

Newsletter

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

May 2011

A word from the Ambassador

Dear fellow citizens,

Spring 2011 has been marked by an exchange of high-ranking delegations from both sides. The season started with the visit of the Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, **Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter**. After company and university visits in the field of science and technology in Shanghai, Mr Burkhalter held talks in Beijing with State-Councillor **Liu Yandong** and his Chinese counterparts **H. E. Mr Wan Gang, Minister for Science and Technology**, **H.E. Mr Chen Zhu, Minister of Health** as well as **H.E. Mr Du Yubo, Vice-Minister of Education** on April 25th. The meetings stood under the sign of the deepening cooperation between Switzerland and the People's Republic of China in the fields of research, education and health. The mutual interest was underlined by the signing of a **Joint Statement** on Sino-Swiss Science & Technology Cooperation and a **Joint Declaration** on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Health.

During the Beijing leg of his successful visit, Mr Burkhalter also assisted at the opening of the New Tsinghua University Library for Humanities and Social Sciences, which is designed by the Swiss architect Mario Botta, as well as the **ReGeneration² Exhibition**. He enjoyed an extensive exchange with representatives of the Swiss Community and the art world.

On May 5th the official visit of **H.E. Mr Yang Jiechi, China's Minister of Foreign Affairs**, to Switzerland followed. He was received by the **President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey**. This encounter marks the second round of the political dialogue between the two countries. During the official talks issues of common concern in the field of finance, trade, intellectual property rights, migration, science and technology were discussed. I am glad about this new development in the relationship between the two countries.

I wish you and your families lovely spring days.

With my best regards

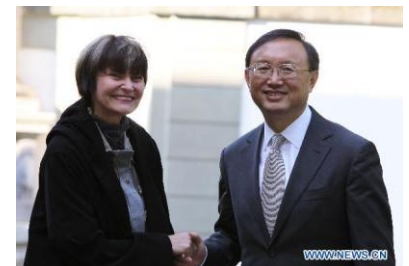
Blaise Godet



Ambassador Blaise Godet



Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong (R) meets FC Didier Burkhalter in Beijing, April 25th



President Micheline Calmy-Rey shakes hands with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi (R) in Bern, May 5th

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Upcoming events

Zehnder and Hanggai China Tour

Christian Zehnder's voice is the air under crows' wings. It is commonly thought that his overtone singing is of Asian, that is to say Mongolian origin - that's why Pro Helvetia invites Mongolian band Hanggai to perform together with him. One is Mongolian throat singing, one is natural alpine tones. 'In the end it was yodelling that brought me closer to an understanding of the natural voices of various cultures of our world.' They will perform together on May 18th and 19th in Beijing and 22nd in Shanghai. This event is supported by Pro Helvetia www.prohelvetia.cn.



Christian Zehnder

Photo Exhibition "ICE, Journey to the Land of Icebergs"

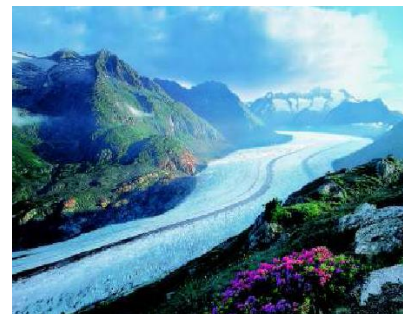
Produced by Dr. Bolognesi, a Swiss meteorologist and Mr. Yvan Salamin, a photo passionate, the exhibition will be opened in Tianjin on May 28th at the Astor Hotel. On the same day, a lecture will be given by Dr. Bolognesi on "The icebergs of Greenland" during the European Day.



Photo Exhibition "ICE, Journey to the Land of Icebergs"

Opening "Think about Our Climate" Exhibition in Suzhou

A combination of both exhibitions "Climate Trail" produced by Presence Switzerland and "Affected – the Human Face of Climate Change" by Mathias Braschler and Monika Fischer will be opened in Suzhou on May 28th at Dushu Lake Library. The work of the two Swiss photographers depicts people whose lives have been drastically altered by global warming – so called climate victims. The exhibition as a whole not only clarifies facts about global warming, but also highlights approaches towards fighting and limiting the consequences of climate change. In an interesting and artistic combination the two exhibitions illustrate the harsh reality that global warming has brought to nature and people all over the world.



