

Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

Welcome to the new issue of Swissnews! The Swiss Embassy in China capped off a memorable year celebrating the 65th anniversary of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations last year, initiating remarkable and new developments in Sino-Swiss bilateral relations. Many readers may be wondering what lies in store this year and how Sino-Swiss relations will progress. If this year so far has been any indication, the signs are very promising.

Sino-Swiss relations are advancing proactively in all possible dimensions. By early April, we have already had visits by three Federal Councillors from Switzerland, including the state visit of the President of the Swiss Confederation and Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann.



The state visit was a real success as reflected by the many agreements signed. In particular, the declaration on the establishment of the Innovative Strategic Partnership between our two countries was a special milestone. The Sino-Swiss partnership symbolizes the sound manifestation of the long, pioneering spirit shared by both countries. Under such a framework, we will be developing a new phase of collaborative partnerships and will explore all possibilities for benefiting each other given Switzerland's outstanding capacities in innovation, education, creativity and sustainability.

On the economic and development front, our two countries have also been deepening discussions on topics concerning economic and trade policies as well as the application and development of the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement. The launch of the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities Project in April, which aims to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, is another example of both sides' close cooperation in the fields of science, innovation and sustainable development.

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Of course, Sino-Swiss relations go well beyond just delivering economic benefits. Indeed, our bilateral relations give equal emphasis to creating cultural and people-to-people exchanges. As always, the Swiss Embassy is supporting, launching and hosting a series of cultural events this year. I warmly invite you to follow the Embassy's official WeChat account 'SwissChat' for the latest updates. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,

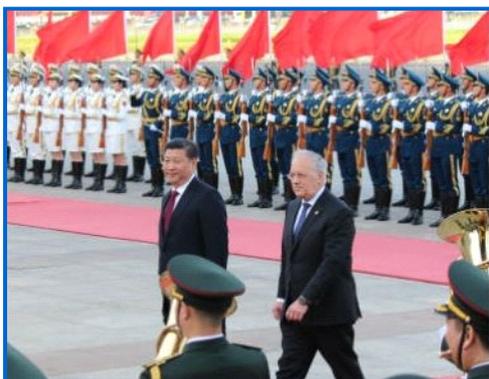


Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

Bilateral Relations

Swiss president pays state visit to China, forging Innovative Strategic Partnership



Military honours for state visit. © Che Congcong

Switzerland and China ushered in a new milestone in their Innovative Strategic Partnership following the state visit of the President of Swiss Confederation Johann N. Schneider-Ammann from April 7 to 9.

Under the new framework, the two countries will join hands in enhancing innovative capacities in the industrial sector, energy efficiency, environmental protection, finance cooperation, and many other areas with strong collaboration potential. [Read More >>>](#)

[Joint Declaration: Innovative Strategic Partnership.](#)

Swiss Ambassador lauds Innovative Strategic Partnership



Swiss Ambassador to China de Dardel. © Zhao Pengpeng

Swissnews: The Swiss President's state visit to China was a great success following the announcement of the Innovative Strategic Partnership. How did his visit further bilateral relations?

Ambassador: The Sino-Swiss bilateral relationship has obviously been brought to a new level, not only through the state visit but also by the labeling of our special relationship as the Innovative Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, the wide substance of the visit, the density of the talks, the positive attitudes towards each other and issues of concern all generated sincerity from both sides to deepen this already extremely fulfilling relationship.

[Read the full interview here. >>>](#)

Economic News

Connectivity for innovation: The Sino-Swiss Dimension



Swiss president opens the economic forum. © Che Congcong

“Research, development, marketing – all these need freedom to be efficient. Academic freedom from interference with research topics, the free flow of information without censorship, the economic freedom to be an entrepreneur, to found, to build, to operate, and even to fail with an enterprise,” said Swiss President Schneider-Ammann at the opening of the fourth edition of the Sino-Swiss Economic Forum held in Beijing on April 8.

[Read more >>>](#)

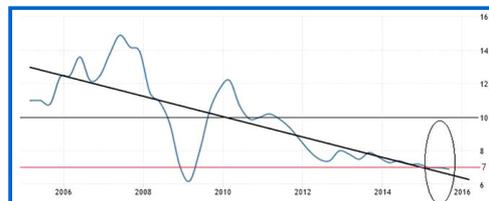
Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer attends G20 finance ministers meeting

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, who is also the head of the Federal Department of Finance, stressed at the meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in February in Shanghai that economic growth can only be boosted if adequate structural reforms are tackled as a top priority and public finances are consolidated. He also highlighted the need to push ahead with the work on consistently implementing the internationally adopted reforms in the area of financial market regulation for the sustainable stabilization of the financial markets.

[Read more>>](#)

China 2015 Final Economic Report

The China 2015 Final Economic Report released by the Swiss Embassy looks into China’s economic growth under the “new normal” as well as trends in the Sino-Swiss economic space. Click [here](#) for the latest insight about Sino-Swiss economic prospects.



