



Dear Members of the Swiss Society Bangkok,

I am very pleased to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter. As the summer months gradually draw to a close, I hope you have enjoyed relaxing and pleasant holidays—whether in Switzerland, Thailand, or elsewhere in the world.

Over the past months, our Society has continued to bring together Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland in Thailand through a wide range of cultural, social, and informational activities. In this edition, you will find a review of recent events, including our popular Get-Togethers, the Jass tournament, a “Metzgete” brunch party with Jacky and Tom and the Swiss National Day celebration hosted at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador. We welcomed over 320 guests on this special occasion. It was also the farewell event for our Ambassador, H.E. Pedro Zwahlen, who left shortly afterwards for his new posting in Colombia. We wish him all the best in his future career. These occasions continue to demonstrate the importance of personal exchange and community spirit, which remain at the heart of our Society.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to present a number of upcoming highlights, including further Get-Togethers at Chesa, our traditional Jass tournament, and the Raclette Dinner in November, which will also mark the 95th anniversary celebration of the Swiss Society Bangkok. These events are not only opportunities to meet and enjoy Swiss traditions together, but also to strengthen the bonds within our growing community.

This edition also brings you a range of international and youth-focused perspectives. We highlight the inspiring development of ice hockey in Thailand through the engagement of

Swiss NHL player Jonas Siegenthaler, whose personal connection to Thailand is helping to support and motivate young athletes in a non-traditional sporting environment. In addition, we introduce the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA), which provides an important platform for young Swiss citizens around the world to connect, exchange ideas, and make their voices heard. If you have any young members in your family who may be interested in participating in YPSA, please feel free to contact them or refer them to the organisation.

Finally, we also include important updates from the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, particularly regarding the latest developments in the postulate health insurance for Swiss citizens living outside Europe, as well as the continued expansion of e-voting options in two cantons. The canton of Lucerne has started offering e-voting for the vote on 27 September, and the canton of Neuchâtel will join for the first time for the vote on 29 November. These topics are of direct relevance to many of us living abroad and underline the importance of staying informed and engaged with political developments in Switzerland.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members, volunteers, partners, and contributors who continue to support our Society with their time, ideas, and commitment. Without your engagement, our activities and community life would not be possible.

I wish you all an enjoyable and informative read, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events here in Bangkok.

Warm regards,

Josef Schnyder

President, Swiss Society Bangkok

From the Alps to Bangkok: Jonas Siegenthaler Meets Thailand's Rising Hockey Talent

Ice hockey is not a sport one would associate with tropical climates. Yet, far from the frozen lakes of the Swiss Alps and the roaring arenas of North America, a new and exciting hockey culture is steadily emerging in Thailand. At the heart of this unlikely connection between snow and sunshine stands Jonas Siegenthaler - a Swiss national team player and NHL defenseman whose personal roots and professional vision are helping to inspire the next generation of Thai ice hockey talent.



JONAS SIEGENTHALER

Thai Heritage. World Class.

Jonas Siegenthaler is the first Thai player of Thai descent to have competed at the highest levels of the sport. Through dedication, discipline, and perseverance, he has achieved his dream on the world stage and become an inspiration for a new generation of Thai athletes.

“ I am proud of my Thai roots. It's part of who I am. I hope to inspire young Thai athletes to dream big and never give up. ”

— Jonas Siegenthaler

BORN May 6, 1997	BIRTHPLACE Zurich, Switzerland	HERITAGE Thai (Thailand)	HEIGHT 190 cm (6' 3")	WEIGHT 93 kg (205 lbs)	POSITION Defenseman	SHOOTS Left	CURRENT TEAM New Jersey Devils (NHL)
----------------------------	--	------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------	--

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2015** NHL Draft
Selected by the Washington Capitals 57th Overall (Round 2)
- 2015-2019** Made NHL Debut with Washington Capitals
- 2021** Traded to New Jersey Devils
- 2021-Present** Key Defenseman for New Jersey Devils in the NHL

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL)**
Competed in the world's best hockey league.
- WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**
Competed at the Winter Olympic Games 2026 in Cortina, Italy.
- IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**
Represented Switzerland in the IIHF Men's World Championship at the elite level.
- AHL & EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE**
Gained valuable experience in top leagues in North America and Europe.
- ROLE MODEL**
An inspiration to Thai youth, promoting hard work, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence in sports.

