



Embassy of Switzerland in China
瑞士驻华大使馆

SWISS INCUBATOR

Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel welcomes you to join the Sino-Swiss Tourism Year. © Liu Chenguang

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

We have made a great start to the Sino-Swiss Tourism Year! As many of you are aware, this initiative was launched during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Switzerland in January. In testimony to the strength of Sino-Swiss ties, this year is expected to see more in-depth exchanges in tourism, winter sports and people-to-people exchanges.

President Xi's historic state visit to Switzerland had him meet with Swiss President Doris Leuthard. The two leaders exchanged extensive views and witnessed the signature of 10 agreements to accelerate collaboration in different fields. President Leuthard also accepted President Xi's invitation to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in May in Beijing. She will be bringing Swiss experience and technology know-how into the fledgling China-led initiative.

Since President Xi's visit, high-level exchanges between Switzerland and China have continued. Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Minister of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports, has recently visited China and had substantial discussions with his Chinese counterparts. Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, our Finance Minister, is set to visit China in mid-April with a delegation of Swiss bankers and regulators. Meeting with representatives from Chinese banking and financial industries, as well as Chinese entrepreneurs, should further strengthen our close collaboration in finance and the economy.

These visits will help pave the way for ever more meaningful bilateral relations. Our shared aspirations build our bright future, inspiring us to achieve more together. It is in this spirit of joint accomplishment that I look forward to working more closely with our Chinese counterparts.

In terms of trade and economy, the Swiss Embassy continues to attract domestic businesses to China and facilitate overseas investment opportunities for Chinese companies. In February, we organized a fact-finding mission for Swiss winter sports companies to 2022 Winter Olympics sites in China. By promoting these companies' products and exchanging knowledge with Chinese authorities, we create substantial opportunities for mutual benefit.

Finally, I'd like to introduce our Swiss Agenda e-book for the latest on Sino-Swiss cultural exchanges. This digital publication features information about events organized or supported by our Embassy, Consulates General, Pro Helvetia, swissnex China and other partners. Find out more [here](#).

All the best to all!

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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Bilateral Relations

10 Agreements signed during Xi's visit to Switzerland



Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Switzerland in January resulted in the signing of 10 treaties, agreements, and protocols by the two countries. Both sides also agreed on a declaration of intent in the field of energy, and inaugurated 2017 as the Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism. [Read more>>>](#)

The two presidents announced the Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism.
© Swiss Embassy

FC Guy Parmelin pays official visit to China

Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports, visited China recently. He was received in Beijing by the Defence Minister CHANG Wanquan and the Vice President of China's Central Military Commission FAN Changlong. [Read more>>>](#)



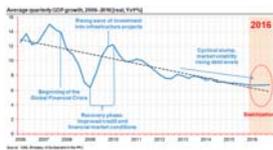
FC Parmelin delivered a speech at Swiss

Switzerland, China conduct human rights dialogue

The 15th round of human rights dialogue between Switzerland and China took place on March 2 and 3 in Bern. The confidential discussions allowed an open, constructive, and mutually critical debate about human rights in both countries. This round's focus was on human rights issues related to the judicial and penal system. [Read more>>>](#)

Economic News

New Publication: China 2016 Economic Report



China 2016 Economic
Report. © Swiss
Embassy

The Swiss Embassy's Economic, Financial, and Commercial Section has released "China 2016 Final Economic Report," providing a comprehensive review of China's trade and economic activity last year. Recent data indicates clear stabilization, and Sino-Swiss trade continued to grow. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss winter sports companies visit Beijing, Hebei

The Swiss Business Hub China supported the first fact-finding mission for Swiss companies active in winter sports and the Winter Olympics on February 13 to 15. The mission took company representatives to Yanqing District, Beijing and Chongli in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province. [Read more>>>](#)



Embassy Reception for
Swiss Winter Sports
Companies. © Swiss
Embassy

Job Offer

Deputy Head of Section Culture & Media

The Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing is looking for a full time Deputy Head of the Culture & Media Section. You will join a young and dynamic team for a challenging position. As Deputy Head of section, you will be a key player for the management of the various projects of the section and the coordination with the various Swiss representations in China. [Find details here>>>](#)

Science and Education

Venture Leaders & Swiss Incubator at Summer Davos



Embassy Reception for
Venture Leaders 2015.

