



## Media release

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# Sino-Swiss Dialogue commits to innovative cooperation, ecological development under Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership

**The Sino-Swiss Dialogue, a key sub-forum of the Eco Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference, is poised to further strengthen prospective collaborations between Switzerland and Guizhou Province in advancing ecological development. The fourth Sino-Swiss dialogue, to be held in Guiyang on July 8, will be attended by Ms. Christa Markwalder, President of the National Council of Switzerland, accompanied by a Swiss delegation consisting of diplomats, educators, social and economic experts in environment, sustainability and green economy.**

This year's dialogue, on the theme of "Mountainous Economy and Green Development", will explore innovative cooperation opportunities, in particular in the field of green development. Keynote speakers include Ms. Christa Markwalder, President of the National Council of Switzerland, Mr. Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Swiss Ambassador to China and Mr. Chen Min'er, Party Secretary of Guizhou Province.

A landlocked country with abundant mountain landscape, Switzerland has long been committed to a sustainable economy. Green development has been put on top of Switzerland's political agenda and is being recognized as a tool for sustainable development. In 2013, the Swiss Federal Council adopted the Green Economy Action Plan, which intends to conserve natural resources, make consumption more environmentally friendly and strengthen the circular economy. Over the years, Switzerland has developed not only theoretical knowledge but also practical experience concerning green development.

Guizhou Province in Southwestern China shares similar landscapes with Switzerland and the common goal of promoting green and sustainable development. The Sino-Swiss Dialogue, initiated by the Chinese government in 2013 as a primary part of the EFG Annual Conference, has served as a facilitator for the collaboration between the two countries in the field of sustainable development.

"The transformation towards a greener economy all over the world is a fundamental path to achieve a more sustainable future. Following the establishment of the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership in April, we would like to work more closely with China to apply our innovative capacities in the areas of strong collaboration potentials. With Guizhou Province, we have identified lots of opportunities for collaboration in the fields of cleantech, eco-tourism

and environmental protection and we will be working together to materialize these opportunities,” said Swiss Ambassador to China Jean-Jacques de Dardel.

### **Panel discussions and workshops**

In addition to the main dialogue, there will be three panel discussions on the morning of the 8th. The discussions will focus on business opportunities between Swiss and Chinese companies, cooperation in business education and hotel management, and ecological footprint and ecological management of mountain lakes.

The panel discussions will also witness the signing of MoUs on exchanges and collaboration between Swiss universities and Guizhou University. The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Guizhou will announce the setup of its representative office in Switzerland and sign a Memorandum of understanding with the Swiss-Chinese Association.

### **Highlights of Switzerland’s participation at the EFG 2016**

#### **- Participation of high-level Swiss government officials**

The Swiss delegation will be headed by Ms. Christa Markwalder, President of the National Council of Switzerland and includes Swiss Ambassador to China Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Mr. Alain Graf, Counselor and Director of Swiss Business Hub in China, Mr. Nektarios Palaskas, Head of the Science, Technology and Education Section of the Swiss Embassy. Ms. Markwalder will give a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of EFG 2016.

#### **- Comprehensive topics at the Sino-Swiss Dialogue**

This year’s dialogue focuses on two topics: “Innovative cooperation and mutual win-win” and “Ecological development through transformation and upgrading.” The official Swiss delegation, officials from Guizhou Province and experts from the fields of economy, environment and sustainability will offer insights into new potential collaboration domains and provide ideas of achieving a greener economy through innovation.

#### **- Panel discussions on business, education and environment**

Three panel discussions will elaborate engaging topics on investment opportunities in Guizhou, case study of cooperating on Swiss medical technology and cross-cultural management and joint venture management in Sino-Swiss cooperation.

#### **- Swiss Pavilion showcasing Swiss innovation**

During the EFG forum, a Swiss pavilion will introduce the innovative capacities of Switzerland, as well as the cooperation and achievements between China and Switzerland with multimedia installations.

#### **- Sino-Swiss cultural exchange**

Yodeling is a time-honored traditional Swiss way of singing which originates from the mountain areas. The distinguished Yodeling duo “Rohrer sisters” from Switzerland will stage a live show of the Alpine music on July 8 together with Chinese Miao minority singer Ms. A Youduo from Guizhou.

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