Hanoi back then was much quieter, not as polluted as now, and only just starting to develop projects on a larger scale.” An exciting risk as he followed in the footsteps of his friend and fellow [group8](#) architect Manuel Der Hagopian, expanding the agency with the creation of the group8asia office.

Although foreign-run design agencies are now visible in Vietnam, in the early 2000s this was not the case and this rarity created all sorts of challenges “We had to learn everything from scratch. For instance, notions of sustainability in tropical (Ho Chi Minh City or Singapore) or sub-tropical (Hanoi) climates are clearly thought with a different approach than in Europe. The speed and scale of projects are also something we were not used to coming from Switzerland.” The risk and hard work paid off and in 2011 the Hanoi studio was the first foreign-owned company to be awarded a large-scale public housing project (2'000 units) for the government of Singapore. [Punggol Waterway Terraces](#), completed in 2015, demonstrates a commitment to both environmental sustainability and social cohesion, setting a benchmark for the philosophies that underpin the company’s designs.

Grégoire and Manuel’s agency, now known as [G8A Architecture & Urban Planning](#) continues to apply sustainable design practices with large-scale award winning factory and office spaces such as [Jakob Factory](#) (building of the year 2020 in Vietnam) and [Concrete Waves](#), Ho Chi Minh City (recently published in renowned magazine [Wallpaper](#)).



Having brought their Swiss rationality and structural logic to Asia, they can now consider their European projects with a fresh set of ideas for pragmatic construction and socially responsible design. The agency endeavors to connect Asia (East) and Switzerland (West), fostering deep knowledge of both design contexts offers G8A a unique perspective in the architectural domain. Thematically, this is reinforced by projects that express cultural exchange such as [The Twin-Lah](#) villa project in Geneva, a hybrid Singaporean shop-house/Swiss living space, [Jakob Factory](#) in Saigon and its strong partnership with Swiss designers [rollimarchini](#) of Bern.

And recently the new Geneva Conference Room, inside the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam sponsored



by the Swiss Embassy of Vietnam in celebration for the 50-year anniversary of diplomatic relation between both countries. With over 40 staff in Hanoi, Grégoire also heads the Ho Chi Minh office, hopeful that G8A’s design innovation can positively influence the growing nation’s development into a more ecologically considerate future.

Launch of the new Cooperation Programme in the midst of the 4th Covid-19 wave

The new Cooperation Programme 2021-2024 for Vietnam has been formally launched during the visit of Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis on August 6, 2021.



In his keynote speech, the Minister of Planning and Investment, Mr. Nguyễn Chí Dũng, thanked Switzerland for the long-standing development cooperation and underscored the relevance and needs-based nature of the new cooperation program. The importance to respond to the new challenges of the COVID-19 crisis was also emphasized.



As part of the implementation of the new program (which was presented in the last Newsletter), Switzerland and Vietnam signed an agreement on the implementation of the Trade Policy and Export Promotion (Swiss Trade) project on 22 October 2021.

This project improves the performance and international competitiveness of local SMEs by enhancing the framework conditions, and strengthening the eco-system for trade promotion. Its objective is to help local businesses to get access to the international value chains of the foreign invested enterprises.

The project is a new flagship project of Switzerland’s economic development cooperation, and continues a long tradition of Swiss trade development cooperation with Vietnam.

Embassy small-grants in 2021 - Three projects we are proud of!

Depending on annual budget decisions in Bern, the Swiss Embassy in Vietnam gets limited means (small grants) to support concrete projects by Vietnamese civil society organizations. In 2021 we managed to support three projects tackling three distinct challenges: countering gender-based violence in Vietnam, supporting garbage collectors negatively affected by the COVID-19 lockdown, and setting up a “model” green community ward in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). Discover them here below!

Hy Vong (Hope) Project

The Vietnamese NGO Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender – Family – Women and Adolescents (CSAGA), with support by the international NGO BATIK, implemented the project Hy Vong (Hope) with the aim of preventing gender-based violence (GBV) by (I) sensitizing and training Vietnamese students on gender equality, gender norms and stereotypes and (II) strengthening the protection of victims and survivors of GBV through improved access to support hotlines. Within the framework of this project, five student clubs implemented micro-projects to promote gender equality and a social media channel was created to serve as a reference tool on GBV. In addition, emergency service counsellors received capacity-building on psychological support. Find out more about the project [here](#).





COVID-related cash support for Garbage Collectors in HCMC



Drastic measures to curb the spread of the severe outbreak of COVID-19 in Vietnam resulted in heightened economic distress for vulnerable population groups in many parts of the country. Informal workers were especially exposed to the temporary halt of economic activities. The Swiss Embassy, with Oxfam, supported the non-governmental Vietnamese Centre for Social Work Research and Community Development (SDRC) in HCMC by extending a small but direct financial amount to 375 informal workers living in hard-hit districts. Find out more about the action [here](#).

