

A word from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Dear Swiss citizens, dear friends of Switzerland,

I'd like to start this newsletter with the announcement that Switzerland has taken another concrete action to play an ever-positive role in Asia's sustainable development following the signing of the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Swiss Vice President Johann N. Schneider-Ammann visited Beijing in June and signed the new bank's founding document prior to his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. This is a significant moment we all should hail. Switzerland has been lending its support in all possible ways to aid Asia in growing to be a more prosperous and sustainable region. Participating in the bank's founding process enables us to play a more constructive role in the region, especially given Switzerland's leading expertise in the banking industry and sustainable development solutions.



Another economic feat we are celebrating this month is the one year anniversary of the implementation of the free trade agreement between our two countries. Just one year after it came into effect, bilateral trade and investment have grown at a brisk pace. Let me cite a few figures.

From July 2014 to May 2015, Switzerland's exports to China rose by 3.0 percent and imports by 4.2 percent compared with the same period the previous year. Yet, Switzerland's exports to all other trade partners rose by only 0.4 percent and imports fell by 3.9 percent. We owe such growth to the win-win agreement and I expect to see more rapid growth in the future! All the more that Switzerland has become, over the first months of 2015, China's eighth world supplier.

Speaking of Sino-Swiss cooperation, Switzerland is exploring more potential in developing green economy following the Sino-Swiss Dialogue in Guiyang. I was present at the forum with other Swiss representatives. From the exchange of stimulating ideas I can tell there are many more areas we can work together on with China.

On the cultural and educational front, the ties continue to flourish. We recently had the great pleasure of having Prof. Claude Nicollier, the first and only astronaut from Switzerland to introduce our country's real but little known success in the space industry during the Swiss Day in Beijing. Very soon in August, we will welcome 100 Swiss students to China on an exchange program to learn about China and its culture.

As the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Sino-Swiss relations is to go full swing, we bring you the second brochure the Embassy has produced, in which you will find a spectrum of events to be held in the second half of the year. You can also follow us on our website (www.Switzerland65China.com) to discover more of our events.

I cordially invite you to our events and witness with us more remarkable moments in the Sino-Swiss relations!

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China



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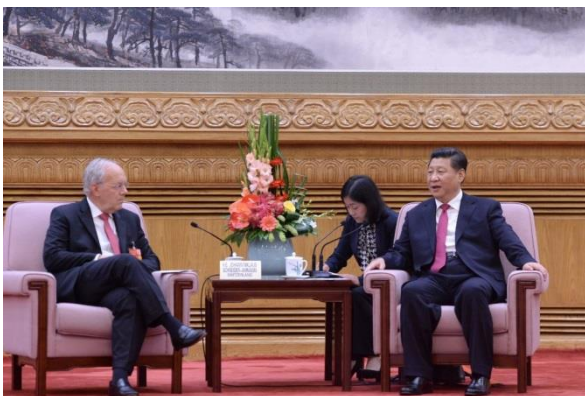
Bilateral Relations

Switzerland and China explore more areas of cooperation

Switzerland and China's deepening ties were underlined by high-level exchanges between April and July. Swiss Vice President Johann N. Schneider-Ammann signed the founding document of the AIIB on June 29. He met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, who assured that China will support Switzerland's participation at the G20 Finance Track during the Chinese presidency of the G20 next year.

Switzerland is one of the first European countries to join the AIIB, which aims to promote the sustainable economic development in Asia. Its rich experience and credibility in multilateral development banks will help ensure the new bank respects international standards in its operational activities and in development cooperation.

"We aim to contribute to building up infrastructure in the Asian region. The AIIB is a potential instrument to initiate projects, and Switzerland has particular knowledge in the telecommunication infrastructure, energy infrastructure and more sectors," said Federal Councilor Schneider-Ammann, who is also head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research. He also stressed the complementary importance of the AIIB among international development banks and spoke highly of the good relations between Switzerland and China.



Swiss Vice President Schneider-Ammann holds talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Photo: China News Service

Switzerland and Southwest China's Guizhou Province will explore potential for further cooperation in environmental protection and business following the Sino-Swiss Dialogue held during the Eco Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference in

Guiyang, capital of Guizhou, from June 26 to 28. The Swiss delegation, led by Bruno Oberle, director of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, outlined Switzerland's experiences

in the joint evolution of industrialization and environmental protection. The delegation also highlighted the potential of bridging economy and ecology by "green economy" and "green financing" to a large Chinese and international audience. Mr. Oberle was appointed a member of the advisory board of the EFG.

