

Newsletter

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

August 2012

A Word from the Deputy Head of Mission

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

The first part of 2012 has been enriched by several visits from Switzerland. Particularly intense was the exchange in the economic domain, with as highlight the visit of **Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann**, who travelled in July to Beijing, Xiamen and Shanghai, with a large business delegation. Apart from official talks with his counterpart Minister of Commerce Cheng Deming and further official contacts, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann also gave the keynote-address at the **2nd Sino-Swiss Economic forum**, jointly organized by SwissCham and the Embassy. Few days before, the Joint Economic Commission met in Beijing for regular consultations and in June, the annual visit of the **Swiss Bankers Associations** to China took place. A further round of negotiations on a bilateral **Free Trade Agreement** was held in Beijing in May.

July also saw the visit of **State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Yves Rossier** to China. He led the Swiss delegation for the third round of the **political dialogue**. During the official talks issues of common concern in bilateral, as well as current international affairs, were discussed.

Let me add a note on the Embassy's own behalf: With the termination of his tenure in China, Ambassador Blaise Godet has returned to Switzerland at the end of July. We also bid farewell to the Head of Chancery, Mrs Astrid Bischof, who was appointed Head of Chancery at the Swiss Embassy in Singapore. During the past four years, they have been instrumental in further developing and strengthening Sino-Swiss bilateral relations and have contributed greatly to the Swiss community. We are looking forward to the arrival of Ambassador Jacques de Watteville, and the new Head of Chancery Rudolf Wyss, in the course of September.

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

With my best regards

Salome Meyer
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.



*Ms. Salome Meyer
Deputy Head of Mission*

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Upcoming events

Tianjin Port International Contemporary Art Exhibition

Paintings of Swiss Artist Barbara Piatti are showing at the new Tianjin Port Museum exhibition from July 27th to September 27th. The artworks were selected out of her "Beijing Short Cuts" & "Shanghai Short Cuts" oil paintings. Since 2008 Ms Piatti has been visiting Beijing on a regular basis, working in Imagine Gallery's artist residency studio. Barbara Piatti is a narrator. Her paintings are talking about life and the exchange between people. www.barbarapiatti.com



Barbara Piatti

Dino Rigoli's exhibition – Huantie Times Art Museum Beijing

The Swiss artist, Dino Rigoli, presents its collection of artworks "in search of harmony" created during his 3-month stay in the guest-artist's workshop at the Huantie Times Art Museum in Beijing. Dino Rigoli deals with the issue of harmony by different techniques and forms of expression: on the one hand with the "space drawings", linear compositions based on photographs, and on the other hand in the "harmonic compositions", with drawings made of pieces of charcoal, plenty of which can be found in BBQ-shops on the streets of Beijing. The exhibition lasts from August 4th to 13th. www.dinorigoli.ch



Paintings of Dino Rigoli

CMMN SNS PRJCT

On Sep. 4th and 5th, Laura Kalauz & Martin Schick will bring the piece "CMMN SNS PRJCT" to 2012 Beijing Fringe Festival. CMMN SNS PRJCT deals with social relationships and the gaps that can be created when operating beyond the logic of economic profit. CMMN SNS PRJCT proposes new trading opportunities and forms of exchange within the context of theater, raising questions about the limits and possibilities of performative space. www.kalauzschick.com



CMMN SNS PRJCT

Institute of Incoherent cinematography (IOIC) China Tour

From Sep. 11th-16th, the IOIC China Tour with 10 Swiss and 5 Chinese musicians and sound artists of various age groups and styles of music actively promotes the exchange between the various genres. One of its focuses is the exchange of Swiss and Chinese musicians mainly in the field of improvisation. The IOIC promotes the image of silent film and its representation in the form of live setting to music. The venues in Beijing will be Zajia Lab, Yugongyishan, and the Temple Hotel. www.ioic.ch



the IOIC China Tour



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Road Show and Seminar in Chongqing

The Swiss Business Hub (SBH) will organize an investment Seminar and Road Show in Chongqing from September 19th to 21st. As an important industrial area in western China, Chongqing has transformed into the region's economic, trade and financial centre. The city has heavily invested in infrastructure that has led to the implementation of numerous foreign direct investors (FDI) in industries ranging from auto to finance and retailing.

