



Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel is very positive of the outlook of the Sino-Swiss relations.
©Swiss Embassy

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

I hope you all had a relaxing summer holiday. Summer can be beautiful in Beijing, but it is also a busy time for diplomacy! My colleagues and I at the Embassy and Consulates-General worked closely with our Chinese counterparts to organize high-level exchanges, strive for common objectives in the interest of both countries, and further bilateral cooperation.

May to August was a productive period for bilateral exchanges, particularly in the fields of environment and development. Prior to a recent visit by Swiss Vice President Doris Leuthard, Swiss National Council President Christa Markwalder attended the Sino-Swiss Dialogue at Guiyang's Eco Forum in July. In addition, the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities project was successfully launched in five Chinese cities.

These exchanges are very fruitful in the sense that we have reached consensus to further consolidate our collaboration in a number of domains related to sustainability. Switzerland is without doubt a world leader and pioneer when it comes to sustainable development. We prioritize sustainability on our political agenda and have developed both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Under the newly established Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership, we are ready to explore new avenues for cooperation with China's public and private sectors.

Deepening bilateral exchanges have also furthered Sino-Swiss economic relations. Swiss delegates had productive discussions with its Chinese and international counterparts on financial markets, international economic, and monetary system reforms at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Chengdu. This July marks the second year of the entry into force of our landmark Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement, which remains the only FTA between China and a continental European country. While our trade numbers keep

growing despite a difficult economic environment, Swiss companies remain very attractive to Chinese investments, as the recent take-over announcement of SR Technics by the Chinese group HNA proves.

Last but not least, as the cultural exchanges between our two countries continue to bloom, please don't forget to follow and participate in our events and activities including design workshops, jazz concerts, winter sports, Italian Language Week, and much more. Whatever your tastes, there is something for everyone in our rich cultural program!

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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Bilateral Relations

Swiss VP promotes environmental, energy policies during China visit



Mrs. Leuthard is introduced to the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities Project at the Swiss Embassy. © Zhen Hongge

Swiss Vice President Doris Leuthard held talks with Chinese authorities about expanding bilateral cooperation in the environment and energy sector during her visit to China. Switzerland and China will continue their cooperation on water management through expert meetings and projects aimed at sustainable water management and natural hazard prevention. [Read more>>>](#)

Background: [Bilateral relations Switzerland-China](#)

Sino-Swiss Dialogue commits to innovative cooperation, ecological development



Ms. Christa Markwalder speaks at the EFG

Swiss National Council President Christa Markwalder attended the Sino-Swiss Dialogue, a key sub-forum of the Eco Forum Global (EFG) Annual Conference in Guiyang. The forum promoted cooperation between Switzerland and the province, particularly in the field of ecological development under Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership. [Read](#)

China and Switzerland in dialogue on human rights

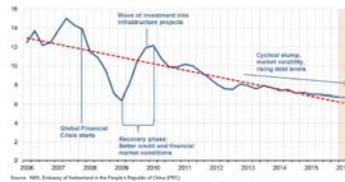
The 14th round of the Sino-Swiss Human Rights Dialogue in May yielded open, constructive, and mutually critical exchanges on key issues related to bilateral human rights. The dialogue prioritized discussions on developments over the past year related to China-based lawyers and human rights activists in addition to rights of minorities. Switzerland expressed its concern about these issues on the basis of concrete situations. [Read more>>>](#)

Background: [Switzerland's human rights policy](#)

Economic News

Swiss Embassy releases China Economic report

The bi-annual Economic Report looks into China's current economic development. It offers an overview of China's macroeconomic situation, and analyses the structural reforms launched in 2015 as well as in China's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020). It also provides an insight into China's international and regional economic agreements, and discusses the outlook for the Sino-Swiss economic agreements. Download the report [here](#).



2016 China Economic Report. © Swiss Embassy

Investing in Switzerland

Switzerland has a proud reputation for being a gateway to the European market, one of the world's most stable economies, and home to a competitive business environment. It's therefore no surprise that it attracts investors from all over the world. Under its mission to promote trade and investment in Switzerland, the Swiss Business Hub in China shared the benefits of investing in Switzerland with China Investment magazine, including strong industrial clusters, innovation capacities, a favorable tax system, and high-level workforce. [Read the Chinese article here](#).



Switzerland offers competitive business environment. © Swiss Embassy

Job offer: General Manager, SwissCham Beijing

SwissCham Beijing is looking for a capable new General Manager to lead its team. The GM is responsible for providing leadership and vision by driving the Chamber's activities, including marketing, public relations, and project management. For more information, please visit [SwissCham website](#).

Science and Education

Solar Impulse completes fuel-free flight around the

world



Solar Impulse pilots celebrate the epic flight. © Solar Impulse

Solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 flew into the record books upon completing its epic round-the-world trip on July 26, making it the first aircraft to circumnavigate the globe without a drop of liquid fuel. The idea for the aircraft was conceived by Swiss adventurers Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg and supported by the Swiss Federal government. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss education excellence on show at Tsinghua



With posters, brochures, and a 'Mountain-Climber' quiz, the Swiss booth at the annual Tsinghua Global Village Festival introduced visitors to Switzerland's strengths in higher education, research, innovation, and tourism.