"A particular strength of Switzerland lies in our capacity to balance economic growth and preservation of the environment. Since 1990, we have increased our GDP by 36 percent and population by 19 percent, while reducing our CO2 emissions per capita by 20 percent," said Philippe Zahner, head of the Environment, Development and Humanitarian Aid Division at the Swiss Embassy. "In other words, we have been able to decouple our economic growth rate from our emissions of greenhouse gases." As part of the dialogue, nearly 20 Swiss companies, ranging from SMEs to multinationals, participated in B2B meetings with local enterprises to explore further areas of business development in the fast developing Guizhou Province.

The steering committee for China-Switzerland cooperation in the areas of foodstuffs, medicinal products, medical devices and cosmetics held its first meeting in Beijing on June 16. The committee aims to strengthen public health and questions pertaining to each other's market access. Tania Dussey-Cavassini, vice-director general of the Federal Office of Public Health and Swiss Ambassador for Global Health, chaired the meeting with Chinese officials from the China Food and Drug Administration.



A Swiss Pavilion by the Swiss Business Hub China showcasing Swiss companies attracts a number of visitors during the EFG forum. Photo: SwissCham

Embassy News

Alain Gaschen, new Deputy Head of Mission at Swiss Embassy in China

Mr. Alain Gaschen started his function as the Deputy Head of Mission and Head of the Political Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in China on July 20, 2015.



Mr. Gaschen is the successor to Mrs. Salome Meyer, who was posted in Beijing from 2011 to 2015. Our tremendous thanks go to Mrs. Meyer for her great contribution, dedication and efforts to facilitate Sino-Swiss relations. We also convey our best wishes to her in her new post as an Ambassador and Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Swiss Confederation in Bern.

Born in Basel in 1970, Mr. Gaschen joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1999 after practicing law in the Neuchâtel Bar and Zurich Bar. He effected his diplomatic course in the Directorate of International Law and then at the Swiss Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique. In 2001, he was assigned to the United Nations and International Organizations Division of the Directorate of Political Affairs. After the vote in favor of Switzerland becoming a United Nations Member State, he joined the Department Head's cabinet in 2003 as a diplomatic collaborator. In 2004 he was transferred as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia.

Mr. Gaschen joined the Directorate for Resources as the director's personal collaborator in 2007 and led the management as a board member from 2009 to 2011. In 2011, Mr. Gaschen was designated as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in France with the title of Minister.

We wish Mr. Gaschen a great start and welcome him to the Embassy!

Economic News

Remarkable growth a year after implementation of free trade agreement

There has been a brisk growth with the bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and China one year after the free trade agreement (FTA) between Switzerland and China took effect.

According to foreign trade statistics of the Federal Customs Administration, Switzerland's exports and imports with China grew more strongly from July 2014 to May 2015 than Switzerland's trade with the rest of the world. From the period of July 2014 to May 2015, exports to China climbed by 3 percent and imports from the country grew by at least 4 percent. By contrast, Swiss exports to the rest of the world have grown by only 0.4 percent.

The FTA, the first one China signed with a continental European nation and with a top 20 world economy, improves Swiss businesses' access to the large and promising Chinese market, especially in the goods and services sectors. The agreement also makes a valuable contribution to expanding Switzerland's worldwide trade network. It opens up new opportunities for the Swiss export industry, which is experiencing significant pressure due to the strong value of the franc, and helps to safeguard jobs in Switzerland.

In addition, the agreement improves the protection of intellectual property, the general predictability and legal certainty of economic activity between Switzerland and China. The agreement on labor and employment issues, concluded in parallel to the FTA, makes provision for a range of cooperation projects and dialogues.

China is the world's second largest economy after the United States and one of Switzerland's most important foreign trade partners. It is the largest market for Swiss exports in Asia and the third largest worldwide after the EU and the USA. Switzerland has recently become the eighth most important source of imports for China.

Trade and Investment

Providing practical support and services--Interview with Mr. Alain Graf, Head of the Swiss Business Hub China

Q: The Swiss Business Hub (SBH) is the official representation of Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) in China, whose mission is to support Swiss entrepreneurs and promote Switzerland as a business location towards foreign companies. Could you please introduce to us what the SBH does in China and about your team?



About Mr. Alain Graf

Mr. Alain Graf is the head of the Swiss Business Hub China since May 2012 and Counselor of the Swiss Embassy in China.

Born in Geneva in 1969, Mr. Graf has a Master's degree in international relations in Geneva and studied the Chinese language in Switzerland and China.

Before he joined the SBH, he worked for more than nine years in the machinery industry for two Swiss SMEs based in Taiwan and Shanghai as Asia Regional Manager and Assistant General Manager Taiwan. His main responsibilities during those years were sales, technical support as well as financial analysis and overall management.

Mr. Graf has acquired a solid understanding of the Chinese business mentality during his years working in China.

A: Swiss Business Hubs are based in Swiss Embassies or Consulates General. There are 21 business hubs around the world and they all belong to Switzerland Global Enterprise. The SBH China is responsible for trade and investment promotion, helping Swiss small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) to enter the Chinese market and promoting Switzerland as an investment location for Chinese companies.

