

Newsletter

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

October 2010

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

A word from the Ambassador

A year filled with a lot of highlights and prominent visits is coming to an end. Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, President Doris Leuthard and Vice-President Moritz Leuenberger have graced our host country with their presence and have taken the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the People's Republic of China to deepen the bilateral relations between our two countries. The actual anniversary has been celebrated with a real cake and candles and a wonderful exhibition with many happy people participating. With the conclusion of the feasibility study a major step has been made in the field of the Free Trade Agreement. And with the Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Program (SSSTC) in September the collaboration in these fields has been brought to the next higher level.

I wish you and your families a bright autumn and extend my best wishes for a very festive season.

With my best regards

Blaise Godet



Presidential gala dinner to celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations on 14th August 2010



Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mrs. Fu Ying on a phone conversation with Federal Councillor Calmy-Rey on the day of the diplomatic anniversary

Important upcoming events

Swiss Ball 2010 - 20th November 2010, 18:00

Jazz Up Your Night with Montreux Jazz Festival

For registration and more information, please see the following website:

<http://www.ssbj.ch/event-calendar/>

4th Annual dialog between Switzerland and China on Intellectual Property Rights

Following the third dialog which took place in Beijing in November last year,

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Swiss and Chinese experts will meet again from **8 to 10 November 2010**, this time in **Berne**, for the **fourth annual bilateral dialog on Intellectual Property Rights** as well as the **second seminar on Geographical Indications**. The meetings will be organised by the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property based in Berne. This annual meeting represents a good opportunity for both sides to discuss about the development of the legislation and its implementation, further areas of cooperation, as well as to raise some concrete cases.

20th Joint Economic Commission Switzerland – China

The previous edition having taken place in Beijing in December last year, the **20th Joint Economic Commission** should this time meet in **Geneva**, probably at the **beginning of December**. This annual meeting allows both sides to pass into revue their economic relations and to raise concrete issues or difficulties. The Joint Economic Commission has been created in 1974.

Important news to the Swiss community

Expatriates are about to enter virtual space by launching their own online social network, "SwissCommunity": The platform will allow the nearly 700,000 Swiss Abroad to contact each other, exchange information and strengthen ties with their country of origin. **SwissCommunity** is designed as an exclusive worldwide club of expatriates and will officially be inaugurated at the annual congress of the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)**, which takes place in St Gallen this year. The project is the brainchild of the OSA, which dedicated two years of intensive work to it and undertook in-depth marketing analysis. Mrs. Ariane Rustichelli, the project manager, says the reaction during the project phase of SwissCommunity was very encouraging and the platform **responds to a real need among expatriates**. "There is an obvious interest to be in contact with other expatriates. Either to be at the disposal of Switzerland or because they hope Switzerland takes an interest in them," Rustichelli explains. **SwissCommunity makes it possible to keep in touch with friends and family at home, maintain links with the canton of origin and to stay up-to-date on what's going on in Switzerland**. No other expatriate community has such a sophisticated platform," she adds. SwissCommunity is divided up into a section which is generally accessible and a section called My Network which is **reserved for members only**. The free chat section is subject to strict rules and is moderated by the OSA. The information section lists addresses of Swiss societies and clubs around the world. They can use SwissCommunity to publish their events calendars. Users will also find the addresses of all the Swiss embassies and consulates. The section includes political, economic and tourist information about Switzerland and individual cantons. **The News section features articles from Swiss Review - the magazine of the Swiss Abroad - and swissinfo.ch**. This chapter also allows



Ariane Rustichelli (aso.ch)



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readers to follow the activities of the OSA, the federal authorities and the cantons. She hopes to win partners who will help finance an Italian-language version of the platform. So far SwissCommunity is available in German, French – “two of three official languages of the OSA - and English, the language of the internet”, Rustichelli says. The idea is to adapt the platform to new needs. Rustichelli says there will be regular surveys to learn about the expectations of the Swiss Abroad community.

Sonia Fenazzi, swissinfo.ch (adapted from Italian by Urs Geiser)

Economic news

Visit of President Doris Leuthard to China: From August 10th to 15th 2010, the President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, **Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard**, paid a visit to China. It has been the first visit of a Swiss President to this country since 2000. Mrs Leuthard was accompanied, apart from the official delegation, by a **large and high-level delegation of businessmen** coming from the main Swiss companies as well as journalists from the major Swiss media. She began her trip in **Chongqing** where she met the Mayor of the city, **Mr. Huang Qifan**, as well as Party Secretary **Mr. Bo Xilai**. During that day, a Memorandum of Understanding on future cooperation was also signed between Economiesuisse and the Chongqing municipality. She passed then the next two days in **Shanghai** where she met with the Mayor **Mr. Han Zheng**, attended the concert of the **Basel Symphony Orchestra**, and visited the **EXPO** during the Swiss Pavilion Day, among others. During the last two days in **Beijing**, she met with **President Hu Jintao**, Chairman of the National People's Congress **Mr. Wu Bangguo**, Beijing's Party Secretary **Mr. Liu Qi** and Minister of Commerce **Mr. Chen Deming**. With this latter, she also opened on the last day the **Sino-Swiss Economic Forum** organized by the Embassy and the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Beijing (SwissCham) which was attended by 350 Chinese and Swiss officials and business people. In the evening, a **presidential gala dinner** took place to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Switzerland and China.

