

# Newsletter

of the Embassy of Switzerland in the People's Republic of China

January 2010

## A word from the Ambassador

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1950, sixty years ago, the Swiss Federal Council decided to recognize the People's Republic of China as one of the first Western countries to do so. It paved the way for the **establishment of diplomatic relations on 14<sup>th</sup> September** of the same year. In the context of the Cold War, this decision was courageous and even visionary. It laid the foundation for the excellent relations Switzerland maintains with the People's Republic of China and, to this day, our Chinese partners evoke with gratitude this early recognition.

As Swiss citizen living in China, we all contribute every day by our actions and behaviour to build upon this foundation to **further promote friendship and understanding** between our two countries. As Ambassador of Switzerland to China, I would like to seize this occasion to thank you all for this.

**I wish you and your families all the best for 2010** and hope to see you at one or the other of the events the Embassy will organize this year to celebrate the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations**.

With my best regards

Blaise Godet



*On 8<sup>th</sup> December 1950, Swiss President Petitpierre receives the credentials of the first Chinese diplomat accredited in Berne Mr. Feng Xuan*

## Important upcoming event

**Bilateral high level contact:** Before attending the **World Economic Forum** in Davos (27-28<sup>th</sup> January), Chinese Vice-Premier **Li Keqiang** will go to Berne and meet with the **President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard**.



*Vice-Premier  
Li Keqiang*

## Economic news

**Joint Feasibility Study in view of a possible FTA:** After two successful workshops held in Beijing (April) and Bern (October) with the participation of companies and business associations, the Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs, Mrs. **Doris Leuthard**, and the Chinese Minister of Commerce, Mr. **Chen Deming**, decided on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in Geneva, at the margin of the WTO Ministerial Conference, to launch a **Joint Feasibility Study** on a possible **Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China**. The first meeting of the Joint Study Group is likely to be held in Beijing on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February. The study is supposed to last less than one year and should provide a good



*Minister of Commerce Chen Deming and Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard*

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basis for both governments to take a decision on the opening of formal negotiations. Such an agreement should provide among others for an abolition or reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade, allowing Swiss firms to get a better access to the Chinese market and vice-versa.

**Investment Promotion Seminar:** On the occasion of the visit of the mixed economic commission headed by **Ambassador Monika Ruehl-Burzi**, the Swiss Investment Promotion team used the opportunity to make a presentation about the advantages of **setting up a European Headquarter in Switzerland** to an audience of 25 Chinese high level entrepreneurs, managers and government officials. During her opening speech Ambassador Ruehl-Burzi emphasised that the ties between China and Switzerland have never been as close as they are today, and the relationships are even growing closer from a business and entrepreneurial perspective. Over the last few years, China (including Hong-Kong) has become Switzerland's most important trading partner in Asia. Claudio Mazzucchelli, Head Business Hub China, introduced Switzerland as an **ideal Headquarter location** for globalized Chinese companies and informed about current success stories and experiences. The event was the first activity fully organized and prepared by the new Investment Promotion team based in Beijing.



*Investment Promotion Seminar at the Residence of the Embassy on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009*

## Cooperation news

**Swiss architecture:** In view of fostering cooperation between Swiss and Chinese architecture schools, Swiss official representations together with Tsinghua University, the University of Applied Science of Berne and World Architecture magazine have launched an architecture design competition among master- and PhD-students in China. The winning projects will be awarded in a **ceremony at the Architecture Biennale in Shenzhen on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010**.

The Embassy will participate in the Western Returned Scholars Associations' ceremony for the launch of the book **"Nos Années en Suisse"** ("Our years in Switzerland") on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010. With the start of the spring/summer semester in March, the Science, Education and Health Section will again coordinate the Swiss universities' presence in various **education fairs**. The first stop is **Ulaanbaatar** in Mongolia (27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010).

**Copenhagen - Hopenhagen - Flopenhagen ?** China was one of the few countries that praised the outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. The principles of the Chinese position were all integrated into the **"Copenhagen Accord"** agreed by the US, China, India, Brazil and South



**ArchScapes: Sino-Swiss Award - Excellence in Architecture**  
**A Chinese Student Design Competition**  
**ReInnovation: The Future of Historic Urban Environments**

**ArchScapes: Sino-Swiss Award - Excellence in Architecture**  
**A Chinese Student Design Competition**  
**ReInnovation: The Future of Historic Urban Environments**

**Organized by:**  
The Embassy of Switzerland in China

**Co-organizers:**  
The School of Architecture, Tsinghua University  
The School of Architecture, The University of Applied Sciences of Berne  
The World Architecture Magazine Publications (WAM)

**Competition:** ArchScapes is a competition for Chinese architecture students. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China.

**Prizes:** The competition offers a total prize of 10,000 Swiss Francs. The prizes are: 1. 1st Prize: 5,000 Swiss Francs. 2. 2nd Prize: 3,000 Swiss Francs. 3. 3rd Prize: 2,000 Swiss Francs. 4. 4th Prize: 1,000 Swiss Francs. 5. 5th Prize: 500 Swiss Francs. 6. 6th Prize: 250 Swiss Francs. 7. 7th Prize: 100 Swiss Francs. 8. 8th Prize: 50 Swiss Francs. 9. 9th Prize: 25 Swiss Francs. 10. 10th Prize: 10 Swiss Francs.