The export promotion services we provide include individual consulting and SMEs coaching, company setup, searching for distributors and import partners, location search, market analysis, reporting on trade fairs in China as well as organizing fact finding missions for Swiss companies. For investment promotion, our duties include promoting Switzerland as an investment location and providing information about the Swiss economy for Chinese companies. Most of the Chinese companies have a very good image of Switzerland but they are not aware of the outstanding business environment provided by our country.

Our team is split into two groups according to the two mandates: the trade promotion team and the investment promotion team. We have ten people in total, with six based in Beijing, three in Shanghai and one in Guangzhou.

Q: The SBH organizes and hosts a number of events each year to bring Chinese and Swiss companies together. Could you please highlight the major ones?

A: We do organize and participate in a number of trade and investment events each year. There are lots of trade fairs that are organized in China and the SBH China supports S-GE in organizing a Swiss pavilion at some of the major fairs that are of interest to our industries. The important ones are the SIAL, one of the biggest food and beverage exhibitions in China, China Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF) and the International Exhibition on Plastics and Rubber Industries (CHINAPLAS). We also support Swissmem-a service center for mechanical and electrical engine-during the China International Machine Tool Show (CIMT) in Beijing, one of the top four machine tool exhibitions worldwide.

We also organize various roadshows with delegates from Swiss cantons and regions and we visit Chinese companies in different cities with the support of human resources (HR) and legal experts.

Our roadshows are all investment promotion related and consist of eight to ten company visits during three to four days. We organize these events two to three times per year in cities located in Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Guangdong provinces in addition to Shanghai and Hong Kong. During those visits, we provide in-depth

information on specific issues related to these companies' international expansion and possible investment in Switzerland, such as labor law, real estate, human resources, taxes and innovation capabilities.



Company visit during Swiss Business Hub's roadshow program in Suzhou in May, 2015. Photo: SBH

We also organize some executive meetings with the help of an external partner. They generally last two to three hours and are organized in various cities across China. 15 companies with C-level representatives are invited. The meetings are followed by a Q and A session and in the end we share a networking dinner together.

Q: What kind of companies you mostly work with-large scale, or SMEs? Are there particular sectors or industries that you are focusing on, either for import, export and investment opportunities?

A: From the trade side, we mostly help Swiss SMEs because multinational corporations usually do not need our support. For investment promotion, we promote Switzerland to any Chinese company that has the resources and the will to expand to Europe.

Swiss companies that come to us represent the whole range of industries and services present in Switzerland, including machinery, medical technology, clean technology, pharma as well as food and beverage. Swiss companies present in China concentrate mainly around Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Beijing and the Tianjin area. There are about 600 Swiss companies registered in China and 1,000 entities if all subsidiaries are included. More are present if we include companies that are not known by the SBH and not registered at the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham).

Q: Switzerland has its competitive edge as an ideal business investment location, for example, the favorable tax system, high-level of workforce and being a gateway to Europe. To Chinese investors, what are the most appealing factors and where do they invest?

A: The political stability is very important. As an investor you want to look at a stable environment. We also stress our education level, our many languages, the favorable taxation system, flexibility of the labor force and labor law as well as the very high level of innovation. We also present Switzerland as an excellent platform for reaching the other European markets.

The free trade agreement (FTA) between Switzerland and China is also pointed out as it is the only FTA signed by China with a continental European country, also one of the top 20 world economies. That agreement provides countless opportunities for investors from both sides.

We want Chinese investors to think across the board and not only look at the size of the market, the tax incentives and the level of salaries. Switzerland might not be the cheapest place to set up a factory but is certainly one of the most efficient and business friendly environment you can find in Europe. It is simply the best choice when considering setting up a research and development center or a European headquarters (HQ).

Quite a few Chinese companies active in the solar energy, information and communications technology and pharma industry are present in Switzerland. Industries where Switzerland is strong and where clusters exist will attract investors in order to find suppliers, partners and customers. For instance, one of the recent examples is the Chinese pharmaceutical company Tasly. They are setting up their European HQ in our country and might later open up a factory to produce Traditional Chinese Medicine and health-related food. One of the main reasons they chose Switzerland is because of our outstanding pharma and biotech clusters. Finding talents in this field will be relatively easy.

Q: On the other hand, China is regarded as one of the most attractive investment locations in the world. Where do Swiss companies invest in China and what are the particular export opportunities for Swiss companies, especially SMEs?

A: The Chinese economy is still growing strongly and is creating lots of opportunities for our companies in most of the industries where Swiss products are well known. From food and beverage to medical technology, machinery products, pharma and clean technology, the market is interesting and is growing. The traditional challenges faced by our SMEs like products registration process, intellectual property rights (IPR) issues, finding the right talents; having the proper marketing capabilities and after sales service, as well as a proper level of support from the Swiss headquarters are challenges present across many industries and will need to be solved.