The SBH event aims at informing internationally oriented Chinese companies about investment opportunities and advantages of setting up a headquarter location in Switzerland. Experts from Credit Suisse, PricewaterhouseCoopers and SBH will give presentations about financial and organisational aspects of doing business in Europe with focus on Switzerland. On the day after the seminar, company-visits, so-called "Road Shows", will be organized in order to further introduce Switzerland to local managers and entrepreneurs who have a real interest in establishing a business abroad.

China International Education Expo 2012

On the weekend of October 19th to 21st the Swiss Embassy will participate in the biggest education fair held in China, the China International Education Expo 2012 (CIEE). In the "Swiss Universities" booth, brochures and information about study opportunities in Switzerland will be provided. Each year the fair attracts many students and parents interested in Switzerland's excellent education possibilities.

Sino-Swiss Colloquium in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Swiss Code of Obligations

The civil law of the People's Republic of China, in particular property law and the law of obligations, is heavily influenced by the civil law of the so-called "German legal jurisdictions". Some influences also came from the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) and the Swiss Code of Obligations (OR). In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Swiss Code of Obligations, the Swiss Embassy, the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing and the University of Fribourg are organizing a colloquium for professional legal practitioners (judges, lawyers and magistrates) and students on October 27th and 28th. The colloquium intends to bring forward a dialogue and mutual understanding for common grounds and differences, which is intended to enhance developments in major civil law concepts.



City of Chongqing at night (Photo: Flickr.com)



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UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG SCHWEIZ
University of Fribourg



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Political News

Visit of Mr. Yves Rossier, State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, to China

From July 10th to 13th 2012 Mr. Yves Rossier, State Secretary of the FDFA (in office since 1st of May 2012), visited China – the first official visit of the new State Secretary outside Europe. The purpose of the visit was to hold the third round of the bilateral political dialogue which is an annual exchange between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. This dialogue is based on a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2007 by former Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and her counterpart Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.

During the meeting with Mr. Zhang Zhijun, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and Mr. Song Tao, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, a wide variety of bilateral, multilateral and regional topics were discussed. Furthermore, State Secretary Rossier was invited for dinner by Mr. Wang Ercheng, Vice Minister of the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The atmosphere of these official talks was warm and friendly - the meeting with Vice Minister Song lasted one hour longer than originally scheduled. On the sidelines of the visit several expert meetings took place, amongst others with representatives of Chinese academia, think tanks, international organizations and civil society.

On the occasion of his visit, State Secretary Rossier had explicitly requested to get in touch with Chinese society. Therefore, a Weibo interview was organized on July 12th. Within one hour, 83 questions came in through Weibo interview (<http://talk.weibo.com/ft/201207126324>).

State Secretary Rossier also visited Nanjing where he met with representatives of the province and municipality and commemorated the victims of the Nanjing massacre of 1937 by laying down a wreath at the memorial place.

Social Dialogue with China

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2011 with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS) establishing a new dialogue that focuses on labor and social issues, a first exchange initiating this dialogue has taken place in Beijing last May. A delegation of experts from the Seco came to discuss issues relating to labor inspection as a first identified topic of this dialogue. The expert delegation met with several officials at the MoHRSS, with the national labor inspection bureau, the local labor inspection office of Fengtai district with a direct assessment of



Mr. Rossier during Weibo Interview



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the Double Network system and the International Labor Organization office in Beijing. Swiss experts also had direct exchanges with 70 labor inspectors from all over China during a one day workshop. It has been a fruitful and successful first round and a second one on this thematic is scheduled in Fall in Switzerland.

