

Newsletter

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

July 2010

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

A word from the Ambassador

The beginning of the second half of this year has been marked by the recent official visit of the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey**. After discovering the Swiss Pavilion in the Shanghai World Expo 2010 on June 27th, Micheline Calmy-Rey held talks in Beijing with Vice-Premier **Li Keqiang** and her Chinese counterpart **H. E. Yang Jiechi** on June 28th and 29th respectively. The meetings stood under the sign of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the People's Republic of China.

During the Beijing leg of her visit, Micheline Calmy-Rey also enjoyed and praised the "**Albert Einstein (1879-1955)**" exhibition at the China Science and Technology Museum.

On the occasion of this visit, a **dinner with the Swiss Community** was held at the Swiss Embassy of Beijing in the evening of June 28th.

I wish you and your families all the best for this upcoming summer.

With my best regards

Blaise Godet

Important upcoming events

National day celebration: On 1st August 2010, the Swiss Society Beijing (SSB) will keep the tradition of organizing the **Swiss national day celebration** with the support of the Embassy. The event will start around 18h00 on Sunday 1st August at **Zuiku restaurant in Caochangdi**. For registration (compulsory, before 22nd July) and more information, please see the following website:

<http://www.ssbj.ch/event-calendar/1-august-2010/?nid=278451>

Mrs. Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation, is expected to pay an official visit to China in mid-August 2010. Mrs. Leuthard will be accompanied by a **high-level business delegation** of about 25 people, mostly CEOs of well-known Swiss companies and representatives of Swiss industry associations, as well as **journalists from major Swiss media**. She will visit Beijing, Chongqing and Shanghai. The objectives of her visit are, among others, to celebrate the **60th anniversary of the Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations**, to meet and discuss important issues with Chinese leaders and to participate at the Swiss Pavilion Day at the Expo in Shanghai on August 12th, 2010.



Mrs. Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and Vice-Premier Li Keqiang



President of the Swiss Confederation, Mrs. Doris Leuthard

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Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger is likely to visit China in the middle of September. He may have high level contacts to mark the 60th anniversary of **Switzerland–China diplomatic relations** and participate in a **Water Forum in Shanghai**.

Economic news

On **April 14th, 2010**, the **Agreement between Switzerland and China on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments entered into force**. This agreement replaces the original agreement which has been implemented since 1987. It will ensure that Swiss investments in China and Chinese investments in Switzerland are accorded with standards of protection recognized under international law. The main provisions of the agreement cover the handling of foreign investments by the host country, the transfer of capital and investment income, compensation for expropriation and the **introduction of new dispute settlement procedures which allows companies to submit the case unilaterally to international arbitration**.

A delegation of the **Heads of the Cantonal Food Law Enforcement Offices** (called Cantonal Chemists) made a study trip to China from **May 5th to 16th, 2010**. They went to Shanghai, Beijing, Qingdao and Hong Kong. In Shanghai, they visited the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (local CIQ) and in Beijing they met with officials from the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and visited also the Chinese Academy for Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ).

Visits and meetings:

A delegation of the **Swiss Bankers Association**, led by their Chairman Mr. Patrick Odier, visits China from July 4th to 13th.

The second meeting of the group in charge of drafting the **Joint Feasibility Study** for a possible **Free Trade Agreement** between Switzerland and China is taking place in Berne from July 5th to 7th.

Cooperation news

Switzerland was represented with a **Swiss University booth** for the first time at the **Wuhan Education Fair** from June 26th to 27th. This provided an excellent opportunity to create new contacts in one of the most rapidly developing hubs for education and research in central China.



Delegation of the Heads of the Cantonal Food Law Enforcement Offices on their visit in Beijing



Swiss booth at China International Education Expo



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The second **Swiss University Alumni in Beijing networking event** took place on June 26th at the Pangu Hotel. **Prof. Heinrich Rohrer, Swiss Nobel Price Winner in Physics in 1986**, was our special guest and provided some exclusive insight into his fascinating career. The event was a success and all the Swiss university graduates greatly enjoyed it.

