

Newsletter

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

August 2011

A word from the Ambassador

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

The first part of 2011 has been enriched by several visits from Switzerland. The visit of Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter in April, widely discussed in the previous newsletter, was followed in June by **the visit of Assistant State Secretary for Asia/Pacific Beat Nobs** and in July by **the visit of Ambassador for Disarmament Jürg Lauber**. During their visits, Mr. Nobs was received in Beijing by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu Ying, while Mr Lauber conducted several high-level talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met numerous Think Tanks.

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, travelled for an **official visit to the People's Republic of China from the 13th to the 19th of July**. During his stay, Mr. Maurer was received by the Minister of National Defense Liang Guanglie in Beijing, he met further representatives of the Chinese military, and he visited the Training Base for Emergency of the State Earthquake Administration. Mr Maurer travelled also to Shanghai, Xi'an, and Seoul in South Korea. I hope many of you had the chance to exchange a few words with him during the reception for the Swiss Community at the Residence.

The second round of **negotiations for a Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement** took place in Xi'an in early July, where the Chinese and Swiss delegations met to discuss several dossiers. Also in early July, the annual visit to Beijing of the Swiss Bankers Association took place.

The **Lucerne Symphony Orchestra** performed on the 28th and 29th of June at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing and delighted the audience with pieces by Beethoven and Prokofiev among others.

I wish you and your family happy vacations and send you best wishes for the summer season.

With my best regards

Blaise Godet



Ambassador Blaise Godet

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Upcoming cultural events

Tomato Quintet and Weather Tunnel

On **July 27th to August 17th** 2011, the National Art Museum of China will present TransLife, the next installment of the Media Art China series in Beijing. Swiss artists Jeffrey Huang and Greg Niemeyer's projects "Weather Tunnel" and "Tomato Quintet" are displayed, which are supported by Pro Helvetia.

Geneva Brass Quintet China Tour 2011

Established in 2001, the Geneva Brass Quintet (GBQ) is a chamber music group of Swiss musicians. The Quintet will tour China from **August 18th to 27th** and it is a great opportunity to show the Chinese audience the charm and the uniqueness of their chamber music. The GBQ's repertoire is extremely eclectic in style and period, with a special emphasis on Swiss composers. This event is made with the support of the State and the City of Geneva in cooperation with Wu Promotion.

"Return to Spiritual Home" - painting exhibition

Swiss painters Leonie Hunn and Victoria Higgin will team up with Chinese artist Ma Ning and Hong Kong artist Lam Yat Fai to showcase their paintings and installation work. By exploring the link between global urbanization and happiness, the artists bring their own cultural background to reflect on the topic. This exhibition is co-organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in China and the EMG Art Center and will be held at EMG Art Center in Beijing from **September 3rd to November 3rd** 2011.

Swiss dancing DA MOTUS! at Beijing Fringe Festival

Swiss dancing group DA MOTUS! is invited to perform at the Beijing Fringe Festival from **September 5th to 11th**. They will bring Chinese audiences two pieces of works, one is on-stage performance "Change", the other one is outdoor performance "En vie...en ville". This dance project is supported by Pro Helvetia.



Tomato Quintet by Gerg Niemeyer



Geneva Brass Quintet



Exhibition "Return to Spiritual Home", painting by Ma Ning



Swiss dancing group DA MOTUS!



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First Beijing International Design Triennial (BIDT)

From **September 28th to October 17th** 2011, the 1st BIDT with "Ren: Good Design" as the theme will be held at China National Museum in Beijing. The Swiss Studio Holzer Kobler Architekturen in collaboration with Chinese designer/Academic Director of Design House of Today Art Museum Li Degeng curate and design "Good Guys", one of five sub-themes of the entire exhibition. "Good Guys" foregrounds contemporary designers concerned with finding new ways to create objects that deal with ostensibly complex social issues filled with both compatibilities and contradictions.



Swiss architects Holzer & Kobler and Chinese designer Li Degeng

5 electronic djs' jam session

On the Chinese National Day **October 1st**, 5 swiss electronic djs will gather together, giving a 4-5 hours jam-session at Mastercard Centre (Wukesong Arena, place TBC). This project is supported by Pro Helvetia.



Electronic djs' jam-session

Béjart Ballet Asian Tour

Renowned Swiss company Béjart Ballet from Lausanne will tour South Korea and China from **October 1st to 22nd** 2011. For 23 years, the Béjart Ballet has revealed the choreographies of Maurice Béjart all over the world. To perpetuate the master's work, 40 dancers of 15 different nationalities will present Dionysos, the Boléro and a Sino-Swiss creation under the artistic direction of Gil Roman. This exceptional event will bring to China the magic of movement! Béjart Ballet is supported by both the Embassy of Switzerland in China and Pro Helvetia.