Q: The free trade agreement between Switzerland and China has been implemented for one year this July and there has been remarkable growth in Switzerland's trade with China. What the SBH will do to help companies cater to the rapid growth?

A: S-GE has been organizing quite a lot of events in Switzerland around this topic in the last two years and I believe a sizeable part of our exporters to China have heard about the benefits of this agreement and how to implement it. We also receive quite a few questions from our companies concerning HS codes (customs products classification) and the level of import tariff that is applied on a specific product after the entry into force of the agreement.

We also gather information from our Swiss companies facing problems when implementing the FTA, especially during the customs clearance in China. These issues will be discussed between both customs authorities on a regular basis in order to find practical solutions.

Q: You have been working with the SBH China for a long time and know China very well. What are the suggestions you would give to Swiss companies that are interested in doing business with Chinese companies?

A: Before entering the Chinese market, Swiss SMEs are advised to do their homework. Analyze which location is the most appropriate in order to be close to their customers, understand their competitors, find a suitable Chinese partner, be ready for a very promising but challenging environment that needs time and energy especially from the side of the management in Switzerland in order to understand the market. IPR issues as well as registration issues and most importantly HR challenges need to be understood and properly managed.

A simple market analysis is a good way to start. We recommend organizing a trip to China in order to visit some potential partners and industry experts as well as visiting trade fairs. It is a good way to feel the pulse of the market and gather very valuable information.

A step by step approach is advisable; SMEs should start by focusing on one city or one region. China cannot be considered as one market but rather as an aggregate of different markets with their own characteristics and decisions made at the HQ back in Switzerland might not be in line with the reality in China.

Finally, the human factor cannot be underestimated and a solid relation with a Chinese partner will need time to build. Even more important is the involvement of the Swiss side and managerial decisions shall not be made by relying only on your partner. Trust is good, supervision is even better.

FIND OUT MORE AND GET CONNECTED

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Education and Science

Swiss Day: From higher education, to space science and innovation

Swiss Day, a promotional program to showcase Switzerland's success in education, science and innovation, was successfully held at Beihang University in Beijing from July 6 to 7. The event attracted about 1,000 visitors, from teenagers to university faculty staff, all of whom were interested in knowing more about the country's competitive advantages in these areas.

The two-day event, launched by the Science, Technology and Education Section of the Swiss Embassy in China in partnership with swissnex China, lifted its curtain on July 6 with a presentation by Professor Claude Nicollier, the first and only Swiss astronaut, on his experience venturing into the space, helping repairing the Hubble Space Telescope and Switzerland's early involvement and major achievements in space exploration.



The Swiss Day draws a large number of visitors. Photo: Zhao Pengpeng

For instance, the first experiment carried out by Apollo astronauts on the moon in 1969 was the deployment of metallic foils, "solar sails," which were developed by a research team from the University of Bern. Working primarily within the framework of the European Space Agency, Switzerland has also been collaborating with space agencies from other countries.

Another highlight of the event was *The Data Canvas: Sense Your City* exhibition. Featuring big data visualization, the exhibition displayed creative visualization of data collected from a number of Do-It-Yourself sensor networks created with open source by citizens in seven cities where swissnex offices are located. With the help of tablet computers, a visualization application allows visitors to measure pollution, dust, light, sound, temperature and humidity and intends to

equip citizens with tools to understand and participate in the future of their cities.

The experience of playing hockey on an ice rink built with environmental friendly and energy-saving artificial ice produced by Swiss company Glicer aroused visitors' curiosity to the many innovative initiatives Swiss enterprises have been spearheading.

"Before the event, my knowledge of Switzerland was limited to its beautiful scenery and landscapes, like the Lake Geneva, a few well-known cities and athletes. Thanks to the Swiss Day, I got to know about the bilateral relations between Switzerland and China and more," said Ma Pingchun, a university student.

Switzerland is internationally recognized as a country that values education and innovation, and possesses an education system that is of one of the world's highest standard. It has been dominating in the world's most innovation indicators and ranked No. 1 in the Global Competitiveness Index for six editions since 2009.



Data Canvas is a media network to promote public education around civic issues. A collaborative project between Gray Area, swissnex San Francisco and Lift, it creates an interactive map with open data and requires participants to narrate a story about their cities.

