

## Overseas Vietnamese gather for New Year meeting

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VietNamNet Bridge – The Vietnamese embassies in the Republic of Korea and Switzerland organised Lunar New Year meetings with the Vietnamese communities to further promote their bonds with the homeland.

According to Ambassador Pham Tien Van, close to 80,000 Vietnamese are living and working in the RoK, including 30,000 brides, over 40,000 guest workers and about 3, 000 students.

During his briefing on the homeland's socio-economic achievements in 2008 and possible difficulties facing this year, Ambassador Van called on the Vietnamese people there to unite and support one another to lead stable and prosperous lives together in their guest country.

The meeting in Bern brought together Vietnamese expatriates in Switzerland, students, officials of Vietnamese delegations, and guests from the Switzerland-Vietnam Friendship Association.

Ambassador Hoang Van Nha reviewed the developments in the Vietnam-Switzerland ties and spoke highly of the Vietnamese community's efforts to preserve national identity during their integration into the host country as well as their practical contributions to the homeland.

To welcome the Year of the Buffalo, there was a meeting of more than 400 Vietnamese in Marseille, France, in the presence of Vietnamese Ambassador Le Kinh Tai.

Lisette Narducci, Vice Chairwoman of Bouches-du-Ghone provincial council, which joined in hosting this event, described the New Year meeting as a way to help local people gain better understanding of Vietnam 's culture and people.

A musical performance by singers from Ho Chi Minh City and in France took place during the event.

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