

Newsletter

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

January 2014

A word from Salome Meyer, Chargée d'affaires a.i.

2013, a superlative year!

Dear Friends of Switzerland, Xin nian kuai le!

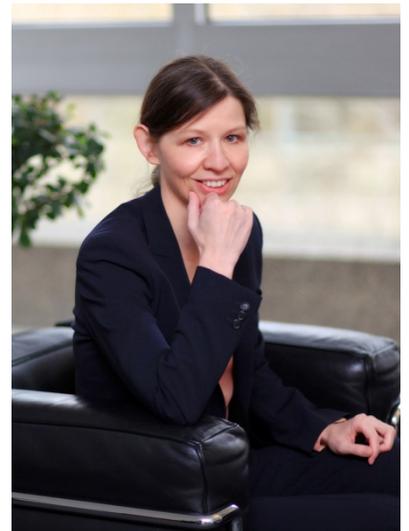
2014 has started and the Year of the Horse is fast approaching. A good moment to pause and reflect on the year passed and the year ahead. In 2013, the activities of the Embassy and General Consulates of Switzerland in China have reached an unprecedented intensity. Never before did so many Federal Councillors visit China - five of them, including the President of the Confederation, in one year. Never before did we issue so many visas – more than 100'000 for the whole China, and never before did we organize and participate in so many events: bilateral visits, seminars and conferences, as well a concrete project cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, science and technology, environmental protection or climate change, and culture.

What about 2014? Are the bilateral relations between Switzerland and China going to keep the same rhythm? We most likely won't have as many high-levels bilateral visits in 2014, but this doesn't mean that the exchanges are less intensive. Cooperation between offices will keep a high pace. The relations will focus on the consolidation on the working level of what have been reached in 2013.

As you may know, the former Swiss Ambassador to China, Mr. Jacques de Watteville has been appointed as the State Secretary for International Financial and Tax Matters in the Federal Department of Finance. He left China at the end of October 2013 and will be replaced by Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel who is announced to arrive at the end of February.

Mr. de Dardel is currently the Swiss Ambassador in Paris. Previous posts included Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the NATO, Head of the Political Affairs Division for Europe in Bern, Head of the Centre for International Security Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador to the International Organization of the Francophonie.

The whole team of the Embassy in Beijing is looking forward to welcoming Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel and to working with him towards even stronger bilateral relations to promote Swiss interests in China!



Ms. Salome Meyer, Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Switzerland



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Upcoming events

Fête de la Francophonie in March 2014!

The Embassy and Consulate General of Switzerland in China participate to the 19th edition of "La Fête de la Francophonie 2014" in China. During one month, 26 countries present a wide range of French speaking cultural activities: concerts, films, lectures, exhibitions, etc. Most of them are free. Don't miss them!

Festival du film francophone:

This year, the Embassy of Switzerland presents the documentary of Nasser Bakhti: "Bernard Bovet, le vieil homme à la caméra". Bernard Bovet is a 94 years old man, a farmer and dairyman who also discovered a passion for film-making. Through his discussion with Mr. Bovet and a selection of short sequences of his films, Nasser Bakhti offers us a moving consideration about life and death, about the time that goes by. A film about the farewell to the mountain, to the poetic world of the countryside and to an era of simple life and tradition which is fading.

Mars en Folie 2014

For the 7th edition of Mars en Folie, the Embassy of Switzerland presents the **Swiss rap singer Greis**. Following the multilingual nature of Switzerland, Greis raps both in French, his mother tongue, as well as in Swiss German. Mars en Folie is a modern music festival organized by 4 countries: France, Switzerland, Canada and Belgium. Between March 5th and 22nd, 40 concerts will be presented in 14 cities throughout China, from **Beijing** on March 8th to Tianjin, Jinan, Qingdao, Xi'an, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Macau and Hong Kong. Further information on www.marsenfolie.afchine.org/

Swiss Landscape Architecture

Location : Yuanspace, Chaoyang District, Beijing- www.yuanspace.cn

Date : March 7th to April 5th 2014

March 8th : Lecture by curator Michael Jakob and architect Guido Hager

Switzerland played a key role in 20th century landscape architecture and continues to shape current developments. In a digital touring exhibition conceived by Michael Jakob from EPFL Lausanne, Pro Helvetia brings the protagonists of Swiss landscape architecture clearly into focus.

