



Press materials

Sino-Swiss Dialogue on Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2014

The Eco-Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference 2014 will be hosted in Guiyang of Guizhou Province from July 10th to 12th. The President of the Council of States of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Hannes Germann has confirmed to join the opening remarks for the Sino-Swiss Dialogue which will be hosted on July 10th afternoon in EFG 2014. EFG was founded in 2009 and is a major think tank helping the Chinese Government to design more sustainable development models for the future of China.

Swiss Engagement in EFG

Switzerland is regarded as the development model case for Guizhou in China, because of its landlocked and mountainous landscape, surrounded by economically powerful neighbours, with preserved nature and rich biodiversity, and other similarities.

The President of the Swiss Confederation attended the annual conference of the EFG in July 2013 and a delegation of Guizhou led by Mr. LI Jun, Deputy Party Secretary of Guizhou, visited Switzerland in November 2013. Following these very fruitful exchanges in 2013, Switzerland is very committed to its participation to the EDF annual conference in 2014. This includes the following events and meetings:

- Sino-Swiss Dialogue on Sustainable Development (Eco-Civilization)
- Exhibition of innovative products of Swiss clean technologies
- High-level meetings with Guizhou government
- Sister province cooperation talks between Guizhou-Obwalden

Sino-Swiss Dialogue

The Sino-Swiss Dialogue is hosted by the Guizhou Department of Commerce, CCPIT and co-organized by the Ministry Of Commerce People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) on behalf of the Embassy of Switzerland in China. The goal is to make the Sino-Swiss Dialogue a strategic dialogue to strengthen the communication, enhance the learning from experiences of Switzerland and promote the cooperation in the fields of green economy and sustainable development.

The Sino-Swiss Dialogue in the afternoon of July 10th will include:

- **Opening Ceremony** – Opening remarks by Mr. Hannes GERMANN, President of the Council of States of the Swiss Confederation and Mr. CHEN Min'er Governor of Guizhou Province
- **Four parallel panel discussions** – Panel discussions with Swiss and Chinese experts and interested parties from government and business to share ideas and know-how on topics relevant for Switzerland and China in general as well as Guizhou in particular
- **Closing session** – Closing remarks by Mr. LI Jun, Deputy Party Secretary of Guizhou and jointly announcement as the result of Sino-Swiss dialogue
- **Guizhou-Switzerland culture evening** – Dinner for all the participants accompanied by Chinese and Swiss cultural performances

Political Background

Founded in 2009, the Eco-Forum Global (EFG) promotes the sharing of knowledge and experience in the implementation of policies regarding green economic transformation and ecological security. Today, EFG is a major think tank helping the Chinese Government to design more sustainable development models for the future of China, with a better balance between social, ecological and economic dimensions. EFG's organization is inspired by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, and one of its founders is the current Premier of the People's Republic of China and party

secretary of the State Council. EFG holds various events during the year, in China and abroad, and wants to transform it into a major international forum on green economy / sustainable development with the involvement of a large number of international actors.

Highlights of Switzerland's participation in EFG 2014

- **Participation of Swiss senior government officials**

The delegation will include the President of the Council of States of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Hannes Germann, Ambassador of Switzerland to China Mr. Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Environment Mr. Bruno Oberle and Vice Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Environment Mr. Joseph Hess. Among them, President Germann will give a keynote speech at the EFG 2014 opening ceremony.

- **Comprehensive topics of Sino-Swiss Dialogue**

The sub-forum 'Sino-Swiss Dialogue 2014: Mountainous Economy, Green Development' includes four parallel panel discussions aiming to create an open, transparent, inclusive and dynamic dialogue for all kinds of participants from government, private business and academia, which reflect the interest from both sides : 1) Role of the Cleantech SMEs for the development of small and middle size municipalities; 2) Eco-tourism as a main driver for sustainable development in mountainous area; 3) Building eco-civilization and industrial development; 4) Potential and prospective for the Sino-Swiss Free Trade agreement.

- **Formation of Guizhou-Switzerland Agreement on Establishing Mountainous Economy and Eco-Civilization**

An innovative declaration under the overarching theme of Mountain Economy and Green Development will be recognized and jointly announced by participants from Swiss and Chinese side. It highlights that in the face of global warming, resources constraint, environmental degradation and unbalanced development among other issues, any effort and what it achieves in improving the environment are exceptionally valuable and calls for a more humanized and sustainable way on development.

- **Exhibition on Swiss clean Technologies**

Switzerland, known as one of the world's most advanced cleantech countries, will be introduced in the areas water management, green buildings, and waste management. Background information about the achievements during the past decades and today's challenges shall emphasize on the never ending process towards an economy in line with the nature and at the same time fulfilling modern societies demand regarding consumption and wellbeing. Embedded into the Swiss presence in the exhibition, Swiss cleantech companies will present their products and solutions during EFG 2014.

- **Swiss culture show**

The Swiss artists Sonja Rösli, Walter Sigrist and drEidgnoss will represent Switzerland culturally through traditional music, dance and singing. As a highlight of the evening an Alphorn will be played, a long wooden horn used by mountain dwellers in Switzerland as a form of communication in village communities, sometimes substituting church bells.

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