Follow the *Data Canvas* online and get involved with your city: <http://datacanvas.org/>

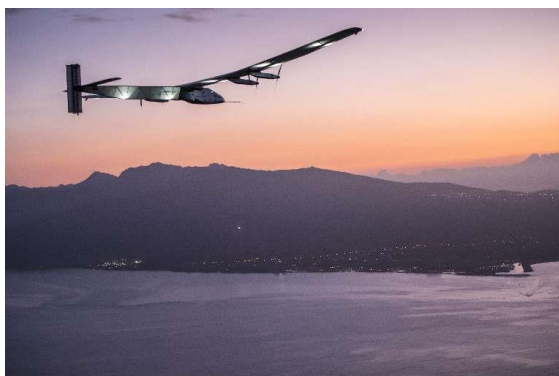
Science and Technology

Solar Impulse lands in Hawaii, setting record for longest solo flight

The Swiss-made solar-energy-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 completed the riskiest leg of its round-the-world (RTW) flight by flying over the Pacific for five days and nights without fuel, breaking the record for the longest non-stop solo flight in history.

Solar Impulse 2, at the control of Swiss veteran pilot, the project's co-founder André Borschberg, took off from Nagoya, Japan on June 28, and arrived in Hawaii on July 3 after flying for four days, 21 hours and 51 minutes. It is the longest distance ever flown by a manned, solar-powered plane and the longest leg of the plane's RTW attempt.

During the historic 7, 200-kilometer flight, Borschberg battled cold fronts and other challenges including high temperatures in the cockpit. He said he maintained a positive mindset while resting in 20-minute intervals.



Solar Impulse 2 flies over the Pacific. Photo: Solar Impulse

"During five days and five nights, I relied on the power of the sun without [encountering] any technical problem. It was extraordinary," Borschberg posted on his Facebook page after the flight. "This flight to Hawaii is not only an aviation historic first, but also a historic first for energy and clean-techs," said Bertrand Piccard, the project's co-founder and co-pilot.

The fuel-free airplane kicked off its epic journey in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates in March on a mission to promote the awareness of clean energy and sustainably with its "Future is Clean" campaign. Maneuvered alternately by the co-founders, the plane made two stopovers in the Chinese cities of

Chongqing and Nanjing from late March to May following stops in Oman, India and Myanmar.

Solar Impulse 2 was originally to fly from Nanjing to Hawaii in one journey, but unfavorable weather conditions forced it to make an unscheduled layover in Japan, where it was grounded for about three weeks.

Its stopovers in China were celebrated in the framework of the 65th anniversary of bilateral relations between Switzerland and China. The Swiss Embassy, the Solar Impulse team and its partners commemorated the flight by holding public events. Among them were the pilots' visits to local schools and meetings with Chinese university students to raise awareness about renewable energy, environmental protection and share the Swiss spirit of innovation. Their messages were well received in China, and the team brought the issues to the attention of the general public, industries and policy makers.

With a staggering 17,000 solar cells built into its wings, Solar Impulse 2 is the world's only solar-powered plane capable of flying day and night without a single drop of fuel. It is now undergoing maintenance repairs on its batteries that were damaged by overheating. The plane will resume its journey in the US in April 2016 and is expected to complete its circumnavigation next year.



Solar Impulse founders and pilots celebrate the plane's record breaking flight upon its landing in Hawaii. Photo: Solar Impulse

Follow Solar Impulse 2 by visiting www.solarimpulse.com and become part of its clean energy campaign!

Development and Cooperation

SDC initiates new climate change project in China

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) recently signed joint declarations with five inland Chinese provinces and launched the second phase of the Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCCII) project, a flagship bilateral collaborative project between Switzerland and China.

The signing of the agreements with the provincial Development and Reform Commission from Guizhou, Jiangxi, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia took place from the end of May to the beginning of June. Jilin Province is expected to sign the agreement at a later stage.

The ACCC II project aims to mainstream climate change adaptation into social and economic development process to build up resilience to climate change at various levels in these places. It is also expected to enhance the capacity of provincial policymakers and researchers to draft and evaluate short- and mid-term adaptation plans that assess risks in the context of social-economic development.

“One of the reasons SDC chose to work with these five provinces is because they are situated in less developed regions in China. That means they are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to their geographic exposure, low incomes, heavy reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, especially the agriculture sector, and limited adaptive capacities of individuals and governments,” said Huo Li, a national program officer with SDC.



File photo of women farmers who were relocated to a migration site in Ningxia. SDC will work with local authorities on investigating the impact of climate change on human health in the area. Photo: SDC

The project, to be conducted within three years from 2014 to 2017, initiates and supports a number of activities, such as workshops, policy dialogues, joint research and pilot demonstrations based on the consensus between project implementing agencies and local governments.

Meanwhile, the project will also support on-site demonstration. In Jiangxi, in addition to the joint efforts to work out a special adaptation action plan on paddy rice management, SDC and local authorities will also set up demonstration sites to build up wetland's long-term resilience against future threats. In Ningxia, the local research team will work with national experts to find out the impact of climate change on human health, in particular on rural women and migrant workers.