"The Swiss Touch in Landscape Architecture" showcases some representative examples of current Swiss landscape architecture. The exhibitors are inviting the public to come and acquaint themselves with the quality, variety and complexity of this field of work.



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Political News

12th Round of the Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue

From November 25th to 27th 2013, Switzerland and China held the 12th Round of the bilateral Human Rights Dialogue. The Swiss Delegation was led by Special Envoy for Human Rights, Ambassador Paul Koller and included representatives from the Federal Departments of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Police, Home Affairs as well as Economic Affairs.

During the official Dialogue and a series of individual meetings, the Delegation exchanged with their Chinese counterparts, with institutions, such as the Supreme People's Court or the All-China Lawyers Association, as well as with representatives of academia and civil society. Discussions took place in an open and constructive atmosphere and focused on the judicial and criminal justice system, international human rights mechanisms, human rights in the economy as well as rights of minorities. Their confidential nature allowed for open, critical and constructive exchanges, including on sensitive issues. The parties also explored new options of technical cooperation and agreed to continue ongoing projects, such as in the domain of prison management.



Ambassador Paul Koller, Special Envoy for Human Rights, Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Economic News

Free Trade Agreement Policy Interpretation Seminar

The China Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) together with the Swiss Embassy, the Swiss Business Hub, the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Roche, organized a Policy Interpretation Seminar on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on December 16th 2013 in Beijing. The goal of the seminar was to help enterprises of both countries to learn about the content of the FTA signed in July 2013 between Switzerland and China and the related preferential trade and supporting policies.

Representatives of the organizers, as well as experts from the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the General Customs Administration, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and the company PricewaterhouseCoopers hold lectures. A short outlook on the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Eco-Industrial Park (SSZEIP) was given, too. The fruitful exchanges during the seminar mirrored the overall positive dynamism



Ms. Karolina Frischkopf, Deputy Head of Economic, Financial and Commercial Section of the Embassy, presenting the FTA.



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between China and Switzerland and the significant contribution of the FTA towards the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Swiss Business Hub China

Busy month in October!

October was a busy month for the Investment Promotion team of the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) as it was involved in 5 different events throughout China.

The first one, a workshop, took place on October 13th, during the "Geneva Watchmaking Grand Prix" which displayed not less than 60 watches of prestige in the amazing venue Yishu8 (former Sino-French University) in Beijing. A small group of Chinese entrepreneurs and watch lovers had the opportunity to discover more about Switzerland through a watchmaking industry angle.

On October 21st, for the first time, an "Investment Promotion" event was held in Hong Kong in collaboration with the local Swiss Business Hub. Around 20 companies from Hong Kong interested in investing in Switzerland participated in the event, a dinner hosted by Consul General Rita Hämmerli-Weschke and Mr. Frank Eggmann, Head of Swiss Business Hub Hong Kong. The day after, in Shenzhen, another 20 executives of important Chinese companies joined a dinner given in the presence of Consul General Ulrich Hunn. Again those executives were eager to learn more on Switzerland as a business location.

On the 24th of the same month the SBH headed towards the island of Hainan and its capital city Haikou where the Consulate General in Guangzhou organized a Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day and offered the SBH the opportunity to give a presentation to local entrepreneurs. Switzerland Tourism and Swissnex were also actively involved in this Friendship Day which was closed by a gala dinner held during the opening of the first edition of the International Jazz Festival of Haikou. The next Monday a second Friendship Day took place in Changsha with good networking opportunities with local entrepreneurs and discussion about their European projects.



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Cultural News

Rudra Béjart Ballet School in Beijing – Switzerland in Motion

For the first time in its 20 years of history, the Rudra Béjart Ballet School, founded by Maurice Béjart in Lausanne, came in China for a two-week exchange with the National Dance Academy of Beijing and two performances at the Tianqiao Theater.

Mixing Maurice Béjart's choreographies with new contemporary creations, the talent and dynamism of the 43 young dancers filled the stage of the Tianqiao Theater with a blow of energy. Their young age (between 16 and 20 years old) and creativity conveyed a fresh, innovative and yet very professional picture. Their colorful, modern and passionate dance performance charmed the audience.

The Rudra Béjart School trains young dancers from all over the world in classical and modern academic dance techniques and develops their artistic knowledge thanks to a two-year rigorous education in music, rhythmic and drama.