© Swiss Embassy

Venture Leaders China is a 10-day business development program for Swiss companies. In June, 10 Swiss high-tech start-ups will join events organized in partnership with the Swiss Embassy and swissnex China, as well as the Swiss Incubator Event at the World Economic Forum in Dalian.

[Read more>>>](#)

Chinese team at Lift conference in Geneva

The annual Lift Conference was held in Geneva from March 1 to 3, providing attendees with inspiration for continued innovation. 36 teams participated in various events including keynote speeches and prototype construction labs. Open Greens, a Chinese team, featured at this year's event. [Read more>>>](#)



Open Greens at Lift. ©
swissnex

Development News

Low-Carbon City Project launched in Kunming



SSLCC MoU Signing. ©
Swiss Embassy

A signing ceremony for a MoU between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Kunming City Government under the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon Cities project was held at the Swiss Embassy in Beijing on February 15. Kunming is the sixth Chinese city to launch the project. [Read more>>>](#)

Documentary: Sino-Swiss Dream without Borders

The co-production documentary series "Sino-Suisse Rêve sans frontières" (Sino-Swiss Dream without Borders) is produced by two national media – CGTN French Channel and Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS), introducing the bilateral cooperation in environment and other fields.

Related Episodes: [Resources](#) | [Climate](#)



Documentary "Sino-Suisse Rêve sans frontières". © RTS

Cultural News

Celebrating Francophonie culture and heritage

To celebrate the 22nd edition of the Francophonie Festival, the Swiss



Claude Barras, Director of *Ma Vie de Courgette*, at Embassy film screening. © Swiss Embassy

Embassy and its Consulates General with their partners presented a series of cultural events and activities, including book readings with Geneva author Daniel de Roulet, screenings of Oscar-nominated film *Ma Vie de Courgette (My Life as a Zucchini)*, and rock concerts featuring LiA during the Mars en Folie. [Read more>>>](#)

Consular News

OSA Summer Camp registration opens

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) provides opportunities for young Swiss living abroad to better understand their country of residence. Swiss all over the world are welcome to enjoy diverse programs prepared by the OSA. Registration for summer camps in 2017 is now open. [Read more>>>](#)



Moments from previous OSA Summer Camp. © OSA

China Encounters

A Swiss touch of typography design



Prof. Barmettler at Swiss Design Summer School. © Enge Hong

"Swiss design is about using a simple message to deliver complex content. It is realized in a catchy and functional way, so that a target group gets the message immediately." said Prof. Rudolf Barmettler, who is a Swiss graphic designer and would like to share about his profession, typography and summer school in Beijing. [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.

[Swiss Agenda issue 4](#) is available [here](#).

15/04-03/05 – Xi'an, Nanchang

Swiss presence at Guyu Action International Performance Art Festival



Eight Swiss performance artists including Yann Marussich and Muda Mathis are joining Guyu Action International Performance Art Festival. Supported by [Pro Helvetia Shanghai](#), Swiss Arts Council. Wechat: pro_helvetia; Weibo @瑞士文化基金会

20/04-20/05 – Guangzhou

Swiss photo exhibition: 'China between Yesterday and Tomorrow'



The photo exhibition "China between Yesterday and Tomorrow" will begin its second tour in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. A collection of 65 photos from the portfolio of late Swiss photojournalist Fernand Gigon showcase the everyday life of ordinary Chinese in the 1950s.

28/04-06/05 – Hong Kong, Yueyang

Dance Culture Exchange Workshop



Now in its fourth year, the "East meets West – Brugge baue (Building Bridges)" project will again bring Swiss artists to China in a rich cultural exchange that promotes the preservation of traditions. This year's workshop is centered on dance.

09/05-14/05 – Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Changsha

Bern Symphony Orchestra China Tour



Founded in 1877, the Bern Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is one of Switzerland's largest orchestras, consisting of about 100 musicians from 20 nations. The program for its China tour is a selection of significant works from German classics and romantics including Dukas, Strauss, Brahms, and Beethoven.

10/05-14/05 – Shanghai

Swiss Week Shanghai



Swiss lifestyle, diverse cultures, prominent artists, authentic Swiss food, and famed brands are just some of the attractions of Swiss Week in Shanghai. Visitors will be given free access to a genuine Swiss experience throughout the festival.

31/05-01/06 – Zhongshan

Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day in Zhongshan



The first Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day for 2017 will be held in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. The city is home to the Sino-Swiss (Zhongshan) Industrial Park. Highlights include a classical music concert, a black-and-white photo exhibition, and seminars.

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