

The Road to Success is Bilingual - Swiss International Scientific School Opens in Dubai, UAE



That bilingualism adds considerable advantages to life goes without saying. However, aside from offering access to other geographies and cultures, learning multiple languages has other beneficial side effects such as the improvement of brain functionality, multitasking skills, memory and perceptiveness. As those of us who have tried to broaden our linguistic skills at an advanced age know, learning a second or even a third language comes more easily during the early years of our life.

Dubai's new Swiss International Scientific School has made it its mission to provide its students

with exactly said opportunity. Naming itself as "Dubai's first ever private school to offer multilingual education in French, German, English and Arabic", the school has seen a steep application rate since its opening of admissions in February this year. Boasting four national languages, Switzerland is indeed an authority when it comes to understanding the advantages of multilingualism and its overall high standards in primary and later education make it a particularly enriching to add the Swiss International Scientific School to the ranks of Dubai's educational landscape.

Additionally, the 67,845 sqm campus will be based on sustainability standards as per the Swiss Minergie label, which is awarded low-energy consumption buildings. SISD will be the Middle East's first low-energy building in the education space, consuming one third of the energy of standard buildings. The cost reduction will be translated into savings that will fund academic scholarships on offer to students in Semester two of the first year of operation. For SISD, sustainability is not just about minimising the environmental footprint, but about fostering a healthy, comfortable learning environment for the children; it's not just a label, it is embedded in the walls of the school. The Dh5 530 million state-of-the-art campus adjacent to Dubai Creek with capacity for 2,442 students, will boast 90-100 sqm (970-1080 sq ft) classrooms, which is 30% larger than a standard size. The bilingual teaching streams will also demand a high teacher to student ratio, with one teacher supplied for every seven students, and strict maximum class size of 22 students. Head of School, Beat Sommer commented that the school had been overwhelmed by the number of enrolments to date: *"We are simply delighted by the overwhelming level of interest in multilingual tuition. It's clear to us that an increasing number of parents in the UAE see the true benefit in multilingual education. The SISD IB programme will mirror Switzerland's highly sophisticated and inclusive education system."* (Source Public Press Release, TDH PR)



(Picture left to right): **Beat Sommer**, Head of School, **Omar Danial**, Founder and **Osama I. Seddigi**, Senior VP Finance & Operations, Ahmed Seddigi & Sons.)

Driving forces behind the establishment of this state-of-the-art learning facility are reputable UAE family business **Ahmed Seddigi & Sons** and the Swiss International School founder **Omar Danial**. **Abdul Hamied Seddigi**, Vice chairman of **Ahmed Seddigi & Sons** has been appointed Chairman and Co-Founder of the new school. This is only the latest in a large collection of Swiss products that the Seddigi family has successfully instated in the UAE over the past 60 years of the businesses activities. The family business currently represents famed brands such as Rolex, Patek Philippe, Breitling and dozens of other luxury watch brands from Switzerland.

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