A pioneer in tackling climate change, Switzerland has been funding and conducting a number of projects in China with local authorities, including the Groundwater Rehabilitation under a Changing Climate in North and Northwest China and Jinsha River Basin: Integrated Water Resource and Risk Management. In May, SDC signed the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities Letter of Agreement with Chengdu and will help it in tuning into a low-carbon city.

“As a developing country, China is facing a number of key challenges such as reducing poverty and maintaining economic growth whilst ensuring sustainable development. The lack of proper planning to deal with the impacts of climate change can mean those most vulnerable in the society will face great hardships, which in turn poses multiple threats to the economic growth,” Huo explained.

Investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation can provide a wide range of co-benefits that enhance protection from current climate variability, decrease damages from air and water pollution, and advance sustainable development, she added.

Chinese Encounters

The Embassy offers a column to visiting Swiss artists who are willing to share their experience with our readers. In this issue, Felix Lehner, founder and director of the art foundry Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen, shares his experience in helping artists translate their ideas into different materials.

Visitors to Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen's foundry in Shanghai tend to be awestruck by the grandeur of the 2,600-square meter indoor production hall, the complexity of the artworks, and the classic and new techniques and materials the team applies in realizing challenging ideas into artworks.

Opened in 2012, the Shanghai subsidiary of the Swiss sculpture production company is run by a strong and creative team of Chinese and Swiss staff. Working closely with its parent company in St. Gallen in northeastern Switzerland, the company has generated intensive dialogues among Chinese and international artists and progressed with classic techniques inherited from Chinese craftsmen.



Felix Lehner founded the Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen in his 30s. Photo: Katalin Déer

"I've always been fascinated with the uninterrupted history of large sculpture-making in China. Since my first visit [to China], I've been so impressed and thrilled to see how fearless workers approach projects large and complex in nature," said Felix Lehner of his decision to work with a Chinese company back in 2006. Mr. Lehner, who founded Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen about 30 years ago, later decided to open its own subsidiary following the rapid expansion of its business and its quest to maintain the same quality as its site in St. Gallen.

At the foundry a lot of works are done by using a scanner and other 3D technology before they are milled, which allows high precision replication of any chosen object and allows artists to think differently in terms of scale, materiality and production processes, he explained.

Referring himself as a "craftsman" rather than an artist, Mr. Lehner always engages himself and his team in the production of an artwork from the beginning, and applies new artistic approaches to help artists realize their works, or sometimes, a vague idea, image or sketch.

The company once helped Chinese artist Hu Jieming realize his sketch of a robot made of bones. Each bone of the walking robot would beam with images of China's recent past, with these images projected into a darkened space. The complex piece was new to the team, yet they approached the project from technical, aesthetical and conceptual sides. In the end, the outcome was very satisfactory and the piece was exhibited at the Chronus Art Center in Shanghai in 2014.

"Saying yes to a project like this takes courage, but it also needs confidence in one's knowledge. This only works when you give the same attention to both communication and technical adaptation," said Mr. Lehner, expressing gratitude to his competent international team.

Mr. Lehner now visits Shanghai, a city of eternal appeal to him, on a regular basis. "It is a great city full of complexities and contradictions. The most impressive part is how the old and new still coexist, giving me glimpses of all the different lives lived within," he said.



A group of late Swiss artist Hans Josephsohn's works, casted at Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen, shown at the 2014 Westbund Art Fair in Shanghai. Photo: Kesselhaus Josephsohn

Diplomatic Life

Ambassador de Dardel visits Mongolia



Ambassador de Dardel (L) meets with the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar Erdene Bat-Uul. Photo: Manuel Mühlebach

Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel, who is also in charge of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited Mongolia in early June.

During his visit, the Ambassador met with several Mongolian ministers and parliamentary leaders. He also met with Swiss and local business people and gave an overview of Swiss-Mongolian bilateral and economic relations, while Consul General Markus Waldvogel, also Director of Cooperation of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Ulaanbaatar, briefed the audience on the collaborative projects Switzerland is undertaking in Mongolia.

Switzerland established diplomatic ties with Mongolia in 1964 and started development cooperation in the country 11 years ago. It has become a strategic partner in Mongolia's development process, assisting the nation in building a more prosperous, democratic and green society.



Photo: SwissCham Beijing

Briefing business community

Ambassador de Dardel briefed the Swiss business community on the latest bilateral news between Switzerland and China in Beijing on June 11. The topics ranged from the Sino-Swiss trade developments one year after the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, to Switzerland's engagement in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the RMB Hub that is being set up in Zurich and current economic reforms in China.

The semiannual Ambassador's Briefing was hosted by the SwissCham Beijing.



Ambassador de Dardel poses next to a 300-year-old Chinese Juniper tree the Embassy adopts. Photo: Che Congcong

Swiss Embassy adopts ancient trees

As part of the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of bilateral relations between Switzerland and China, a tree adoption event was held at Ditan Park in Beijing in May. The Embassy of Switzerland in China adopted 131 trees with the wishes for ever-healthier Sino-Swiss relations and a greener city.