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Science and Innovation

Swiss-made Solar Impulse resumes round-the-world voyage

Do you still remember the epic global flight Solar Impulse launched last year? After nine months of break, the solar plane, the first one of its kind that is capable of flying day and night without using a drop of fuel, resumed its journey with its “Future Is Clean” initiative. An idea born in Switzerland, the project has also gained great support from the Swiss Federal government, private sectors and research institutes. [Read more >>>](#)



Bertrand Piccard takes a selfie during his flight in Solar Impulse. © Solar Impulse

[Official website of Solar Impulse.](#)

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Development News

Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities Project kicks off



The Low Carbon Cities Project is unveiled in Chengdu. © Bai Chenxi

The Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities Project, which aims to promote the sustainable growth of Chinese cities, was launched following the signing of an MoU between the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and participating Chinese cities in the attendance of the Swiss and Chinese presidents in April. The SSLCC Project focuses on the ultimate goal of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases in Chinese urban areas and to increase the climate resilience of the economy. [Read more >>>](#)

[Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation China.](#)

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Visa Information

3 new Swiss visa application centers open in China



Switzerland is to welcome more Chinese tourists.

Three new Visa Acceptance Centers have been opened in Chengdu, Wuhan and Shenyang since January and are providing increased access and enhanced administrative services to applicants to Switzerland. Applicants can make online appointments at TLScontact's website and will be accepted on an appointment basis at the centers to submit required documents. [Read more >>>](#)

[Switzerland Tourism website.](#)

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Chinese Encounters

Fred Baillif: from a social worker to film director



Invited by the Swiss Embassy in China, Swiss director Fred Baillif had his documentary-style film Tapis Rouge screened in a number of Chinese cities during the Francophonie festival in March. The film, a mixture of fiction and reality recording some youngsters' pursuit of their filmmaking dream in Lausanne, aroused heated discussions about social worker and social

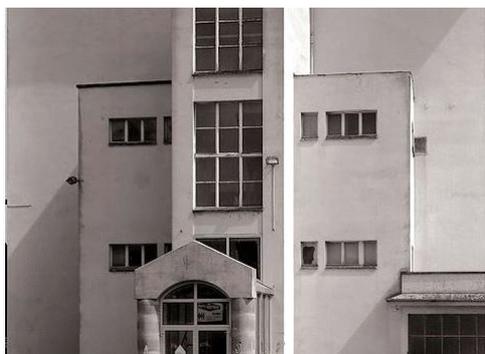


Swiss film director Fred Baillif . © Fred Baillif

integration among the audience. [Read the full article in Chinese on SwissChat.](#)

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Events Calendar



Fine Art Industrial Photography

April 23-May 23

Industry Museum of China, 14, Weigong Beijie, Tiexi District, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, (024) 25702088,

Swiss artists Ferit Kuyas and Luca Zanier join five other international photographers in showcasing different aspects of the industrial and manufacturing world through their compelling images. See the beautiful, the ugly, the interplay of steel and emotions, and the social and economic relevance hidden in ruins and decay.



Egopusher at Strawberry Music Festival

April 30, Fruity Space, Beijing

May 1, Strawberry Music Festival, Xianghe, Hebei Province

May 2, Strawberry Music Festival, Shanghai Expo Park

Pro Helvetia WeChat: [pro-helvetia](#)

Formed by Tobias Preisig and Alessandro Giannelli, contrast and contradiction are at the very core of the duo, which plays a variety of genres including folk, punk, jazz, electro and reggae.



Feldermelder China Tour

May 11-29

Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chengdu, Tianjin, Beijing | WeChat: [pro-helvetia](#)

The Feldermelder Erratic China Tour is a newly conceived live show created by Swiss electronic genius Feldermelder in collaboration with SupermafiaVj's/Encor. In addition to seven festival and club shows, there will be two installation- and art-driven performances in museum spaces in Shanghai and Beijing.



Swiss Week Shanghai

May 18-22

Huaihai Road Park, 177 Huaihai Road, Shanghai

<http://swissweek.com>

Learn more about Switzerland by immersing yourself in its cultural diversity, traditions, and state-of-the-art products and technologies. In addition to its usual fare of exquisite Swiss gourmet food and music, this year's event will see scores of Swiss brands introduce their

latest products.



Bastian Baker China Tour

May 26, Post Mountain Art Space , 1
Xiangheyuan Beijie, Beijing (inside Grand
MOMA)
May 27, Yuyingtang, 851 Kaixuan Road,
Shanghai
May 28, Real Live, 60 Daxue Road, Shapowei,
Xiamen
May 29, T: union, 361-365, Guangzhou Road,
Guangzhou

A star since his first album was released in 2011, Swiss folk-rock singer and songwriter Bastian Baker has performed hundreds of times around the world. His debut in Beijing last year brought a fresh aspect of Swiss pop music to China.