Representatives of the Federal Office of Public Health and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva are in Beijing again from July 5th to 9th for a **professional course on Global Health Diplomacy** at the Peking University.

The Sino-Swiss Cooperation and Dialogue on Climate Change City Initiatives were organized by the Embassy and successfully convened in Beijing on June 3rd, two days before the World Environment Day 2010. Over 80 representatives participated in this event. As an important outcome, Mr. Dahinden, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the Mayors and representatives of Yinchuan, Dezhou and Meishan municipalities as well as the Dongcheng District of Beijing.

Invited by the **Mayor of Meishan** municipality, **Switzerland** promoted and participated as a main guest in the **first Low-Carbon Day in China**. The Meishan municipality set a ground stone with this event, which will from now on be organised every year on June 21st. The day highlighted a series of activities such as a no car driving and a tree planting campaign, as well as low carbon exhibitions and information on low carbon life and best practices. Meishan is an active partner in the **Sino-Swiss Low Carbon City China** programme (LCCC).

Cultural news

The success of the **Swiss Pavilion** has been ongoing in the month of June, as in May it retained its status as one of the World Expo's **most popular** pavilions. While it attracted an impressive number of 331'271 visitors in May, this result was topped last month with **around 340'000** people (excluding visitors to the open area of the urban lounge) visiting the Swiss Pavilion. **Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey** visited the Swiss Pavilion on June 27th and expressed her great satisfaction. June was also a very attractive month in terms of temporary exhibitions and events. The exhibition of **Swiss Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation** replaced the highly popular interactive



*Professor Heinrich Rohrer,
Swiss Nobel Prize Winner in
Physics 1986*



*Mr. Dahinden, Director General
of SDC and Mrs. Wu Cuiyun,
Mayor of Dezhou Municipality.*



The Low-Carbon Day Activities



*Mrs. Federal Councillor Calmy-
Rey visiting the Swiss Pavilion*



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installation by **Bern-Jungfrau region**. A highlight on the Pavilion stage was the performance of **Fiona Daniel**. Upcoming events include **Top to Top** (a Swiss family discusses how they embarked on an ecological world tour, **July 5th to 8th**), the **celebration of the Swiss National Day (August 1st)**, the **International Institute for the Rights of the Child event (August 2nd to 8th)** and the **Swiss National Pavilion Day (August 12th)**.

The Swiss music ensemble **Piano Seven** will be **on tour in China** during the month of July. Next to **Beijing** and **Shanghai**, they will also perform in **Guangzhou**. The show that they are presenting includes **seven pianists, a percussionist and a guest violin soloist**. The combination of seven pianos is definitely unique and a creative achievement in music history. The music is a crossover of classic, jazz and tango, and is entirely composed by the members of Piano Seven. Like the previous creations of Piano Seven, the show will be rich in musical and scenic emotions.

Where and when:

6th July 2010, 19:30, Beijing, National Centre for the Performing Arts

9th July 2010 Guangzhou, Xinghai Concert Hall

10th July 2010 Shanghai, Shanghai Oriental Art Center

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland, Wu Promotion presents the **Basel Symphony Orchestra (Sinfonieorchester Basel)** to audiences in China. The orchestra is joined by one of the world's most renowned conductors, the Swiss-born **Mario Venzago** who will have the pleasure of directing the Shanghai violin soloist, **Huang Mengla** among his musicians. The Basel Symphony Orchestra is one of Switzerland's three major symphonic orchestras and enjoys wide acclaim for its exceptional performances in various concerts and operas. The audiences in China can look forward to a phenomenal musical experience.