Economic News

FTA 5th Round, May 8th

The fifth round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from May 8th to 10th in Beijing, China. The Swiss delegation was headed by Ambassador Christian ETTER, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements. The Chinese delegation was led by both Mr. ZHU Hong, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of China to the WTO and Mr YAO Wenliang, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, both from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). Both sides held discussions in the following areas: trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade remedies, intellectual property rights, competition, investment promotion, government procurement, trade and sustainable development, economic and technical cooperation, dispute settlement as well as legal and institutional matters. The negotiations were officially launched by Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of the P.R.C., in Davos on 28 January 2011.



Ambassador Christian ETTER shaking hands with Yu Jianhua

Visit of SBA, June 4th

On June 4th and 5th, a delegation of the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA), headed by its Chairman Patrick Odier, visited Beijing in order to meet with several institutions and representatives from the financial sector. The yearly visit serves the purpose of strengthening and promoting the cooperation between the Swiss and the Chinese financial sector. After Beijing, the delegation travelled on to Hong Kong and Singapore.



Chairman of Swiss Bankers Association Mr. Patrick Odier

WIPO, June 20th

From June 20th to 26th, a delegation from the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) stayed in Beijing in order to participate in a diplomatic conference which aimed at concluding a new treaty on the protection of audiovisual performers. The "Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances" – so-



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named in recognition of the city that hosted the diplomatic conference, which was held under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), was successfully concluded on June 26th, 2012. The new treaty brings audiovisual performers into the fold of the international copyright framework in a comprehensive way, for the first time. The signature of the negotiators from the WIPO member states brought an end to over 12 years of discussions.

Working group on Environment, July 2nd

The 4th meeting of the Sino-Swiss Working Group on Environmental Cooperation was held on July 2nd in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province. The Chinese delegation included representatives from MOFCOM and the leadership of the Zhenjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone. The Swiss delegation was led by Mr. Heinrich Schellenberg, Consul General at the General Consulate in Shanghai, and included representatives from the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs SECO, the Swiss Embassy in Beijing, Cleantech Switzerland, the Swiss Business Hub, the Sino-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, the Swiss private sector, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Top10 China, the ISEAL Alliance and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The Meeting served the purpose of discussing the establishment of the Sino-Swiss Eco-Industrial Park in order to deepen practical cooperation between the two sides on environmental technology and environmentally sustainable development. The basis for the cooperation is essentially laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Joint Support for the Establishment of the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park between the People's Republic of China and the Swiss Confederation, signed on July 9th 2012 between the Chinese Minister of Trade, Chen Deming, and the Swiss Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann.

Joint Commission, July 6th

The Joint Economic Commission of Switzerland and China, which was established in 1974 in the framework of the bilateral trade agreement, met for the 21st time on July 6th in Beijing. Since 2007 the Joint Commission has been meeting on a yearly basis, alternately in Switzerland and China, in order to discuss several topics related to the bilateral economic collaboration. The Swiss Delegation was led by Ambassador Eric Martin, Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Services with the Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate and comprised representatives from SECO, the Swiss Embassy in Beijing and the Swiss private sector.



Diplomatic Conference



City of Zhenjiang



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Visit of Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, July 9th to 13th

From July 9th to 13th, Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, paid an official Visit to China, accompanied by a large delegation with private sector representatives. On July 9th, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann held talks with his Chinese counterpart, Minister Chen Deming of the Ministry of Commerce, as well as Minister Yin Weimin of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Minister Yuan Guiren of the Ministry of Education, Minister Zhou Shengxian of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Minister Wan Gang of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Vice-Minister Niu Dun of the Ministry of Agriculture. On July 11th, the delegation travelled to Xiamen where it met with the Mayor of Xiamen, Mr. LIU Keqing. On July 12th, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann met with Mr. YU Zhengsheng, Party Secretary of Shanghai.



Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann's visit of the seaport in Xiamen

Signing Ceremony of MOU, July 9th and 10th

On July 9th, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with his Chinese counterpart, Minister Chen Deming, on the establishment of a Sino-Swiss eco-industrial park in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province. An implementing "Framework Contract" was then signed on July 10th, during the Forum between Cleantech Switzerland and the city of Zhenjiang, as well as a contract between Cleantech Switzerland and the city of Maanshan, Anhui Province, concerning the project "Maanshan New Energy Benchmark Development Plan". These contracts shall create business opportunities for Swiss cleantech companies in the planning and building phase of the eco-industrial parks, while providing their expertise in green technologies.



Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann signing MoU with Minister Chen Deming of the Ministry of Commerce

Sino Swiss Economic Forum July 10th

The 2nd Sino-Swiss Economic Forum was held on July 10th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Beijing in the presence of Vice-Minister Zhong Shan of MOFCOM. It was organized by the Embassy of Switzerland and the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham Beijing) in collaboration with the Swiss business Hub and Cleantech Switzerland, two institutions that promote trade and investment between China and Switzerland.

Several workshops took place during the forum in the fields of Industry, Finance, Health and Clean technologies with 250 experts and participants. On that occasion, the Swiss innovation capacity was presented to Chinese industry leaders. Informative discussions and workshops gave the opportunity to Swiss companies to introduce their technologies and talk about implementation prospects in China.



The 2nd Sino-Swiss Economic Forum



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Swiss Business Hub China

China International Machine Tool & Tools Exhibition 2012

The Swiss Business Hub (SBH) participated in the China International Machine Tool & Tools Exhibition 2012 (CIMES 2012) in Beijing. The exhibition took place at the New China International Exhibition Center from June 12th to 16th. CIMES has been held biannually in Beijing for ten times in a row of over twenty years.

1,300 exhibitors from 28 regions and countries including Hong Kong, Taiwan, US, Germany, Italy, UK, France, Switzerland, Japan, Korea, Spain, Czech Republic participated in this event. Switzerland was represented by eight companies such as Agie Charmilles, Bystronic, Schneeberger J. Maschinen and Tomos and Erowa.

SBH had its own booth and provided during the five-day event information and brochures about Switzerland to all interested visitors. It was a great opportunity to present Switzerland as an investment location and get in contact with interested companies and individuals.

Cultural news

Windbone Festival

On May 5th, the Jazz Windbone which was formed with Swiss jazz musicians Robert Morgenthaler and Jean-Jacque Pedretti performed in Beijing. This duo's chosen instruments, the traditional Swiss long alphorn and the sea-snail, give a unique twist to their variety of jazz. Windbone blend sounds from multiple genres; from electric to African, from classical to free style jazz, and in doing so they breathe fresh new energy into Europe's traditional rural instruments. Windbone have created quite a stir in their home country; the Swiss press has hailed them as true jazz masters, successfully bridging the gap between classical and modern.

"UFO in Her Eyes" Film Screening at UCCA

Filmmaker and novelist Guo Xiaolu presented her new film "UFO in Her Eyes" for the first time in China on May 27th at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. Leading Swiss actress Shi Ke and director Guo Xiaolu was present at the Chinese Premiere. The screening was followed by a discussion with the actress. In 2009, Guo Xiaolu's film "She, a Chinese" won the Golden Leopard award in Locarno.



1,300 exhibitors presented their products to 55,000 visitors on an exhibition area 120,000sqm



Swiss Business Hub booth at CIMES 2012



Robert Morgenthaler and Jean-Jacque Pedretti



UFO in Her Eyes



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Louis Schwizgebel's Concert

One of Swiss most talented young pianists, Louis Schwizgebel performed at the Forbidden City Concert Hall during the Third Young Concert Artists Festival held from June 17th to 21st. Louis Schwizgebel has played with diverse orchestras in Switzerland and abroad, including the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and the Basel Symphony Orchestra.



Louis Schwizgebel

Michael Jakob Lecture

On July 28th, Michael Jakob, the professor in History and Theory of Landscape at hepia (Geneva) was invited by Today Art Museum to give a lecture on Swiss Landscape Architecture. Michael Jakob started from the origin of "landscape", and explained why the "landscape" was treated negatively in a religious way. How people altered their attitude from negative to positive and how Swiss mountains affected by culture and human interventions.