Dionysos (suite), Béjart Ballet

La Suisse Plurielle – Switzerland and migration in Kashgar

After a successful exhibition held in Hong Kong and Beijing, "La Suisse Plurielle - Switzerland and migration" will head to Kashgar (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China) to present the nature of immigration today, looking at the Swiss cities of Bern, Lausanne and Lugano. The exhibition will be showcased at the Science Technology and Culture Center of Kashgar in **mid-October** 2011.



After a few weeks Gobigan finds a friend. By photographer Ursula Markus. Exhibition "La Suisse Plurielle"



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Cédric Pescia China Tour

Cédric Pescia's artistic renown does not need to be proven; he has delivered numerous concerts and recitals at prestigious venues and festivals throughout the world. His love for chamber music has regularly led to performances with other eminent musicians. Cédric Pescia was the brilliant First Prize Winner (Gold Medalist) at the 2002 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition in Salt Lake City (USA). His upcoming China Tour from **October 20th to 31st** 2011 is a unique opportunity to listen to this very talented pianist. This tour is supported by Pro Helvetia and organized by Wu Promotion.



Talented pianist Cédric Pescia

Festival Strings Lucerne (FSL) in China

The unmistakable and "golden sound" (Washington Post, 2003) of FSL as well as the long-standing tradition sharpen the orchestra's distinctive profile. FSL broad repertoire reaches from works for string ensemble to extended chamber orchestra and from Baroque to contemporary music. During its China Tour, FSL will head to Shenzhen, Changsha, Wuhan, Beijing (on the occasion of the Beijing Music Festival), Guangzhou and then Macau (on the occasion of the International Music Festival) from **October 13th to 26th** 2011.



Festival Strings Lucerne

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

Economic news

Seminar on Geneva Securities Convention

On **June 10th** 2011, a delegation composed of international experts and led by the Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Justice, Mrs. Jametti Greiner, came to Beijing to hold a seminar on the Geneva Securities Convention (Unidroit Convention on Substantive Rules for Intermediated Securities). The objective was to share views with Chinese experts and officials on this important Convention.

FTA negotiations

The second round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China took place in Xi'an, China, from **July 5th to 7th** 2011. The third round will take place in Switzerland, probably in November 2011.



2nd round of FTA negotiation in Xi'an



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Swiss Bankers Association (SBA) trip to China

A delegation of SBA, led by their president Mr. Patrick Odier, visited China from **July 11th to 15th** 2011. They stayed in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. In Beijing, they met among others with representatives of Swiss banks in China, members of the Swiss business community, the China banking and securities regulatory commissions, the People's Bank of China and the China Investment Corporation. They also had a meeting with representatives of Swiss media.

Upcoming event:

Visit of State Secretary Ineichen

The new State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mrs. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen, will pay an official visit to China from **September 7th to 10th** 2011 in order to meet her Chinese counterparts as well as the Swiss business community.



SBA President Patrick Odier meets Executive Vice-Chairman of China Banking Regulatory Commission Mr. Yang Zaiping

Swiss Business Hub China

Sino-Swiss Biotech Forum

The Swiss Business Hub China and the Swiss Biotech Association together with the China Medical Biotech Association, Swisscham and Swissnex China organised the Sino-Swiss Biotech Forum which took place on **May 11th** in Beijing.

Switzerland's Biotech industry is amongst the most dynamic ones worldwide. With a highly dynamic Chinese Biotech environment and with a steadily growing market, the Sino-Swiss Biotech forum aimed to introduce Chinese entrepreneurs, associations and companies to the Swiss Biotech market and support both Swiss and Chinese stakeholders of the Biotech industry to meet and exchange information. After the introduction of Switzerland as a business location in general and China and Switzerland as a location for Biotech in specific, the participants were welcome, not only to listen to the following panel discussion, but also to raise their questions and personal views to the panelists on stage. The panel consisted of promoters of the Biotech industry and Biotech entrepreneurs, both from China and Switzerland. The participants also extensively took chance of the possibility to network after the forum.



The panellists during the panel discussion at Sino-Swiss Biotech Forum



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Investment Seminar and Roadshow in Suzhou

The Switzerland Trade & Investment Promotion organized an investment Seminar in Suzhou on **May 25th** and **26th** 2011. As one of China's most important economic focal points, Suzhou has the largest local economy in Jiangsu, accounting for 19.6% of the Province's total GDP. The event aimed at informing internationally oriented Chinese companies about the advantages of setting up a headquarter in Switzerland. After the seminar, a road show, company visit by the Swiss delegation, was organized in order to introduce Switzerland to local managers and entrepreneurs who are interested in knowing more about establishing a business abroad. The seminar was attended by around 50 participants and during the road show, the Swiss delegation visited altogether 3 companies, including Testunit, front runner of China's precision machinery industry, Golden Mantis, one of the biggest interior construction and decoration material manufacturers and Medinoah, a startup company in the chemistry industry.