Switzerland is renowned for its world-class education system and vibrant innovation culture. [Read more>>>](#)

Beijing IHEID Alumni Association inaugurated

An inauguration ceremony for the Beijing chapter of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) Alumni Association was held in July at the Swiss Embassy. A statute for the chapter was adopted at the event, laying the cornerstone for this community. [Event photos>>>](#)

Cultural News

Swiss National Day: celebrating 725 years of history

About 600 guests from the Swiss, Chinese, and international communities celebrated the Swiss National Day at the Swiss Embassy in Beijing on August 1. The festivities generated an amicable atmosphere livened by performances by the Swiss Military Small Band and fun activities for children.



National Day celebration at the Swiss Embassy. © Mathias Magg

[Message from the Swiss President.](#)

New Swiss visa centers to speed up application process for Chinese travelers

The Swiss Embassy has expanded visa services to more Chinese cities following the opening of eight new visa acceptance centers. The newest center will open in Fuzhou in September, bringing the total number of Chinese cities with VACs to 15. [Read more>>>](#)

Development News

Ambassador Pio Wennubst visits global climate change program in China



Ambassador Wennubst attends the launch ceremony of Low Carbon Cities project in Guangzhou. © SDC

Pio Wennubst, Vice Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, met with officials from China's central government and multilateral organizations in addition to visiting pilot provinces and cities. The purpose of his visit was to identify opportunities for deeper innovation and stronger engagement between the GPCC and China. [Read more>>>](#)

Sino-Swiss cooperation deepens on water management

Vice President Doris Leuthard and Chinese Minister of Water Resources Chen Lei attended the Sino-Swiss Water Management Dialogue, which facilitated an in-depth exchange of ideas and built consensus for further cooperation on sustainable water management and hazard prevention. [Read more>>>](#)

Upcoming Events

Below are some of the highlights of the cultural events from the Swiss Embassy and its Consulates General. For more events and detailed information, please visit the [Agenda page of the Embassy's website](#) or follow its [WeChat: SwissChat](#).

10/09 - Shanghai

All Swiss Universities Alumni Gathering



swissnex China invites alumni from Swiss universities and business schools to this annual gathering. Alumni are welcome to celebrate excellence in Swiss higher education and create new connections.

10/09 - 09/12 - Beijing

Dunshan Symphonic Wind Orchestra Concert Series



The Dunshan Symphonic Wind Orchestra is the first and only fully privately-funded orchestra in Chinese mainland and co-founded by Swiss musician Adrian Schneider. The orchestra will bring six wonderful concerts in the following months.

20/09 – 15/10 - Changsha

China between Yesterday and Tomorrow



The 65 photos from the portfolio of late Swiss photojournalist Fernand Gigon showcase the hardships as well as the beauty of everyday life of ordinary Chinese in the 1950s.

23/09 – 07/10 - Beijing / 30/11 – 05/03, 2017 - Hong Kong

ECAL Graphic Design



The ECAL Graphic Design exhibition highlights a number of animated and inspiring projects conducted by Bachelor of Graphic Design and Master of Art Direction graduates over the past years.

27/09 – 15/10 - Shanghai

Real Fiction Cinema



Curated by Swiss curator Klaus Littmann and Dutch artist Job Koelewijn, the project comprises of three cinemas at three locations in Shanghai and intends to provide a unique perspective of temporary art interventions in public spaces.

02/10 - Beijing

Grid and Ghost: Jonas Voegeli on Grid Design System



Swiss designer Jonas Voegeli, a dual recipient of the Swiss Federal Design Grant, will illustrate with his own projects the Swiss graphic school, usage of the grid system and his creative approach to visual communication.

14/10 – 06/11 - Guangzhou

Exhibition and Workshop with Artist Rolf Klaus



Swiss artist Rolf Klaus favors the ParaART movement, whereby blacksmith tools are made without welding. During his residency in Guangzhou, some of his objects will be further developed and assembled as mobile sculptures.

11/10 – 20/10 - Chongqing / Beijing / Wuhan / Shenzhen / Guangzhou / Shanghai

Golden Years Tour 2016 by bconnected



Swiss pop-jazz band bconnected will perform nine shows across China. Chinese musicians will join the group to provide a sensitivity retransmitted by traditional instruments including the Erhu. The highlight of their tour is their show at the Nine Gates International Jazz Festival in Beijing.

18/10 - Beijing

Ticino Night



As a highlight of the Italian Language Week, Ticino Night, hosted at the Swiss Embassy, will put its focus entirely on Ticino. Guests from the Italian-speaking Ticino will illustrate the different aspects of the region as a strategic economic, cultural, and tourism destination of Switzerland.

24/10 – 03/11 - Shangha / Beijing / Shenzhen / Hong Kong

Venture Leaders China 2016



The program unites 10 handpicked high-tech entrepreneurs whose businesses will be given a technological and commercial boost through expert coaching, networking with investors, and pitching with local startups.

17/11 - Beijing

Film Screening: Cows, Cheese, and Three Kids



The film raises questions about consumption and the comfort of interconnectedness through media. Following the screening, director Susanna Fanzun will join the audience for a discussion of the film and share her experience of its production.

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