Green Neighborhood Project in HCMC

Implemented by the Vietnamese Center of Hands-on Actions and Networking for Growth and Environment (CHANGE), this project pilots the creation of a “weChange Climate Community” model with the goal of inspiring and empowering urban residents to opt for more climate-sensitive behavior. The residents are engaged in transforming their neighborhood into a greener community space through various initiatives such as vertical gardening, the creation of a recycling and compost station and a community learning space. Taken together, these activities encourage the community to practice a more sustainable lifestyle and enhance their awareness of climate-sensitive behavior. As the project activities were impacted by COVID-induced restrictions, they have been extended until mid-2022. Find out more about CHANGE [here](#).



New staff member at the Embassy



Ms. Sibylle Bachmann joined the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi on 1 September 2021 as the new Deputy Head of Cooperation. In this role, Ms. Bachmann oversees the implementation of Switzerland’s economic development cooperation program in Vietnam. She focusses on SECO’s support to the activities related to infrastructure financing and Vietnam’s trade promotion activities. Prior to joining the Swiss Cooperation Office in Vietnam, Ms. Bachmann worked at SECO’s Economic Cooperation and Development Department in Berne as a Program Manager in the infrastructure financing team. Before that, she worked as a Programme Associate with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Nepal in the field of rural climate resilience. Ms. Bachmann is accompanied to Hanoi by her husband and daughter.



Konsularische Dienstleistungen



The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is a politically and denominationally neutral, independent non-governmental organisation that represents the interests of the Swiss abroad. It sees itself as a centre of competence for issues relating to Swiss citizens living abroad.

The OSA networks Swiss citizens living abroad, provides information on important events and developments in Switzerland, referendums, questions concerning residence abroad and return to Switzerland.

The highest body of the OSA is the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), which deals with important issues of Swiss abroad policy.

For the legislative period 2021-2025, two members of the Committee of the Swiss Business Association Vietnam represent the country group "Taiwan, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, South Korea, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia" on the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

The work of the CSA has contributed to important improvements in the rights of the Swiss abroad, such as:

- The anchoring of the Swiss abroad in the Federal Constitution (Art. 40 BV) and the creation of a Swiss Abroad Act, which regulates the rights and obligations of the Swiss abroad (ASG; SR 195.1 of 26 September 2014).
- The introduction of voting and electoral rights for the Swiss abroad from 1977 and postal voting from 1992.
- The possibility of joining the voluntary AHV/IV scheme for the Swiss abroad under certain conditions.

In recent years, the Council of the Swiss Abroad has mainly campaigned for improvements in the area of social insurance, access to banking services in Switzerland and the political rights of the Swiss abroad. A current priority issue is also access for the Swiss abroad to the Corona vaccination.

For further concerns, please contact the representatives of our country group directly, Claudius Rügsegger and Pascal Nguyen aso-vietnam@outlook.com.

Further information you can find at <https://www.swisscommunity.org/>



AHV/IV Lebenskontrolle – Contrôle de l'existence de vie AVS/AI



Ab 2022 verbessert die Schweizerische Ausgleichskasse (SAK) den Prozess der Lebenskontrollen durch einen automatisierten Austausch, der die Verfahren für einen Grossteil der Schweizer Staatsangehörigen, die eine AHV-/IV-Rente beziehen, vereinfachen wird.

Bisher musste jeder Versicherte, der eine AHV/ IV-Leistung bezog, in regelmässigen Abständen eine Lebensbescheinigung an die SAK senden, um die Auszahlung der Rente ohne Unterbruch zu gewährleisten. Dieser sowohl für die SAK als auch für die Versicherten aufwendige Prozess wird ab 2022 durch die Einführung eines automatisierten Austauschs zwischen den verschiedenen Verwaltungen, einschliesslich des EDA, vereinfacht.

Konkret bedeutet dies, dass im Ausland niedergelassene Schweizer Staatsangehörige, die bei der Schweizer Vertretung ihres Wohnsitzlandes ordnungsgemäss angemeldet sind, grundsätzlich keinen Antrag auf eine Lebensbescheinigung mehr erhalten werden, da diese Informationen direkt vom Auslandsschweizerregister an die SAK übermittelt werden.