Where and when:

8th August Guangzhou, Xinghai Concert Hall (TBD)

10th August Suzhou, Suzhou Science and Cultural Arts Centre (TBD)

11th August Shanghai, Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre

13th August Beijing, National Centre for the Performing Arts

15th August Tianjin, Tianjin Concert Hall (TBD)

Do not miss the "Albert Einstein (1879-1955)" exhibition: In the framework of its China image campaign, Presence Switzerland brings 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 (until 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



Piano Seven in concert



The Basel Symphony Orchestra on tour



Professor Einstein and his wife Mileva, 1911. Credit: ETH Bibliothek Zurich



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some **interactive experiments** and **pedagogical videos**. Some scientific and educational activities are being organized around the exhibition by swissnex.

The Swiss Embassy is holding an **exhibition on climate change** in **Qingdao** (September 2010) and in **Beijing** (October 2010 - TBC). The exhibition will consist of two different parts, a scientific part called the "**Climate Trail**" which draws attention to the issue of climate change and its consequences. The second part showcases an artistic photo exhibition by Mathias Braschler and Monika Fischer called "**Affected – The Human Face of Climate Change**". The works of the two Swiss photographers depict people whose lives have been drastically altered by global warming – so called *climate victims*. Around the exhibitions themselves, lectures and various side events will be organized.

"**Happy@60**": To celebrate the **60th anniversary of bilateral relations**, the Embassy of Switzerland has launched a photographic exchange project bringing Swiss photographer **Petri de Pità** and Chinese photographer **Zhu Yinghao** together to take 60 pictures of 60-years old people in both Switzerland and China. Each person will be depicted with two photographs, one portrait and one photo showing what makes these people happy in their lives. This exhibition will be inaugurated at exactly the same time on **Tuesday 14th September 2010** in Beijing (6 pm) and Berne (12 noon).

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



"Affected" by Braschler & Fischer



"Happy@60" photo project

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



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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

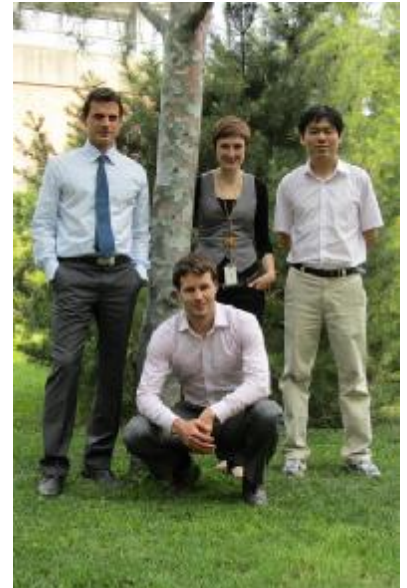
Beijing Foreign Studies University, main building, Room 203
Tel: +86 10 8881 6306
E-Mail: ces_bfsu@yahoo.cn

News from the Embassy

Focus on ... the Economic and Commercial Section

The Economic and Commercial Section is the contact point between Swiss and Chinese authorities in the fields of trade, commerce, intellectual property, finance, environmental issues when linked to trade, civil aviation or quality controls, among others. Our aim is to implement the strategies and decisions taken by Berne in order to strengthen Sino-Swiss economic relations. We also sustain the efforts of Swiss companies wishing to establish themselves in China and those already located in this country in their contacts with Chinese authorities. We also provide them with economic or legal information and carry out diplomatic intervention when necessary. Globally, the tasks of this section are highly varied and ranged from reporting the economic developments in China to facilitating the negotiation of new agreements, including preparing the visits of Swiss economic delegations, resolving specific economic issues, ensuring the follow-up of agreements already in force and participating to different fora to promote Swiss economy and businesses, etc. The Economic and Commercial Section of the Embassy works also closely with the Swiss Business Hub and with the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Currently, there are four people working in this section: Mr. Yannick Roulin (Head of Section), Ms. Irene Frei (Deputy Head of Section), Mr. Bernhard Küffer (Academic Intern) and Mr. Cui Hao (Assistant).



Economic and Commercial Section



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Contact

Embassy of Switzerland in China

3, Sanlitun Dongwujie, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Postcode: 100600

Tel: +86 10 8532 8888

Fax: +86 10 6532 4353

E-Mail: bei.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Embassy website: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing



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