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

- Winter Olympic Games 2026, Cortina, Italy**
- IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024**
- Switzerland National Team**
Representing Switzerland at International Competitions

Siegenthaler has built an impressive career through discipline, consistency, and a deep understanding of the game. Representing Switzerland on the international stage, he has contributed to the country's strong reputation in global ice hockey, including appearances in major tournaments where Switzerland has repeatedly proven itself as a formidable competitor among the world's elite. Known for

his calm presence on the ice, strong defensive positioning, and intelligent puck movement, Siegenthaler exemplifies the modern defensive player.

At the club level, he currently plays for the New Jersey Devils in the National Hockey League (NHL), widely regarded as the highest level of professional ice hockey. Competing against the best players in the world, he has earned recognition as a dependable and effective defenseman, trusted in key moments and respected by teammates and opponents alike.

What makes Siegenthaler's story particularly compelling is his connection to Thailand. His mother is Thai, and his family maintains close ties to the country. Today, his parents live in Hua Hin, a coastal town better known for its beaches than for ice sports. This unique personal background has inspired him to look beyond his own career and contribute to the growth of ice hockey in Thailand.

In recent years, ice hockey in Thailand has experienced notable growth. While still a niche sport, it is becoming increasingly popular, especially among younger athletes. New training programs, improved facilities, and growing international exposure have helped fuel interest and participation. Despite the obvious challenges posed by climate and infrastructure, a passionate community of players, coaches, and organizers continues to push the sport forward.

A key example of this development is the Thailand U16 National Youth Ice Hockey program, which plays a vital role in nurturing young talent. During his visit, Siegenthaler had the opportunity to meet and engage with the team, alongside Janista Charoonsmith, who leads the program. The visit provided a valuable exchange of knowledge and inspiration, as young players were able to interact directly with an NHL professional who shares a connection to their country.

Siegenthaler's commitment goes beyond symbolic support. He recently organized a development camp in Chiang Mai, offering young Thai players hands-on training and insight into professional-level preparation. The

camp focused on fundamental skills, tactical awareness, and the mental aspects of the game—elements that are crucial for long-term development. For many participants, it was a rare and motivating experience to learn directly from a player competing at the highest level.

His message to the young athletes was clear: with dedication, discipline, and the right support, even players from non-traditional hockey nations can achieve international success. “I would love to see a Thai player one day make it as a big shot in a major team,” Siegenthaler shared during a meeting with Swiss delegates organized by the Swiss Embassy. While ambitious, this vision reflects a growing belief that Thailand can produce players capable of competing on the global stage.

Beyond training and mentorship, Siegenthaler’s visit also included a series of official and media engagements aimed at helping to raise awareness of ice hockey and highlight the potential of the sport in the country. A courtesy meeting with the President of the Ice Hockey Association of Thailand provided an opportunity to explore opportunities for cooperation such as youth sports development, cultural exchange, and tourism—areas where both countries could benefit from closer collaboration.

Ice hockey in Thailand has developed steadily over the past decade. At the international level, Ice Hockey Association of Thailand has made significant progress, with the national team competing in the IIHF World Championship Division IV and achieving encouraging results in recent years. Youth development has been a particular success story: Thailand’s U16 and U18 teams regularly participate in regional tournaments and have recorded notable wins against emerging hockey nations in Asia.

Grassroots programs and school initiatives are also gaining traction, helping to introduce the sport to a new generation of players. The growing number of local leagues, youth academies, and international exchange opportunities reflects a clear upward trajectory. While Thailand is still at an early

stage compared to traditional hockey nations, its commitment to development, combined with international support and expertise, is laying the foundation for long-term success. Increasing numbers of young players are taking up the sport, driven by curiosity, passion, and the desire to compete. With role models like Jonas Siegenthaler actively supporting their journey, these young athletes gain not only technical guidance but also the belief that their dreams are achievable.