"Trees are a form of green infrastructure that helps reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming by offsetting carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. Thus, it is our common responsibility to help preserve these trees and together we can build a greener city," said Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel.

Over the next five years, the Swiss Embassy will allocate CHF 1,200 (about 8,000 yuan) each year for tree-preservation efforts.

In Pictures

Swiss National Day celebration

The Embassy of Switzerland in China hosted a grand celebration on July 24 for the Swiss National Day, which falls on August 1. Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel and Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Chao joined about 300 guests at the Embassy in Beijing to celebrate the glorious history of the Swiss Confederation, which was established more than 700 years ago in 1291.

Blessed with nice weather and a festive atmosphere, the compound was decorated with Swiss national flags. The Swiss and Chinese national anthems were played and Swiss wine and gourmet food were served to guests, who included diplomats and representatives from Swiss and Chinese business, science and cultural sectors. Attendees were briefed on major achievements by the Swiss Confederation and the prosperous development of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations, which this year marks their 65th Anniversary. Photos: Zhao Pengpeng



In Pictures

Pre-departure gathering for Chinese students to study in Switzerland

Chinese students preparing to study in Switzerland in autumn were given a preview of their studies and a taste of Swiss food and culture at a pre-departure gathering hosted by the Swiss Embassy on June 24.

The gathering, organized by the Science, Technology and Education Section, was attended by about 90 prospective students and 20 alumni. The relaxing evening was enriched by talks from the Swiss Ambassador to China Jean-Jacques de Dardel and Swiss university alumni, who shared their stories of student life, tips for job hunting and common challenges Chinese students might encounter in the country.

Switzerland is recognized as a leading country in the world that values education and innovation. More than half of its 12 academic universities rank among the top 200 in different international rankings. Chinese students now comprise the largest group of non-European students in Switzerland. Photos: Zhao Pengpeng

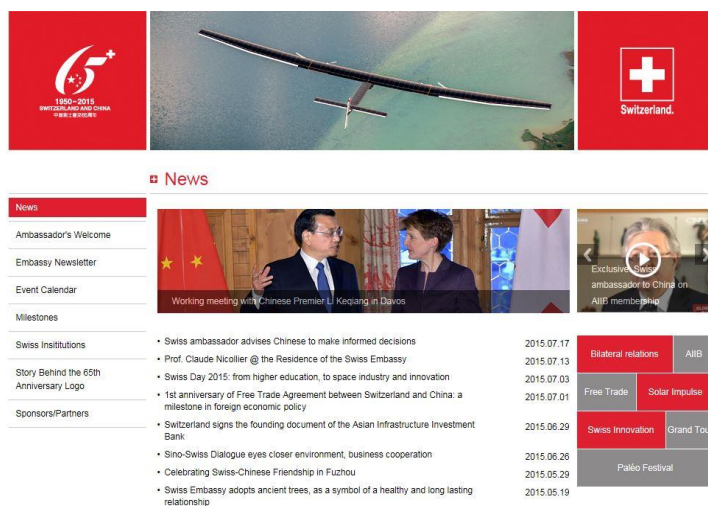


Did you know?

Official website for 65th Anniversary of Sino-Swiss relations

The Swiss Embassy in China has launched a bilingual website for the celebration of the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and China.

The website, www.Switzerland65China.com, provides a historical review of Sino-Swiss relations in addition to the latest news related to bilateral exchanges. There is also engaging multimedia content related to events and activities scheduled to take place to celebrate this jubilee year. Visit the website and be part of our celebration!



Grand Tour of Switzerland

Do you like the idea of seeing the best of Switzerland in a single scenic journey? Would you like to travel on a route leading through the country's four language regions to 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 22 lakes? Then you'll love the Grand Tour of Switzerland.

Launched by the Switzerland Tourism in May, the route designed for self-driving travellers invites visitors to experience the country's scenic and cultural highlights. Log on to www.MySwitzerland.com/grandtour for all the information you need to tailor your own tour! If you are not keen in driving, you can access most of the places with public transportation!



Facts & Figures

Switzerland:

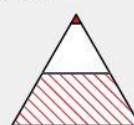
- World's largest watch-production market
- 99% of registered businesses are SMEs
- Tertiary sector generates 72.5% of GDP

28.1 MILLION WATCHES

With exports of USD 23.6 billion, Switzerland accounts for the world's largest share of the watch-production market. Switzerland exported 28.1 million watches in 2013.

Swiss GDP by sector

Primary sector	0.8%
Secondary sector	26.7%
Tertiary sector	72.5%



99%

of businesses registered in Switzerland are SMEs – small- and medium-sized companies with no more than 250 employees. As measured by market capitalisation, 15 of the 500 largest global corporations are based in Switzerland.