Michael Jakob

Daniel Aeberli, Grace Hotel, 798 Art District, Beijing

From June 23rd to August 31st, the works of Daniel Aeberli are on exhibition at Grace Hotel in Beijing. His paintings tend to a quasi-philosophical plenitude. Playing on the relationship between the sky and water with sometimes a vegetal barrier, he brings to his landscapes a vibration of colors and tones expressing an apparent reality which is indeed always subjective. Figurative at first sight, paintings by Aeberli are intellectual constructions that interpret an illusory nature. His painting is a game that combines colorful accords with a suggested nature, unrelated to any realism.



Work from Daniel Aeberli

Science, Education and Health news

ETHZ/UZH Alumni Event

In the middle of May a delegation of the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich visited Beijing in the framework of the Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation. On May 15th, the delegation led by Professor Doctor Klaus W. Grätz, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine met with UZH and ETHZ alumni living in China in the Residence of the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing. The event was a success and all the Swiss university graduates, around 30, greatly enjoyed it.



Professor Doctor Klaus W. Grätz



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Closing ceremony of "Albert Einstein (1879-1955)" exhibition in China

In order to promote Swiss excellence in culture, science and education in China, the Albert Einstein Exhibition of the Historical Museum Bern was sent on tour throughout China during the last two years. Since the opening of the first Einstein exhibition in Beijing in May 2010 the exhibition was shown in Guangzhou (2010/2011), Hong Kong (2011) and Wuhan (2012). Two years and over 1.Million visitors later the exhibition came to an end on June 17th, 2012 in Wuhan. Through the Einstein exhibitions Switzerland was able to present itself as a culturally diverse and tolerant country, which praises innovation and technology, while showcasing itself as an internationally competitive center for education, research and science.



The 1.Millionth visitor receiving certificate awarded by the Embassy

Cooperation news

Chinese civil servants study multi-party systems in Switzerland

As part of the Sino-Swiss Management Training Programme, launched in 1994, SDC supports public services training in Switzerland in order to develop organizational capabilities of Chinese civil servants to better respond to development challenges. In May and June 2012 two delegations of more than 20 Chinese officials each participated in study tours in Switzerland. At this occasion, the participants joined several seminars given by Swiss scholars on how to attract, retain and develop high-caliber talents and on party systems in European countries. The delegation also met a number of representatives of public and private companies in different Swiss cities, such as Zürich, Lucerne, Berne and St. Gallen, and in European cities.



Group Picture of Chinese officials

Mongolian herders' group leaders participate in a Study tour co-organized by SDC in Xinjiang province

From June 1st to 5th 2012, SDC co-organised a study tour for Mongolian herders in the Xinjiang province, which offers similar environmental conditions as Mongolia. The main short term objective of the training was to share and exchange the Chinese and Mongolian experiences, best practices and technologies for sustainable pasture management. During the training, the herders were introduced to the Chinese pasture management scheme, and exchanged about possible solutions to avoid overgrazing and improve sustainability. Besides training itself, this event also strengthened the contacts and increased the understanding between China, Mongolia and Switzerland in the field of poverty reduction and sustainable development.



Mongolian herders studying irrigation system in Xinjiang



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Cooperation between SDC and the Kunming municipality on CO2 measurement

On July 13th, a workshop on the measurement of CO2 emissions in Chinese cities has been launched in Kunming, capital of the Southern province of Yunnan. This workshop was organized under framework of SDC's Low Carbon Cities in China (LCCC) program, which aims to support Chinese municipalities in their efforts to become greener and more sustainable. Precise measurement of CO2 emissions is the first step and an important condition for reducing pollution at the local level in China. It is expected that the good practices gathered through this experience can be replicated at national and international levels.

Embassy News

The Embassy mourns the loss of our colleague **Mr. Sun Liu Wang**, who passed away suddenly on July 21st. He had worked at the visa section of the Swiss Embassy for 15 years. He was a most cherished colleague and friend to many of us, a role model to his colleagues and an important pillar of the Embassy. We express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.



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