**Submission:** The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China.

**Deadline:** The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China. The competition is open to all Chinese architecture students who are currently studying in China.

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*Sino-Swiss Architecture competition*



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Africa. These include the principle of “**common but differentiated responsibilities**”, a long term goal to keep global warming **below 2 degrees**, the necessity of binding and deep emission cuts by developed nations and voluntary emission cuts by developing nations. The accord includes **new additional funding for developing nations** of 30 billion US\$ from 2010 to 2012 and 100 billion/year by 2020. China sees in the accord a first positive step towards a larger and legally binding agreement. China will go ahead with reducing carbon intensity by 40 to 45% per unit of GDP (from 2005 level).

According to **Swiss Federal Councillor Leuenberger**, Copenhagen was a step in the right direction, although he had wished for a legally binding agreement with more emission cuts as a result. Switzerland has been active in China for years in order to **reduce the impact of Climate Change** and has increased its efforts recently, given the fact that China has become the world's largest polluter and that measures taken in China can have a huge beneficial impact for China and the rest of the world. **The Federal Department for Environment, Transports, Energy and Communication** has worked successfully for some time with Chinese partners on environmental issues, in particular in the water sector. The **Federal Department of Economic Affairs** has also been active in the environment sector for some years. It has signed in February 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding which aims at improving environmental protection and energy conservation, also using Swiss technology. The **Federal Department of Foreign Affairs** is actively supporting China in its efforts to fight against the causes and the consequences of Climate Change. Since May 2009, one person works at the Embassy in Beijing dealing specifically with Climate Change issues.

## Cultural news

**The Art of Paper-cutting - East Meets West:** Under the patronage of Mrs. **Doris Leuthard**, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr. **Cai Wu**, Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the “**Haus Appenzell**” will present the exhibition “The Art of Paper-cutting” at the Fine Art Museum of **Tsinghua University between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**. Do not miss this original exhibition bringing Swiss and Chinese artists together in a project that explores new aspects of this traditional folk art.



*Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrives at Copenhagen airport for the Climate Change Conference (© Xinhua)*



*Federal Councillor Leuenberger at the Three Gorges Dam*



*The Art of Paper-cutting*



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**Francophonie 2010:** As every year, the Embassy of Switzerland will participate with cultural activities in the *fête de la francophonie*, the week of the French language, in Beijing. This week is the third of the month of March (13-21.03.10) and is celebrated worldwide by all member States of the OIF (*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*). This year Switzerland will present the film "Home" (2008, from Ursula Meier with Isabelle Huppert) and participate in a musical tour with the hip-hop group "Trip in" from Lausanne. Details will follow via our usual email announcements.

**"The Alps":** This film presented in IMAX format by Holcim and Switzerland Tourism will be screened at the **China Science and Technology Museum** from February till April 2010. Do not miss these breathtaking images of the Swiss Alps! (**attention:** *the film will be screened in Chinese version*).

**For more information on upcoming cultural events, please check the Embassy's website under "Events"**

"The Alps"



## List of Swiss institutions (with contact details)

### SwissCham Beijing

Suite 100, CIS Tower, 38 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District  
Postcode: 100125

Tel: +86 10 8531 0015

Fax: +86 10 6432 3030

E-Mail: [info@bei.swisscham.org](mailto:info@bei.swisscham.org)

Website: [www.swisscham.org](http://www.swisscham.org)

(also in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong)

### Switzerland Tourism

Prosper Center, Tower 1, Room 609, No. 5 Guanghua Road  
Postcode: 100020

Tel: +86 10 6512 0974

Fax: +86 10 6512 0973

E-Mail: [info.cn@switzerland.com](mailto:info.cn@switzerland.com)

Website: [www.myswitzerland.com.cn](http://www.myswitzerland.com.cn)

(also in Shanghai and Hong Kong)

### Swiss Society Beijing

E-Mail: [info@ssbj.net.cn](mailto:info@ssbj.net.cn)

Website: [www.ssbj.net.cn](http://www.ssbj.net.cn)



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## Beijing Swiss Study Centre

Beijing Foreign Studies University, main building, Room 203

Tel: +86 10 8881 6306

E-Mail: [ces\\_bfsu@yahoo.cn](mailto:ces_bfsu@yahoo.cn)

## News from the Embassy

### *Focus on ... the Political Section*

The main goals of the Political Section are to coordinate political contacts and visits between Swiss political authorities and their counterparts in the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Mongolia. The section reports on developments in foreign and domestic policy of these countries and it also transmits to them information and coming from the Swiss authorities. Besides planning and coordinating Embassy activities, the section is managing several Swiss projects and facilitates exchanges in fields such as politics, migration, human rights and the rule of law. It is cultivating contacts with the Ministries of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Mongolia as well as institutions, think tanks, NGOs and other embassies to promote mutual understanding and defending Swiss interests.

*Currently, the Political Section consists of six people: Mrs. Krystyna Marty (Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Political Section), Mr. Pierre Hagmann (Deputy Head of Section), Mr. Gautier Chiarini (Human Rights Advisor), Mrs. Véronique Billeter (Analyst, missing in the picture), Mrs. Disha Ciao (Assistant to the Minister), Mr. Manuel Mühlebach (Academic Stagiaire).*



## Contact

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