From the icy landscapes of the Alps to the vibrant streets of Bangkok, this story is one of connection, ambition, and opportunity. It is about more than just hockey—it is about building bridges, inspiring youth, and creating a shared vision for the future. And if that day comes, it will be thanks in part to pioneers like Jonas Siegenthaler, who dared to imagine what is possible when passion meets purpose.

Text and Photo: Josef Schnyder

Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA)

YPSA is an organisation dedicated to connecting and advocating for young Swiss citizens (aged 15-35) living outside of Switzerland. As a vibrant and inclusive platform, YPSA ensures that the voices, experiences and challenges of young Swiss expatriates are heard, valued and addressed.

They facilitate regular online events to discuss topics like navigating military service and exploring higher education in Switzerland. We

are also developing connections with other Swiss Abroad groups worldwide to share our work, strengthen partnerships and connect through culture.

Why join YPSA?

- Be part of a world-wide community
- Join a platform of global dialogue and exchange
- Have your Swiss youth voice heard
- Take part in different activities and events

Find us on all our social channels and sign up on our website, where there is further information.



Website: <https://ypsa.ch/>

Instagram: @ypsa_switzerland

LinkedIn: YPSA Switzerland

Text: Carlos Andrés Martínez Saas, Co-President of YPSA México

Looking for a Host Family



My name is Yannick Christen, I am 14 years old and I live in Switzerland. I have been given the opportunity to attend the Swiss school RIS-SWISS-SECTION in Bangkok as an exchange student for five weeks. I am now looking

for a host family for the period from 20 February 2027 to 26 March 2027 (five weeks). I would, of course, be paying for this. It would be great if I could stay with a family who also have children at this school, though this isn't essential. I'd be delighted if you could get in touch with me: christen.caroline@gmx.ch

2nd Quarter Review

Jass Tournament, 11 July:

A total of 16 players took part in our second Jass tournament of the year – with a truly international flair. Alongside participants from Bangkok, we were delighted to welcome guests from Hong Kong, Singapore, and even from the Canton of Jura. The tournament victory went to our former Swiss champion Stefan Kuhn – fittingly dressed in a red national team shirt. A strong statement, even if the Swiss national football team unfortunately couldn't quite keep up with Argentina in the quarterfinal on the following Sunday morning. Additional highlights were the attractive prizes featuring fine meat specialties and delicious pastries, generously sponsored by Jacky Bakes.



Get-Together, 21 July:

Our July Get Together featured a presentation by our member Priska Rüegg, who introduced her new cookbook, «Willkommen in Thailand – Die Seele der thailändischen Küche». The book offers not only delicious dishes but also fascinating insights into Thailand's culinary traditions, local ingredients, and the stories behind the cuisine.

Get-Together, 15 September:

32 members and friends met at the Restaurant Chesa for an enjoyable evening of Swiss food, conversation, and exchange. Josef Schnyder, Delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad gave an engaging presentation on the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and its role in representing Swiss citizens living abroad. His presentation is online: [ASO Presentation](#)

Swiss National Day, 1 August:

The Swiss Society Bangkok celebrated Switzerland's 735th National Day together with around 320 guests at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador. Guests enjoyed a stylish garden party with Swiss wine, a rich buffet featuring traditional Swiss specialties and desserts, and musical entertainment by a Swiss accordion duo, creating an authentic and convivial atmosphere throughout the evening.



Visit the photo gallery on our website
[Photo gallery Swiss National Day](#)

Metzgete @ Jacky and Tom, 19 September

35 guests enjoyed a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with delicious Swiss specialties – from hearty meat and sausages to tasty desserts. The combination of great food, good company, and a warm ambiance made it a truly memorable afternoon. A big thank you to Jacky and Tom for their generous hospitality!



Upcoming Events

- 3 Oct** Jass Tournament, Restaurant SwissCorner
- 20 Oct** Get-Together, Restaurant Chesa
Presentation by Vicky Janssens about Carbon Offset and SDC Projects on climate in Thailand
- 17 Nov** Get-Together, Restaurant Chesa
- 21 Nov** Raclette Dinner in the gardens of the Swiss Ambassador with 95th anniversary celebration of SSB



For more information and updates please visit our website:
<https://www.ssb.or.th/events/events>

RIS-SWISS-SECTION
DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE
SCHULE BANGKOKExzellente
Deutsche
Auslandsschule

SO MUCH MORE THAN A SCHOOL

ALL NATIONALITIES ARE WELCOME



OPEN HOUSE

Discover RIS Swiss Section & Explore Our New Facilities

DATE: Saturday, September 26th, 2026 TIME: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Meet our teachers and School Leadership Team, connect with parents and students, tour our campus and discover how we nurture confident, responsible global citizens in a warm, family-like environment while learning more about our unique Swiss and German curriculum for children aged 2 to Grade 12. See our newest facilities during an extended tour starting at 11:30 am.