Ambassador Blaise Godet addresses a few opening remarks to the participants at the investment seminar in Suzhou

Cultural news

Beijing Concert of Christian Zehnder during Beijing Hanggai Festival

On **May 18th** and **19th**, two international, ethnic bands - Mongolian folk alchemists Hanggai and Swiss musician Christian Zehnder with his trio brought Beijing audiences unforgettable experiences in Mao Live House and 2 Kolegas Bar. These two nights are special celebrations of Khoomei - Christian Zehnder combines Khoomei with jazz music, and Hanggai fuses it with rock. Virtuoso overtone singing blended typical horseback rhythms with morin khuur, two bands performed on the same stage rendering audiences agog wherever they went.



Hanggai and Christian Zehnder Trio performed on the same stage at Mao Live House

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

Produced by Dr. Bolognesi, a Swiss meteorologist, and presented by the "Caves de Courten Association" from Sierre, the exhibition "ICE, Journey to the Land of Icebergs" was successfully opened in Tianjin on **May 28th** at the Astor Hotel. On the same day, a lecture was given by Dr. Bolognesi on the theme "The icebergs of Greenland" on the occasion of the European Day. The exhibition was then showcased at Tianjin University and is currently touring companies which sponsored the exhibition. At the end of its China tour, the exhibition will head to Grenoble (France), to Switzerland at the EFPL and to Canada. Thanks to a very active association, the exhibition made its ways to China!



Dr. Bolognesi at the exhibition "ICE, Journey to the Land of Icebergs"



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Lucerne Symphony Orchestra (LSO) China Tour

Switzerland's oldest Symphony Orchestra and its 66 musicians were warmly welcomed on the occasion of their two concerts in Beijing at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) on **June 28th and 29th** 2011. Fazil Say and Ning Feng, the two soloists with whom LSO cooperated for their China tour, made a huge impression on the audience while performing Beethoven and Prokofieff. Last but not least, James Gaffigan, the new chief conductor of the LSO for the 2011/2012 season, was also highly acclaimed for his incredible talent. Ambassador Blaise Godet hosted a reception for the performers backstage.

This event was made in cooperation with Käch Artists & Promotion and Kajimoto Music and was supported by Pro Helvetia.



Lucerne Symphony Orchestra welcomed at NCPA by Ambassador Godet

Not Vital at UCCA

UCCA welcomed "Full On", an exhibition of sublime and never-before-seen paintings by Swiss artist Not Vital from **May 28th to July 10th** 2011. Indeed, an entirely new body of work was showcased; oil on canvas portraits inspired by Not Vital's life in Caochangdi district (Beijing), where the artist has recently established one of his many studios. The exhibition was curated by Jérôme Sans, UCCA Director.



"Full On" by Not Vital at UCCA

Science, Education and Health news

China-Switzerland Youth Dialogue

The first China-Switzerland Youth Dialogue was held on **June 18th** 2011 in the Beijing Botanical Garden Cherry Vale, and co-hosted by the Swiss branch of Western Returned Scholars Association and the Embassy of Switzerland. More than thirty participants from China and Switzerland attended the event. All have one thing in common: They have studied or lived in both countries. Participants exchanged views and summarized their national images in the eyes of the other country. Several topics were discussed: i.e. national image, national stereotype and stereotype revaluation, the cross-cultural understanding, opportunities and challenges posed by evolving Sino-Switzerland bilateral relationship, etc. Participants actively shared their different perspectives and valuable experiences.



Swiss and Chinese students met in Botanical Garden



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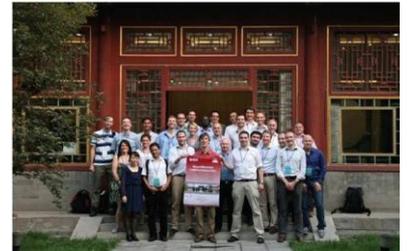
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Executive MBA in Management of Technology - Study Trip to China

On **June 22nd**, 27 highly innovative & entrepreneurial participants of the EMBA-MOT program at EPFL arrived at the Embassy of Switzerland. The visit happened to coincide with the visit of the Assistant State Secretary in charge of Asia/Pacific, Ambassador Beat Nobs and a combined event could therefore be organized. Ambassador Blaise Godet warmly welcomed the delegation from EPFL followed by a presentation of the EPFL-EMBA program by Nicolas Musy and a practical example given by one of the EMBA students. The highlight of the event was the speech "Importance of China in the Swiss Foreign Policy" by Ambassador Nobs. During the dinner at the residence of Ambassador Godet the participants had the chance to exchange further ideas with Ambassador Nobs.