Schweizer Staatsangehörige, die nicht bei den diplomatischen oder konsularischen Vertretungen gemeldet sind, erhalten weiterhin Anträge auf Einreichung von Lebensbescheinigungen. In Ausnahmefällen kann es vorkommen, dass registrierte Personen dennoch einen solchen Antrag erhalten. In diesem Fall müssen die Betroffenen dieses Dokument ausfüllen und bestätigen lassen, um zu verhindern, dass ihre Rente ausgesetzt wird.

Bitte beachten Sie, dass das neue Verfahren ab dem Jahr 2022 gilt und dass Personen, die ihre Lebensbescheinigung für das Jahr 2021 noch nicht zurückgesendet haben, weiterhin dazu verpflichtet sind, dies zu tun.

Dieses vereinfachte Verfahren, ändert jedoch nichts an der Verpflichtung, die Kasse direkt über alle Änderungen des persönlichen Status wie Adressänderungen, Änderungen des Zivilstandes usw. zu informieren.

Anfang 2022 wird die SAK eine Informationskampagne starten, welche über das ganze Jahr hinweg gestaffelt sein wird. Jede versicherte Person wird zu dem Zeitpunkt, an dem sie das entsprechende Formular für die Lebensbescheinigung hätte erhalten sollen, persönlich informiert

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Dès 2022, la Caisse suisse de compensation (CSC) améliore le processus de contrôle de l'existence de vie, grâce à des échanges automatisés qui vont simplifier les démarches pour une grande partie des ressortissants suisses bénéficiaires d'une rente AVS / AI.

Jusqu'à présent, chaque assuré au bénéfice d'une prestation de l'AVS/AI devait envoyer à intervalle régulier un certificat d'existence de vie à la CSC, afin de garantir le versement sans interruption de la rente. Ce processus, contraignant à la fois pour la CSC et pour les assurés, sera simplifié dès 2022 grâce à la mise en place d'échanges automatisés entre les diverses administrations et notamment avec le DFAE.



Concrètement, cela signifie que les ressortissants suisses établis à l'étranger qui sont dûment inscrits auprès de la représentation suisse de leur lieu de domicile, ne recevront en principe plus de demande de certificat d'existence de vie, celle-ci étant communiquée directement à la CSC par le registre des Suisses de l'étranger.

Les ressortissants suisses qui ne sont pas annoncés aux représentations diplomatiques ou consulaires continueront quant à eux à recevoir les demandes d'existence en vie. Dans certaines situations exceptionnelles, il se peut que des personnes inscrites reçoivent tout de même une telle demande. Les personnes concernées devront alors remplir et faire attester ce document afin d'éviter une mise en suspens de leur rente.

Veuillez noter que le nouveau processus s'applique dès l'année 2022 et que les personnes qui n'ont pas encore retourné leur certificat d'existence de vie pour l'année 2021 restent tenues de le faire.

Cette nouvelle procédure simplifie les démarches à effectuer, mais ne modifie pas l'obligation de renseigner directement la caisse de [toute modification de l'état personnel](#) tels que les changements d'adresse, d'état civil, etc.

Une campagne d'information sera lancée début 2022 par la CSC. Celle-ci sera échelonnée sur toute l'année. Chaque assuré sera ainsi informé personnellement au moment où il aurait dû recevoir le formulaire concerné.

Visas for Switzerland

Due to the existing restrictions of re-entry into Vietnam, visa applications for short-term stays can only be accepted if the necessary return permit of the respective People's Committee and a booked return flight are presented. Any traveller, who has the necessary documents and wishes to apply for a visa, can contact the Consulate General for an appointment.

Spouses and children of Swiss and EU/EFTA citizens can apply for a visa without proof of a guaranteed return. Please contact the Consulate General for more information.

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Aufgrund der bestehenden Beschränkungen für die Wiedereinreise nach Vietnam können Visumanträge für kurzfristige Aufenthalte nur akzeptiert werden, wenn die erforderliche Rückreisegenehmigung des jeweiligen Volkskomitees und ein gebuchter Rückflug vorgelegt werden. Reisende, die über die notwendigen Dokumente verfügen und ein Visum beantragen möchten, können sich an das Generalkonsulat wenden und einen Termin vereinbaren.

Ehegatten und Kinder von Schweizer und EU/EFTA-Bürgern können ein Visum beantragen, ohne den Nachweis einer garantierten Rückkehr. Für weitere Informationen wenden Sie sich bitte an das Generalkonsulat.

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En raison des restrictions existantes en matière de retour au Vietnam, les demandes de visa pour les séjours de courte durée ne peuvent être acceptées que si le permis de retour nécessaire du comité populaire respectif et un vol de retour réservé sont présentés. Tout voyageur, qui dispose des documents nécessaires et souhaite demander un visa, peut contacter le Consulat Général pour obtenir un rendez-vous.