"Think about Our Climate" exhibition

Launching of Climate Science Website

The program "Adapting to Climate Change in China" (www.ccadptation.org.cn) has worked with researchers to develop a website to provide climate scenario results: www.climatechange-data.cn. The English version will be launched on June 6th.

For more information, please refer to our regular event announcements at: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing



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Economic news

Civil Aviation: signature of the revised agreement

On March 1st 2011 Ambassador Blaise Godet and the Head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), H.E. Mr. Li Jiexiang signed a revised Civil Aviation Agreement. This agreement replaces the one signed in 1973 and removes the nationality clause in force so far, allowing the company Swiss International Airlines (belonging to Lufthansa) to operate in China. It also increases the frequencies and the number of companies that can operate between both countries.

Free Trade Agreement: 1st round of negotiations

Following the political launch of the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Davos on January 28th 2011 with the presence of Federal Councillor Schneider-Amman and Minister of Commerce Chen Deming, the first technical round of negotiations took place in Berne on April 7th and 8th. It is foreseen to have 3 to 4 rounds per year. The next one should take place in Beijing in July.

Direct flights between Beijing and Zürich

After the grounding of Swissair, there were no companies operating a direct flight between Beijing and Zürich. This will change soon. Hainan Airlines will indeed operate three flights per week, starting on May 31st 2011 and Edelweiss Air, a sister company of Swiss International Airlines, will operate a weekly service from July 7th to October 14th 2011.



Meeting between Ambassador Blaise Godet and Li Jiexiang for the signing ceremony of the Civil Aviation Agreement




Swiss Business Hub China

CIMT 2011 (China International Machine Tool Exhibition 2011)

Swissmem (The Swiss association for MEM industries – Machinery – Electronics - Mechanic) organized in cooperation with the Swiss Business Hub China the largest ever participation of its kind at CIMT 2011. Nearly 70 Swiss



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companies occupying a Swiss pavilion of 3000m² attended this very important event. CIMT is a bi-annual trade exhibition. Since the last edition in the middle of the financial crisis the development of the Chinese market for Swiss MEM industries, and particularly in the Machine Tool sector has been considerable. The Swiss exhibitors to CIMT were extremely satisfied about the outcome of this important trade fair. In its framework several activities have been organized, including a program for Chinese young talents in the machinery sector, as well as the traditional Swiss evening that took place in the Swissôtel Beijing and has been attended by about 400 guests including authorities, Swiss exhibitors and their clients.



Some networking moments during the Swiss Evening CIMT 2011

Shenzhen – Seminar and Roadshow

The Switzerland Trade & Investment Promotion organized an investment Seminar in Shenzhen on April 12-13th 2011. Shenzhen is not only the frontier of Chinese government's opening up policy to foreign investment, but also a dynamic economic zone for Chinese domestic companies. The event aimed at informing internationally oriented Chinese companies about the advantages of setting up a headquarter location in Switzerland. After the seminar, a road show was organized in order to introduce Switzerland to local managers and entrepreneurs who are interested in knowing more about establishing a business in Switzerland. The seminar was attended by around 80 participants and the Swiss delegation visited altogether 6 companies during the road show, including the domestic leading car manufacturer BYD, leading medical device manufacturer Maipu as well as Huaqiang group, one of the biggest domestic corporate groups.



An audience of entrepreneurs from Shenzhen listens about key advantages of setting up a European Headquarter in Switzerland

Switzerland Medtech Mission to china

As part of their China fact finding trip, the Medtech Switzerland delegation, led by Mr. Patrick Dümmler, managing Director of Medtech Switzerland, were in Shanghai on April 14th. During the day they were hosted by Ernst & Young, providing seminars with professional and industry specific knowledge, while in the evening there was a reception hosted by Consul General Heinrich Schellenberg at his residence. Medtech Switzerland is a platform which was established by OSEC in 2009 and which is dedicated to facilitate the entry of Swiss medical device producers into foreign markets. The Swiss Business Hub helped to organize this event and accompanied the delegation of entrepreneurs and academics the whole day and provided valuable insights into the Chinese market.