Accordion Virtuoso Richard Galliano & Geneva Camerata

June 15 , NCPA, Beijing | [Ticketing](#)
June 17, Shanghai Oriental Art Centre | [Ticketing](#)

Maestro David Greilsammer will conduct the Geneva Camerata with prestigious accordionist Richard Galliano for two shows in China. Audacious and innovative, the Geneva Camerata is composed of young virtuoso soloists. With his “new musette” style, Galliano breathes new life into his performances on stage.

Panel discussion: E-commerce

May 18

Huaihai Road Park, 177 Huaihai Road, Shanghai
www.swissnexchina.org

The panel discussion will focus on the popular topic of E-Commerce. Swiss and Chinese business insiders will illustrate its latest development, trends, and opportunities for Swiss companies. The event is jointly organized by swissnex China and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce Shanghai. Follow swissnex China on WeChat (swissnex) to stay updated!

Swiss Universities Alumni Gathering

May 18

Huaihai Road Park, 177 Huaihai Road, Shanghai
www.swissnexchina.org

swissnex China has the pleasure to invite graduates of Swiss universities in China to an alumni gathering during the Swiss Week in Shanghai. This gathering provides the perfect opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and make new connections. For more information, please email info@swissnexchina.org.

Swiss Pavilion at Tsinghua University's Global Village

May 19

Tsinghua University, 30 Shuangqing Road, Haidian district, Beijing

Visit the Swiss Pavilion at the Global Village at Tsinghua University to get fresh insights into Switzerland's innovation, design, cultural diversity, and education system. Besides photos,

posters, and entertainment activities, visitors will also be treated with authentic Swiss chocolate and given the opportunity to talk with Swiss exchange students.

Photo Exhibition: China Between Yesterday and Tomorrow

April 13-May 31

Zhongshan Museum of Art, Qijiang Park, West District, Zhongshan

Some 65 photos from the rich portfolio of late Swiss photojournalist Fernand Gigon (1908-1986) showcase the hardships as well as beauty of everyday life of ordinary Chinese in the 1950s. Traveling extensively across the country, Gigon was particularly impressed by the masses uniting to develop the social economy and find their own path to the modern world. He subsequently focused his lens on ordinary people who kept their pride and dignity under difficult conditions.

Preparatory Workshop & Alumni Summer BBQ

June 3

Swiss Embassy in Beijing, 3 Dongwujie, Sanlintun, Chaoyang district, Beijing

[Sign up here.](#)

This workshop will provide students who are going to study in Switzerland in the fall a preview of their studies, a taste of Swiss cultures, tips for job hunting and networking, and strategies to adjust to life in Switzerland. Alumni from Swiss universities will also be invited to share their experiences and get reconnected with their fellow students.

Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day: Shenzhen

June 20-21

Intercontinental Hotel Shenzhen, 9009 Shennan Road, Overseas Chinese Town, Shenzhen

This annual event will be held in Shenzhen for the first time, one of the Chinese centers of innovation with growing economic vitality. Highlighted by different events, such as a classical concert, photo exhibition, and seminars, this Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day has become a great opportunity for locals to know Switzerland as an attractive tourist destination, a leading country in innovation and technology, and a nation that embraces diverse cultures.

Beatrice Berrut Piano Recital

June 19-27

Chongqing, Tianjin, Linyi

<http://www.wupromotion.com/en/great-china-tour/piano-recital/902-beatrice-berrut-switzerland-2016>

Described by the international press as "a revelation, an exceptional pianist" whose "transcendent playing revels in multiple layers of genius and beauty," Beatrice Berrut is considered one of the most talented artists of her generation. She has played numerous concerts throughout Europe and America in recital as well as a soloist with orchestras such as the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana and the North Czech Philharmonic.

Screening: Katzenball at ShanghaiPRIDE Film Festival

June 22

Building F, 570, Huaihai Xi Road, Changning district, Shanghai

<http://www.shpride.com/films/?lang=en>

From June 17 to 26, the Shanghai PRIDE Film Festival will be celebrating gender in all its

forms with film screenings, panel discussions and other side events. Katzenball by Swiss director Veronika Minder looks into the minority group of lesbians in Switzerland in the past 70 years with five women's personal accounts about their relationships and their search for an identity and meeting places. The film is also a narrative of their political struggle, masquerades, and subculture in this country.

Lucerne Symphony Orchestra 2016 China Tour

June 28

Shanghai Oriental Art Centre, 425, Dingxiang Road, Pudong New district, Shanghai

<http://www.shoac.com.cn/PlayInfo.aspx?playid=15950>

June 30, 2016

Xi'an Concert Hall, Yannan Yillu, Qujiang New District, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province

<http://www.xianch.com/concert/849.html>

As Switzerland's oldest symphony orchestra, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra's concerts have long featured internationally renowned soloists. A dynamic ensemble, the orchestra understands best how to leverage creativity within tradition and innovation. It also takes every opportunity to highlight the rarities of the repertoire, broadening the horizons of its audiences and embracing music of a contemporary character. It will be joined on its China tour by talented pianist George Li, who has been highly acclaimed for his performances both as a soloist and accompanist.

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