Les conjoints et les enfants de citoyens suisses et de l'UE/AELE peuvent demander un visa sans preuve d'un retour garanti. Veuillez contacter le Consulat Général pour plus d'informations.

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A causa delle restrizioni esistenti di rientro in Vietnam, le domande di visto per soggiorni di breve durata possono essere accettate solo se viene presentato il necessario permesso di rientro del rispettivo Comitato Popolare e un volo di ritorno prenotato. Chiunque abbia i documenti necessari e desideri richiedere un visto, può contattare il Consolato Generale per un appuntamento.

I coniugi e i figli di cittadini svizzeri e dell'UE/AELS possono richiedere un visto senza prova di un ritorno garantito. Si prega di contattare il Consolato Generale per ulteriori informazioni.

COVID-19

On the webpage of the Consulate General www.eda.admin.ch/hochiminhcity you can access an array of Covid-19 related information and links. You will find there for example regularly updated information on "Vaccination and Covid Certificate in Switzerland", "Entry Regulations Switzerland" or "Return to Switzerland or Liechtenstein".

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Auf der Webseite des Generalkonsulats www.eda.admin.ch/hochiminhcity können Sie eine Reihe von Informationen und Links zum Thema Covid-19 erhalten. Sie finden dort zum Beispiel regelmässig aktualisierte Informationen zu den Themen " Impfen und Covid-Zertifikat in der Schweiz", "Einreisebestimmungen Schweiz" oder "Rückkehr in die Schweiz oder nach Liechtenstein".

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Sur la page web du Consulat Général www.eda.admin.ch/hochiminhcity, vous pouvez accéder à toute une série d'informations et de liens relatifs au Covid-19. Vous trouverez par exemple des informations régulièrement mises à jour sur " Vaccination et certificat Covid en Suisse ", " Conditions d'entrée en Suisse " ou " Voyage de retour en Suisse ou au Liechtenstein".

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Sulla pagina web del Consolato Generale www.eda.admin.ch/hochiminhcity è possibile accedere a una serie di informazioni e link relativi al Covid-19. Vi troverà per esempio informazioni regolarmente aggiornate su "Vaccinazione e certificato Covid in Svizzera", " Condizioni d'ingresso in Svizzera" o " Tornare in Svizzera o nel Liechtenstein".



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Jass Evening in Ho Chi Minh City

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Ho Chi Minh City organizes a Jass evening at 18.00 every last Friday of the month at Brix (42 Pasteur, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh). We are usually 4-8 players and play with the French playing cards. We would love to have more players who join and enjoy a relaxed evening together. If you like to receive the monthly email reminder please inform us. Registration is required until two days before the event under hochiminhcity.rsvp@eda.admin.ch.



- ♦ Swiss Jass Evening
- ♥ With French playing cards
- ♣ Brix Wine Bar & Kitchen
- ♠ 42 Pasteur, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam

Swiss Business Association SBA



Founded in 1999, the Swiss Business Association Vietnam has been an integral part in connecting Swiss, be it long-term residents or new arrivals, as well as those with relations to Switzerland, be it of private or business nature. The Swiss Business Association not only organizes special social events such as 1st of August, Wilhelm Tell Games or the monthly "Stamm" but also business events such as visits to factories and business luncheons and in doing so closely cooperates with the Swiss Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City as

well as with the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi.

Visiting our Facebook and Instagram pages will give you a small overview of the events that we organize through some pictures and also videos:

www.swissvietnam.com -  [Swiss Business Association Vietnam](https://www.facebook.com/SwissBusinessAssociationVietnam) -  [sbavietnam](https://www.instagram.com/sbavietnam)

At present the association has about 100 members, individual and corporate, and we hope to welcome you, too, soon to the SBA.

For questions or membership registration please contact

Swiss Business Association
c/o Asian Cotton Traders
Floor 12, Agrex Tower
58 Vo Van Tan Street, District 3
Ho Chi Minh City
Phone +84 83 416 9374
office@swissvietnam.com



Swiss Alumni Association in Vietnam SAAV



The Swiss Alumni Association in Vietnam (SAAV) is the largest and most diversified network of individuals with a Swiss education background in Vietnam. With over 6'000

members including Vietnamese, Swiss, and many other expatriates currently living and working in the country, SAAV offers not only an extensive and supportive network, but also an exclusive and unique blend between the Swiss and Vietnamese culture.



If you are looking for business collaboration opportunities and advices, recruiting talents who understand the Swiss culture, or simply occasions to explore the city with the new friendships, check out SAAV at <https://www.facebook.com/vietnam.thuysi/> or contact us at external@saav.vn.