

Newsletter

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

April 2010

Celebrating 60 years of Switzerland – China diplomatic relations: 1950-2010

A word from the Ambassador

The year 2010 started with an **important bilateral encounter**: Before attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, **Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang** paid an official visit to Switzerland on 26th January and met in Berne with the **President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard** and the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey**.

In early February, Switzerland and China started to work on a **Joint Feasibility Study for a Free Trade Agreement**. The study is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

In order to celebrate the **60th anniversary of bilateral relations** and the sound development of our ties with China ever since, the Embassy is coordinating a **wide range of events** throughout the year and warmly welcomes your participation.

I wish you and your families all the best for the Chinese Year of the Tiger !

With my best regards

Blaise Godet

Important upcoming events

The Swiss pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo: on 1st May 2010, the **Shanghai World Expo** will open its doors to the public. Up to 70 millions visitors are expected during the six months duration of this global event around the topic "**Better City, Better Life**". Switzerland will be present with its **national pavilion** devoted to the issue of interaction between urban and rural areas. Cultural, economic and scientific events will be organized at the Swiss pavilion, especially around the **Swiss pavilion day at the Expo on 12th August 2010**. For more information, please check the website: www.swisspavilion.ch/

In addition to the national pavilion, the Swiss cities of **Basel, Geneva and Zurich** will be present at the Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) pavilion, showcasing Swiss know-how in the field of water management in urban contexts.

In order to strengthen **Sino-Swiss cooperation in the area of public health**, the Minister of Health of China, **H.E. Mr. Chen Zhu** will pay a bilateral visit to Switzerland on 18th May 2010, at the margins of the **World Health Assembly** in Geneva.



President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard and Vice-Premier of China Li Keqiang



Bird's eyes view of the Swiss pavilion

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Important news to the Swiss community

Bilateral relations in figures: In this year when we celebrate the **60th anniversary of bilateral relations between Switzerland and China**, the Embassy considers it meaningful to present a brief overview of **Swiss-China relations in numbers** for your information (*figures for 2009*):

Number of Swiss nationals in China : 3352, incl. Hong Kong / Macao

Number of Chinese nationals in Switzerland : 8811, incl. Hong Kong / Macao

Number of Chinese students in Switzerland : 819 (+ 1023 if professional education is taken into account)

Number of Swiss students in China : 48 (on scholarships)

Swiss exports to China : 5.508 billions CHF

Swiss imports from China : 4.993 billions CHF

Trade balance : 387 millions CHF in favour of Switzerland

Swiss investments in China : 1.013 billions (2008); cumulated: 5.7 billions CHF

A new generation has arrived ! The Passport 10. The biggest difference to the conventional passport is the **storage of biometric data** in this document. For detailed information on the new Passport 10, please visit the following website www.schweizerpass.ch (available in German, French and Italian).

Economic news

Following the two workshops held in April and October 2009 and the announcement in November of the launch of a **Joint Feasibility Study for a possible Free Trade Agreement** by the Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs Doris Leuthard and the Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming, a **first meeting** of the group in charge of drafting the study took place in Beijing on **4th and 5th of February**. The Swiss delegation was headed by **Ambassador Christian Etter**, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements. The meeting allowed both sides to determine the content of the study as well as technical issues. A second meeting is due to take place in Berne, probably in May.

A delegation of the **Swiss Federal Customs Administration** headed by its Director **Mr. Rudolf Dietrich** met their Chinese counterparts of the General Administration of Customs in **Beijing from 9th to 11th March**. The objectives were to get a better understanding of the procedures used by both administrations and to improve the cooperation between them. On this occasion, **an arrangement on training cooperation was signed**.



Biometric passport 10



Swiss Customs Director Rudolf Dietrich



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Cooperation news

The exhibition of ECAL – the University of Art & Design in Lausanne – named **“Luxury & Design”** was successfully hosted by the new art museum of **CAFA** – the Central Academy of Fine Arts. In cooperation with the Embassy, ECAL Director Pierre Keller reached an **agreement with CAFA and Tsinghua Academy of Art & Design**, which will give a total number of 20 Chinese students the possibility to attend courses in Lausanne during the Summer of 2010.



ECAL luxury design

Low Carbon Cities: Switzerland has developed a new **“Low Carbon Cities in China” (LCCC) program** that will rely partly on the experience of Swiss initiatives such as “Energy Cities/European Energy Award”, “2000 Watt Society” and other Swiss low-carbon approaches in smart transport and green buildings for example. This new program supports Mayors who want to take leadership in **developing a low-carbon vision for their municipalities**. As a commitment, the Mayors will sign the **“China Mayors’ Declaration on Climate Change”** where the signatories commit their municipalities to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into their local plans and set ambitious targets for carbon intensity reduction, energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, low carbon building, transport, industry and utilities. Yinchuan, Meishan, Dongcheng district in Beijing, and Dezhou are among the pilot municipalities in the program. **The LCCC program will be launched on 3rd June 2010** in presence of **Ambassador Dahinden**, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, National Development and Reform Commission officials, and representatives of participating Municipalities and Agencies.