Free Trade Agreement: During the visit of **President Leuthard**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the conclusion of the **Joint Feasibility Study** was signed between Ambassador **Blaise Godet** and China International Trade Representative, Vice-Minister **Gao Hucheng**, in presence of President Doris Leuthard and President Hu Jintao. This MoU marks the conclusion of the Joint Feasibility Study and opens the way for the **launch of formal negotiations** on a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and



Chinese Minister of Commerce H.E. Mr. Chen Deming giving his speech at the Sino-Swiss Economic Forum on 14th August 2010



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China in a near future. The text of the Joint Feasibility Study can be found under the following link:

<http://www.seco.admin.ch/themen/00513/02655/02731/04118/index.html?lang=en>.

Cooperation news

"Think about our climate", a joint exhibition of **"Climate trail"** by PRS and **"Affected: the Human Faces of Climate Change"** by Swiss photographers **Matthias Braschler** and **Monika Fischer** was held in Qingdao Olympic Sailing Museum between September 1-14 in Qingdao. The exhibition was opened by **Vice Mayor Wang Jianxiang** and Ambassador Godet in the presence of representatives from cleantech industry, environmental science specialists and universities in Qingdao. **Two lectures** were also organized on September 2 at Ocean University of China and Xianyou Road Community. The exhibition was well-received among Qingdao public, attracting more than 2'000 visitors during the 7 days where the museum was freely opened to the public. Following the Olympic Sailing Museum, the exhibition has been shown at **Ocean University of China** for another two weeks, before going back to **Beijing** where the exhibition will be shown before the end of the year.



Inauguration of "Think about our Climate" in Qingdao

Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Program (SSSTC): A joint working meeting of the SSSTC took place in Beijing on September 10th and 11th. The Swiss delegation from the **State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER)** and the **Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETHZ)** held meetings with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the other institutions in the field of sciences and education. In the same time joint workshops with Chinese and Swiss scientists were organized by CAS in Beijing. After the meetings in Beijing members of the Swiss delegation attended the **Swiss Science Conference Week** in Shanghai presented by **swissnex China** and the **ETHZ**. The **Sino-Swiss Science in Dialogue** event was held from September 13th to 17th with presentations and podium discussions examining the following aspects as part of the Expo theme **"Better City, Better Life"**: air, water, mobility, energy, and sustainable construction.

Professor Kurt Wüthrich from ETHZ, winner of the **Nobel Prize** in chemistry in 2002, held a lecture in the **China Science and Technology Museum** in Beijing on September 14th in the framework of the accompanying program surrounding the "Albert Einstein (1879-1955)" exhibition there.

Swiss Astronaut Claude Nicollier visited Beijing and hold lectures on



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September 18th at the **Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics** and on September 19th at the **China Science and Technology Museum** in Beijing in the framework of the accompanying program surrounding the "Albert Einstein (1879-1955)" exhibition there.



Swiss Nobel Prize winner Mr. Kurt Wüthrich

Cultural news

"Culturescapes": On 16th September 2010, the Swiss festival "Culturescapes" was successfully launched with a performance of the **Guangdong Modern Dance Company at Theater Basel**. This year, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, **China is guest country** at this festival under the patronage of President of the Confederation **Doris Leuthard**. It will last until early December, with more than 250 exhibitions and performances involving hundreds of Chinese artists. For more information, please see:

www.culturescapes.ch/China

bconnected: Swiss jazz group "bconnected" is coming back to China this October after several successful tours since 1999. "bconnected" is mixing with subtlety **jazz** tunes with traditional Chinese instruments such as *erhu* and the *pipa*. This "perfect blend" allows bconneded to work with Chinese artists as well. The group will be performing in Hong-Kong, Wuxi, Zhenjiang, Nanjing, Jiaxing, Shanghai and Beijing Nine Gates jazz festival.

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



Swiss jazz group "B-Connected"



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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

News from the Embassy

Focus on ... the Office of the Defense Attaché

The Defence Attaché is based at the Swiss Embassy in Beijing. He is accredited in the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (VN). His main responsibilities include the handling of all contacts between the Federal Department for Defense, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS) and the respective defence ministries, the management of various security related issues between Switzerland and the countries of accreditation as well as the permanent assessment of the security situation in the region of accreditation.

At the moment there are five people working in the Office of the Defense Attaché: Colonel Thomas Bucheli, Ph.D. (Defence Attaché), Mrs. Marie-Louise Brunner (Office Manager), Mr. Gabriel Schweizer (Assistant), 1st Lieutenant Michel Molnar (Long-term Intern), 1st Lieutenant Simon Hürlimann (Short-term Intern) and Mr. Xing Guoxiao (Driver)



The team of the Defense Attaché Office



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