THE GERMAN-LANGUAGE	COMPETENCE CENTER
THE MULTILINGUAL	EDUCATION HUB
A UNIQUE PLACE OF	CULTURAL CONVERGENCE
A VALUE-BASED	COMMUNITY

www.ris-swiss-section.org 

OSA NEWS

Text: Josef Schnyder, CSA Delegate Thailand

1) Health Insurance

The Federal Council has issued its opinion on Postulate 26.3537 «Securing Health Insurance for Swiss Abroad outside the EU/EFTA» and—unsurprisingly—recommends its rejection. It upholds the status quo and refers to Article 7a of the Health Insurance Ordinance (KVV), according to which continuity solutions exist when a person emigrates. At the same time, however, it acknowledges that health assessments are permitted and concedes that “in individual cases no suitable solution exists.” In doing so, it indirectly confirms the central concern of the postulate.

In its reasoning, the Federal Council notes that most Swiss abroad live in the United States, Canada, and Australia, where healthcare costs are significantly higher than in Switzerland. Bringing these individuals under the scope of the KVG could therefore lead to higher costs and, consequently, higher premiums. However, the postulate calls for a solution for people who have contributed to the compulsory health insurance system for many years—typically retirees. Yet precisely these individuals are unlikely to emigrate to such countries due to restrictive immigration and residency rules. This argument therefore misses the point.

Furthermore, the Federal Council argues that individuals residing abroad are generally no longer subject to Swiss taxation. In doing so, it overlooks the fact that Swiss abroad continue to make relevant fiscal contributions, for example through withholding taxes on pension benefits, withholding taxes on capital income, or real estate taxation. Moreover, health insurance is largely financed through premiums and is therefore only partially linked to tax liability.

Key elements of the postulate remain unanswered: no concrete policy models for a voluntary continuation solution are systematically presented, nor is there a comprehensive macroeconomic assessment. In particular, potential relief effects—such as

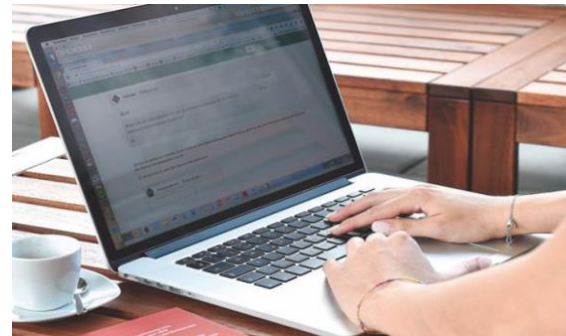
lower long-term care costs abroad, as well as the elimination of supplementary benefits (EL) and expensive nursing and retirement home stays—are not taken into account.

The National Council is called upon not to leave this gap unaddressed.

Links:

[Postulat 26.3537 Text](#)
[Argumentarium](#)

2) E-Voting



KANTON LUZERN

From September 2026, eligible Swiss citizens registered in the Canton of Lucerne who live abroad will be able to vote electronically. They will automatically receive a voting card, which allows them to vote electronically, by mail. No prior registration is required for electronic voting.

ne.ch

RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE NEUCHÂTEL

The e-voting system will soon also be available to Swiss citizens abroad from the Canton of Neuchâtel, for the first time in the 29 November votes. However, please note: **to access the electronic voting channel, Neuchâtel's Swiss citizens abroad must register for e-voting!** Please do so **as soon as possible**, so that the canton can send you the necessary documents in time for the November vote. You can find information on how to register on the official website of the Canton of Neuchâtel.

<https://www.ne.ch/themes/etat-droit-et-finances/democratie/vote-electronique>.