*Ambassador Martin Dahinden
SDC Director General*

The “Adapting to Climate Change in China” (ACCC) program, a Sino-Swiss/UK partnership, held a three days training course on 2nd – 5th March on the topic of **“Physical and Socio-Economic Impact and Risk Assessments”**. The presentations can be downloaded from the China Climate Change Info Net website of the National Development and Reform Commission (www.ccchina.gov.cn/en/NewsInfo.asp?NewsId=23050).

“The Future of Entrepreneurial China” – this will be the topic of the panel discussion with academics, entrepreneurs and politicians during the first reception of the renowned **“St. Gallen Symposium”** in China on 15th April 2010. The event will be hosted by the Ambassador of Switzerland at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Symposium.



China – Africa: A “Workshop on Agricultural Development in China and Africa - A Comparative Perspective”, was held by the College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The objective of



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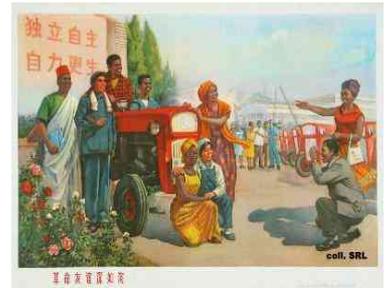
the workshop was to share the results of a study supported by Switzerland and get comments from the concerned Ministries and Agencies with the aim to **enhance learning between China and Africa in the field of agricultural development**. The report will be presented in the China- Development Assistance Committee (DAC) within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Study Group Conference in Bamako in April 2010.

In February, the Embassy supported the **China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL)** in organising a **Colloquium on criminal justice** in Beijing. In presence of about 40 judges from the Supreme People's Court and other tribunals, Chinese and foreign law scholars, current developments and questions on topics such as the standard of proof in criminal trials, sentencing, plea bargaining, etc. were dynamically discussed and compared. This two-day event was also the occasion for launching Professor Yue Liling (CUPL) latest book, "**Criminal Trial and Human Rights Protection**", published by the China Law Press. This colloquium proved to be a timely and successful exercise, allowing its participants to exchange experiences and visions for the future of criminal justice, a theme dear to both China and Switzerland.

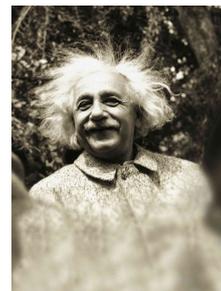
Cultural news

Einstein exhibition: In the framework of its China image campaign, Presence Switzerland is bringing the acclaimed **Albert Einstein exhibition** of the **Historical Museum Bern** to China. This exhibition will be on tour in China, first at the **China Science and Technology Museum** in Beijing (June-October 2010), then in **Guangzhou** (Winter 2010-2011), in **Hong-Kong** (Spring-Summer 2011) and finally in **Shanghai** (Winter 2011-2012). Divided in three main parts on Einstein's life, on Einstein's time and on Einstein's scientific theories, this innovative exhibition also includes some **interactive experiments** and **pedagogical videos**. Some scientific and educational activities will be organized around the exhibition by swissnex.

The Art of Paper-cutting - East Meets West: Under the patronage of Mrs. **Doris Leuthard**, President of the Swiss Confederation, and H.E. Mr. **Cai Wu**, Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the "**Haus Appenzell**" is presenting the exhibition "The Art of Paper-cutting" at the Visual Art Centre of **Tsinghua University until 5th 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.



A long history of cooperation in the field of agriculture under change



Albert Einstein (Einstein Arch. Jerusalem. Photo Dallos)



The Art of Paper-cutting



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Pro Helvetia in China: At the end of its 2008-2010 “**Swiss Chinese explorations**” exchange program, the Swiss Arts Council **Pro Helvetia** has now decided to establish itself durably in China. Starting this Summer, the Foundation will have **permanent staff in both Shanghai and Beijing**. Exact modalities of Pro Helvetia's presence are still to be defined in the coming months. More information under: www.prohelvetia.ch

prohelvetia

For more information on upcoming cultural events, please check the Embassy's website under “Events”.

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
Website: www.swisscham.org
(local branches 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
Website: www.myswitzerland.com.cn
(also in Shanghai and Hong Kong)

Swiss Society Beijing

E-Mail: info@ssbj.ch
Website: www.ssbj.ch

Beijing Swiss Study Centre

Beijing Foreign Studies University, main building, Room 203
Tel: +86 10 8881 6306
E-Mail: ces_bfsu@yahoo.cn



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News from the Embassy

Focus on ... the Science, Education and Health Section

What are our main tasks? In science and technology, we foster contacts and exchange of ideas between science institutions, universities, scientists and science policymakers. We help the Swiss research community to develop its cooperation with China, a growing science & technology powerhouse. In higher education, we foster the exchange of students between Switzerland and China by promoting Switzerland as a country of excellence in education and research, and by assisting students in various aspects, including scholarships. In the field of public health, we exchange relevant information with Chinese authorities and international organizations and facilitate high level visits and collaboration between the two countries. All these activities require a large network of contacts with relevant Ministries, academies, research institutions and universities as well as a close collaboration with swissnex China, located in Shanghai.

Currently, there are four people working in this section: Mr. Markus Reubi (Counsellor for Science & Technology and Head of Section), Mrs. Christine Kyburz (Responsible for Education and Deputy Head of Section), Mrs. Liu Chenchen (Assistant) and Mrs. Cynthia Robbiani (Academic Stagiaire until end of March 2010).



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