EMBA - MOT program Participants in Beijing

2011 Diplomacy Executive Education Training Course

The second Global Health Diplomacy Executive Education Training Course was held in Beijing from **July 25th to 29th** 2011. The course was organized by the Graduate Institute of Geneva in cooperation with the Institute for Global Health, Peking University and supported by the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health China (MoH), the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland and the Health Human Resources Development Centre, MoH.



2011 Global Health Diplomacy Executive Education Training Course

ETHZ President met alumni in Beijing

On **July 30th**, Mr. Ralph Eichler, President of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) met with alumni of ETHZ in a courtyard restaurant in downtown Beijing. This event was supported by the Science Counsellor of the Embassy of Switzerland in China.

Cooperation news

Participation in International Conferences about Climate Change

The China Research Center for Public Policy invited Switzerland to an internal discussion with Mr. Su Wei, General Director, Department of Climate Change at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on **April 16th**. Mr. Su and invited government departments gave an update on the status of the international Climate Change Negotiation and domestic policy.



4th World Economic and Environmental Conference, Qingdao



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Invited by NDRC, the Embassy participated in the “High-level International Conference on Climate Change and Green, Low-carbon Development on **June 22th to 24th**”. The conference provided an excellent platform to demonstrate to the international community how China addresses the climate change agenda.

The Embassy also participated in the 4th World Economic and Environmental Conference “Low Carbon Mission in the Economic Transition and Development” on **June 18th and 19th** in Qingdao. As expert panel member in the “Forum on sustainable Development in Green Buildings and Property”, the Embassy discussed in particular current challenges and solutions.



4th World Economic and Environmental Conference, Qingdao

MoU signed between Baoding Municipality and SDC

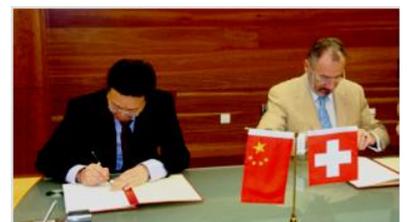
On **June 24th**, the People's Government of Baoding Municipality signed a “Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Dialogue on Climate Change” (MoU) with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). During the visit of the SDC delegation to Baoding, Mr. Ma Yufeng, Executive Deputy Mayor of Baoding Municipal Government and member of Baoding's CPC, shed light on his city's low carbon developments. The visit was also an opportunity to meet with the municipal department in charge of implementing low carbon initiatives. Both signatories see the MoU as a stepping-stone for further cooperation and expressed their interest in strengthening links between Baoding municipal government and SDC over the coming months in order to promote concrete and targeted actions to address climate change.



Signing of the MoU between SDC and Baoding Municipality

MoU signed between Ministry of Commerce and SDC

On **June 27th**, Ambassador Godet and Assistant Minister, Mr. Yu Jianhua signed the MoU on development cooperation that is now the framework for all SDC programs in China. It covers bilateral cooperation, cooperation on global issues as well as humanitarian aid. Both sides welcomed the further strengthening of relations and coordination foreseen under this MoU. New areas of cooperation such as trilateral initiatives with other countries, replication of successful experiences made in China in poorer countries as well as the possible financial dialogue between Switzerland and China were discussed.



Signing of the MoU between Ambassador Godet and Mr. Yu Jianhua, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Commerce



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News from the Embassy

Focus on ... the team of the Visa Section

The Visa Section is in charge of the visa applications for citizens of the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As Switzerland became a Schengen member in December 2008, the visa section is in charge of issuing Swiss Schengen visa with main destination Switzerland. The visa department - although situated away from the main building in a pavilion made of bamboo - is very well known as the heart of the Embassy. The visa section is the gateway to Switzerland and therefore for many customers the first impression of Switzerland. China has become one of the main actors in tourism for Switzerland and it is not surprising that some days there are long queues in front of the Embassy and inside the visa pavilion it can become quite hectic.

Efficiency and a friendly public service are two of the main requirements of the employees of the visa Section - so we can finally say: "Bon voyage", enjoy your stay in main destination Switzerland.



*From left:
1st row: Lan Sun, Helene Zingg,
Sylvie Rochat, Flavio Engi
2nd row: Endre Adorjani, Tobias
Munz, Liuwang Sun, Wen Ya, Zou
Rui, Hui Zhang*

Farewell and welcome

The Embassy wishes our Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Krystyna Marty, Deputy Head of Political Section, Mr. Pierre Hagmann, and our SDC representative for bilateral cooperation and humanitarian aid, Mr. Christoph Lang, all the best in their new postings. We give our warm welcome to Ms. Salome Meyer, Ms. Fabienne Aemisegger and Ms. Patrizia Palmiero who are succeeding them in their positions.



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