Company visit to the Chinese Medtech Company Mindray



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Cultural news

Francophonie 2011

The Embassy of Switzerland participated with cultural activities at the "fête de la francophonie 2011", the week of the French language, in Beijing and proposed screenings of the film "UnleaSHEd" ("Déchaînées", 2009, from Raymond Vuillamoz with Adèle Haenel and Irène Jacob) in a number of Chinese cities. Switzerland also participated in a 9-concert musical tour across China with the very successful Swiss group Aliose, along with groups from France, Canada and Belgium. Lastly, Switzerland took part in a literature conference in Beijing and presented the work of late Swiss author Jacques Chessex, Prix Goncourt 1973 for L'Ogre, with a presentation by French language literature specialist Yu Zhongxia and screening of a documentary about the writer.

reGeneration² – Tomorrow's Photographers Today

The photo exhibition produced by the Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne opened at Pékin Fine Arts gallery on April 23rd within the framework of the Caochangdi Photospring festival. At this occasion, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter delivered a special opening speech.

The exhibition "reGeneration²" is an enterprising project and a remarkable survey, set out to discover answers to questions such as: what are young photographers up to in the 21st century? How do they see the world? How much do they respect, build on or reject tradition? As the digital revolution continues its relentless advance, demolishing longstanding practices in every domain of our field, curiosity builds as to how the new generation of photographers will react.

The exhibition can be visited until May 31st. This event was supported by Pro Helvetia www.prohelvetia.cn

Movie screening of Heidi – Week of the German Language

Switzerland was represented by the Swiss movie "Heidi" at the occasion of the "Week of the German Language" in Qingdao. Organized by the Goethe Institute China in April 2011, other German speaking countries were also involved in the event. "Heidi" is a motion picture produced by Markus Imboden with Cornelia Groeschel, Paolo Villaggio, Marianne Denicourt and Aaron Arens.



Swiss group Aliose



Speech by FC Didier Burkhalter at the opening of "reGeneration²"



The Cloud (2008) by Liu Xiaofang, "reGeneration²"



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Liu Ji piano recital

The Embassy of Switzerland organized with the sponsorship of UBS a special piano recital evening with the performance of talented young artist Liu Ji. The 21 year old pianist Liu Ji is currently studying piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Liu Ji has made his Carnegie Hall recital debut when he was 13 in New York, since then he performed with world famous orchestras, he has played in master classes with renowned pianists and has won a number of prizes. In 2005 and 2006, Liu Ji received the Tabor Piano Award from Verbier Festival and CUBS prize from UBS.



Pianist Liu Ji

Science, Education and Health news

Exhibition "From Pyramids to Spacecraft"

On March 22nd over 120 guests attended the official opening of the exhibition "From Pyramids to Spacecraft" at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Aeronautics (Beihang). During 10 days the exhibition attracted hundreds of visitors every day. The two architects/designers Andreas Vogler and Arturo Vittori presented their projects to students and professors of several universities in Beijing. Following the exhibition in Beijing the works have been sent to swissnex in Shanghai and will be shown to the public during the Shanghai Association for Science & Technology (SAST) Exhibition in May 2011.



Ambassador Blaise Godet and Mr. Huai Jinpeng, President of Beihang University



Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Beihang University



MercuryHouseOne designed by architects/designers Andreas Vogler and Arturo Vittori



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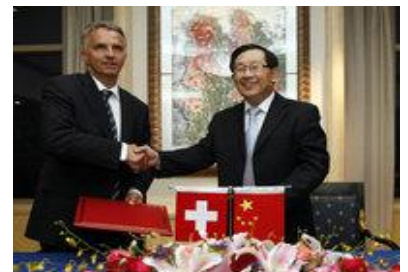
Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter in China

The Head of the Federal Department of Interior Affairs and his delegation, including the Presidents of the Federal Institutes of Zurich and Lausanne, Ralph Eichler and Patrick Aebischer travelled to Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong from April 21st to 28th 2011. In Shanghai and Shenzhen they visited Swiss companies in the health and science sector and met with Swiss business people. In Beijing FC Burkhalter met with the Ministers of Education, Science & Technology and Health and signed joint statements on future cooperation with Science & Technology Minister Wan Gang as well as with Health Minister Chen Zhu.