This exchange has been supported by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing and several Swiss companies (Mercuria, Nestlé, Swiss Re, Crédit Suisse, Swiss International Airlines and Parmigiani). For the Embassy, it was a unique opportunity to present the wide diversity and excellence of Swiss culture and education to the Chinese audience. Around 2000 persons attended the two performances, which took place on November 25th and 26th 2013.



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Science, Education and Health News

St. Gallen Symposium in Beijing

On December 4th 2013, the Swiss Embassy hosted the 5th Beijing Reception of the St. Gallen Symposium at Residence of the Ambassador.

The St. Gallen Symposium, organized each year by students of the St. Gallen University in Switzerland, gives 200 students (the leaders of tomorrow) the possibility to engage in exciting debates with 600 Leaders of Today from all over the world. With the topic «China's One-Child Policy – Implications on Society and Economy», the 5th Beijing Reception was serving as an appealing appetizer for the theme «The Clash of Generations» of the main event: the 44th St. Gallen Symposium, which will take place in May 2014 at the University of St. Gallen

The program in Beijing included a workshop on Switzerland as a leading innovator and a top study destination, with 20 top students from 8 of Beijing's best universities. It was followed by a panel discussion on China's One-Child Policy with its different aspects and consequences on personal life, resource sustainability as well as the demographic challenge and financial burden it causes to the younger generation. Under the "Chatham House Rule", the panelists (established top managers, intellectuals and entrepreneurs) had the chance to openly offer interesting personal as well as professional views. They further discussed the government's recent decision to loosen its One-Child Policy.



Mr. Nektarios Palaskas, Head of Science, Technology and Education Section and the panelists.

Cooperation News

Head of the SDC in China!

November 2013 was an important month for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in China, especially with the visit to China of its Director General, Ambassador Martin Dahinden, from November 3rd to 9th.

Mr. Dahinden attended the 20th anniversary ceremony of Sino-Swiss Management Training Program in cooperation with the China Training Center for Senior Personal Management Officials and had meetings with officials from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, China National Reform and Development Commission, Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Bureau of the Beijing Municipality to review



Signing documents for Phase V of the Sino-Swiss Management Training Program, 4 November.



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bilateral cooperation and exchange ideas. He also met Guizhou government leaders to discuss the new partnership between Switzerland and Guizhou Province.

Sino-Swiss Workshop on Clean Air Action Plan

On November 7th and 8th, the Sino-Swiss Workshop on Clean Air Action Plan was held in Nanjing, which was a key milestone event under the Sino-Swiss Cooperation on Climate Change Legislation and Policy framework. The workshop gathered officials, experts and implementers in the field of air pollution prevention and control from both Switzerland and China, to review the progress in the clean air legislation, policy formulation and implementation, as well as the challenges ahead with the aim to help cities to develop clean air action plan and improve the urban air quality. The Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection perceived the Sino-Swiss cooperation on air pollution control as very valuable and successful and highlighted the interest in collaborating further in the field of improving emissions inventory for major cities, especially those from off-road mobile sources. In the past two years, the Swiss air quality modeling tool has been applied in the pilot city of Shijiazhuang. The workshop also presented how air quality modeling tools provide decision support in the course of developing clean air action plans.



Head of Division, Air Pollution Control and Chemicals Division, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Mr. Martin Schiess gives a presentation during the workshop in Nanjing

China Climate Adaptation Day in UN Climate Talks in Warsaw

In 2009, the British agency for development cooperation (DfID), SDC and the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) launched the project "Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCC)", a policy research initiative aiming at helping poor region to deal better with the impact of climate change in China through changes in policy framework.

In November 2013, ACCC invited various experts from China and other emerging powers, like India and Brazil, to attend the UN Climate Talks in Warsaw, which gathered more than 20,000 experts of the global climate community. It was an opportunity to share key highlights and lessons learnt from the project, as well as to gain insight and input from international experts on the next phase of the project.

During the conference, ACCC organized an "Adaptation Day", on which occasion the Chinese government partner of the project, the NDRC thanked the Swiss and UK Governments for their cooperation. The "Adaptation Day" gave a platform to showcase ACCC's work on climate impacts and adaptation in China, sharing current research findings and approaches in the areas of climate science, grassland and ecosystems, water resources and adaptation planning.



Speakers from the project "Adapting to Climate Change in China" at the Adaptation Day in the China pavilion, 16 November, Warsaw.



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