Upcoming events



Swiss National Day celebration

July 31, 2015, 6:30 pm -8:30 pm

Grand Hyatt Hotel, 12 Zhujiang Xilu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, Guangdong
www.Switzerland65China.com

Don't miss this great opportunity to celebrate the Swiss National Day in true Swiss style! The Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou will host a feast on the eve of Swiss National Day, which falls on August 1. The evening will be spent in a relaxing atmosphere and livened by a lively Swiss folk band performance, diverse Swiss food and the photo exhibition *China between Yesterday and Tomorrow*, which showcases everyday Chinese life captured by Swiss photographer Fernand Gigon in the 1950s.

Race for Water Odyssey public event

August 6, 2015, starting at 5: 30 pm

Banyan Tree Shanghai on The Bund, 19 Gongping Road, Hongkou District, Shanghai

Race for Water Odyssey, an initiative of the Swiss Race for Water Foundation, sees six brave and visionary explorers sail around the world in a racing trimaran to raise awareness about plastic waste and its consequences on the environment and population.

The voyage, led by Swiss expedition leader and initiator Marco Simeoni and skipper Stève Ravussin, kicked off its epic 300-day voyage in mid-March from France, and is expected to reach Shanghai and dock at the Shanghai Ports International Cruise Terminal from August 4 to 13.

During its time in Shanghai, the team will work with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and Swissnex China to bring plastic pollution to the attention of the general public, industries and legislators. The highlight is a public event at the Banyan Tree Shanghai on The Bund on August 6.

Register the event at heidi.zhang@eda.admin.ch and follow the race online: www.raceforwater.com.



Anamcara Trio China tour

August 12, 2015, 8:00 pm, Baotou Grand Theater, Inner Mongolia

August 15-18, 2015, Shanghai, Tianjin, Tianjin

For details, please visit: www.Switzerland65China.com

The Swiss trio of Anamcara (meaning "soul friend") is made up of three young musicians: pianist Florian Gabele; cellist Cécile Grüber; and violinist Kristina Brita Heinemann. As highly sought-after chamber musicians, the trio has been invited to perform at the Future Star Youth Arts Festival to be held in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Beijing in August.

They will present a program paying special tribute to Swiss composers, including Arthur Honegger (1892-1955) and Ernest Bloch (1880-1959). The group will also travel and perform in Shanghai and Tianjin.

6th International Radio Festival in Zurich

August 14-30, 2015, Zurich, Switzerland, www.internationalradiofest.com

The International Radio Festival in Zurich is a hub for producers, hosts and crews of radio programs broadcast around the world. Each year, the world's only public on-air festival reaches millions of listeners worldwide, offering audiences a unique opportunity to listen to outstanding on-air programming for about three weeks.

Love Radio, a popular radio station from Shanghai will have its DJ Zhang Ming broadcast live from Zurich. Tune in at www.internationalradiofest.com to listen to DJ Zhang Ming's live broadcast.



Fan Ye and Gilbert Impérial Guitarist Duo

August 18-22, 2015

Wuhan Qin Tai Grand Theater, Hubei, Shanghai, Beijing

Tour schedule: www.Switzerland65China.com

In August, the dynamic Sino-Swiss guitarist duo Fan Ye and Gilbert Impérial will display their extraordinary musical techniques with a modern and innovative touch. The duo, who studied together at Bern University of the Arts, will visit Wuhan, Shanghai and Beijing, playing music of Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Piazzolla, Marchelie and De Falla to offer a charming journey through the musical tradition of different countries.

Swiss Day: Role of Cultural Diplomacy

September 4, 2015

East China Normal University in Shanghai, 3663 Zhongshan BeiLu, Putuo District, Shanghai

The Société Chinoise d'Etudes de l'Histoire de France and Fribourg University from Switzerland will host a Swiss Day at East China Normal University in Shanghai on September 4. Swiss and Chinese academics will discuss the role of cultural exchanges and cultural diplomacy in the international arena with a specific focus on Sino-Swiss relations.

In the evening, the documentary Watermarks: Three Letters from China by Swiss filmmaker Luc Schaedler will be screened at the university. Featuring stories taking place in three different places in China, the film portrays a complex image of the mental state of the people in this rapidly developing country.

KEROUAC at Jazz Improvised Meeting Festival

August 31-September 6, 2015

Wuhan, Xi'an, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tour schedule: www.michaeljaeger.ch

Michael Jaeger's band KEROUAC will demonstrate their mastery of jazz music, improvise and perform at four Chinese cities during the Jazz Improvised Meeting Festival, which takes place at Beijing, Wuhan, Xi'an and Guangzhou.

Along with Chinese and other international jazz musicians and bands, they will collaboratively explore the new possibilities of dynamic jazz music.



List of Swiss institutions in China

Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

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www.s-ge.com/en
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www.Switzerland65China.com