On the occasion of the **Centenary Celebrations of the prestigious Tsinghua University** Federal Councillor Burkhalter and his delegation met with Vice President Xie at the Inauguration Ceremony of the new Library of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Tsinghua University in presence of the famous Swiss architect Mario Botta, designer of the new library building. Over 150 guests attended the event and listened to the speeches given by Federal Councillor Burkhalter, Mario Botta and leaders of the Tsinghua University.

2nd Reception for the St. Gallen Symposium in Beijing

During the April 8th panel discussion moderated by Wang Shuo, Editor in Chief of Caixin Media Company, Prof. Wu Qidi, former Vice-Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Richard Margolis, Regional Director North-east Asia of Rolls-Royce International, Mrs. Hong Huang, Founder and Chairman of China Interactive Media Group and Mrs. Xu Linjia, Phd. Candidate at Renmin University of China, led an interesting panel discussion on their views on the qualities future business leaders in China will need to acquire in order to tackle the challenges ahead in the fields of education, science, innovation, infrastructure, mobility and media, as well as the role of education in passing down the crucial values.



FC Burkhalter and Minister Wan Gang



Library of Humanities and Social Sciences, designed by Mario Botta



Welcome Speech by Ambassador Blaise Godet at 2nd Reception for the St. Gallen Symposium



Cocktail reception at Residence



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Cooperation news

Launch of new projects in the field of water/climate change

Switzerland participated at the Fourth Yangtze Forum in Nanjing between April 18th-21st. This is a major international conference on water resource management organized by the Ministry of Water Resources. Switzerland co-sponsored the "Climate Change and Water Resources Management" sub-forum and made several presentations.

Two new project agreements were signed. The project "Monitoring and Early Warning of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in the Yarkant River Basin" was launched with the Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region. Additionally, a capacity building initiative on "Integrated Riskmanagement in the Changjiang River basin" was agreed with the Changjiang Water Resources Commission.

New cities join Low Carbon City network

Several cities have requested to join the Low Carbon City Programme initiated by the Embassy. Dalian/Lushun district which is piloting a green economy/low carbon approach, Baoding that has already decided a comprehensive low carbon strategy and the Shaanxi Provincial Low Carbon Office which promotes the only state-level agricultural low carbon industrial zone in Yangling have been accepted.



Signing of the project "Monitoring and Early Warning of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in the Yarkant River Basin"



Executive Vice-Mayor of Baoding and Delegation visit Swiss Embassy



Meeting with Baoding delegation in the embassy



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Chinese Delegations visit Switzerland

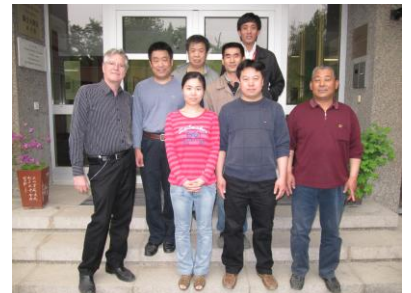
A delegation of the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau will visit Switzerland in June to learn more about the black carbon control policy with respect to off road vehicles and its implementation. The lessons learned will be used to define a framework and pilot implementation in Beijing. In August, a Chinese delegation will visit Switzerland to discuss climate change legislation as an input for a proposal to be drafted in China.

News from the Embassy

Focus on ... the Technical Support Team

The Technical Support Team of the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing forms an important part of the Chancery and makes sure that the Embassy machinery is running and the buildings are well kept. Thus, they provide for the heating in winter and the cooling in summer, they paint our offices and refurbish our service apartments. They keep the garden tidy and blossoming, they are the origin of the creative floral arrangements on the Ambassador's table. They make sure that Beijing's dust is taken off our desks, the pool-house is able to receive the summer guests and the pool-water is fresh and cooling. They repair our phones, copy machines and broken lights. They are in charge of our service cars and the smooth opening of our gates. They oversee our construction sites and deal with the installation of emergency tools.

To make it short and simple: they are the back-bone which enables the rest of the Embassy to provide the requested and necessary services in order to defend Swiss interests.



*From left -
1st row: Hans-Rudolf Fankhauser,
Li Rong, Xu Zhengguo, Zhao
Changjiang
2nd row: He Shujun, Zhang Fusheng
3rd row: Xu Changfu, Xue Jianan*



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E-Mail: info@bei.swisscham.org

Website: www.swisscham.org

(local branches also in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong)

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Website: www.myswitzerland.com.cn

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Embassy office building



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