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Embassy of Switzerland in China
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Swissnews



Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel recognizes Hunan TV for its great efforts in promoting Sino-Swiss exchanges in the Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism. © Hunan TV

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

As the year draws to a chilly end, let us take a moment to bask in the warm memories of 2017 and look with anticipation toward 2018.

Since the launch of the 2017 China-Switzerland Year of Tourism during President Xi Jinping's visit to Switzerland in January, our two countries have witnessed the bloom of exchanges in culture and tourism:

Swiss President Doris Leuthard promoted tourism of both countries while visiting the Great Wall in May. In September, we participated in the World Winter Sports (Beijing) Expo as the first guest country of honor. With the help of two St. Bernards who won visitors' hearts, the annual event celebrated our long culture of winter sports and observed the sealing of important partnerships between Swiss and Chinese organizations.

Two weeks ago, I was in Lausanne for the closing ceremony of the Year of Tourism. Together with our Chinese partners, we concluded this fruitful year with a new partnership between Switzerland Tourism and the China National Tourism Association, which will no doubt further reinvigorate winter tourism in 2018.

Bilateral exchanges between Switzerland and China profited from this yearlong event, as shown by the visits of our federal councilors, president of the Council of States, as well as President Leuthard, on the occasion of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Switzerland welcomes the initiative as we believe it has the potential to further deepen bilateral relations in the spirit of the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership established in 2016. Furthermore, Swiss businesses stand to make strong contributions to the initiative thanks to their leading advantages and innovative capacities.

The privileged status of Sino-Swiss economic relations has been bolstered by the recent visits of state secretaries for finance and economic affairs, and the Financial Dialogue. While Switzerland commits to be open and welcoming for businesses, we are also looking for more opportunities of collaboration with our Chinese partners. The long-term commitment of Switzerland in China was further underlined by the opening of Swiss School Beijing this fall, the first official Swiss school in China.

Looking ahead, a rich program of high-level visits and events has been scheduled for 2018. On top of that, life-size statues of St. Bernard dogs and pandas, a tangible souvenir of 2017, will fittingly usher in China's upcoming Year of the Dog. Until then, I wish you and your families happy holidays!

Warm regards,

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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Bilateral Relations

President of the Council of States visits China

Ivo Bischofberger, President of the Council of States of the Federal Assembly, paid an official visit to China. During his meeting with Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the two parties addressed bilateral and international issues. Both sides noted Sino-Swiss relations have continued to deepen since the Free Trade Agreement took effect in 2014. [Read more>>>](#)



Mr. Bischofberger meets his Chinese counterpart in Beijing. © Xinhua

Economic News

State Secretary of Economic Affairs visits China

State Secretary of Economic Affairs Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch visited China in November. The visit resulted in further discussions to enhance the Sino-Swiss FTA, interactions with Swiss companies, and talks deepening knowledge about the business climate in China. She also visited Chengdu to mark the first anniversary of the Swiss Consulate General and promote Swiss interests in the region.



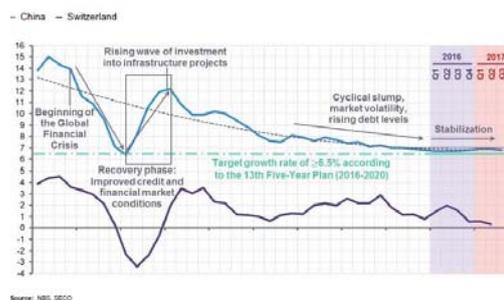
Ms. Ineichen-Fleisch cut the ribbons for Consulate General in Chengdu. © CG Chengdu

Fifth round of Sino-Swiss Financial Dialogue

The focus of the discussions between the high-ranking representatives of the financial market authorities and the central banks of the two countries was the recently announced liberalisation steps of the Chinese financial market, the internationalisation of the renminbi currency and the exchange of experience in the fintech area.

[FC Maurer receives Chinese visitors](#) | [State Secretary at Fintech Festival](#)

China 2017 Final Economic Report



The report released by the Swiss Embassy looks into China's macroeconomic situation, its own economic model and the economic development following the conclusion of the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China, as well as trends in the Sino-Swiss economic space. Click [here](#) for the

latest insight about Sino-Swiss economic prospects.

Ambassador's briefing



Ambassador's briefing goes to Guangzhou for the first time. © Swiss Embassy

2017 has been another period of intense interaction between Switzerland and China. In his annual briefings in Beijing, Shanghai and, for the first time, in Guangzhou, Swiss Ambassador highlighted current trends and provided a comprehensive overview of the state of Sino-Swiss affairs. [In slides: Ambassador's briefing>>>](#)

Embassy leads economic mission to Wuhan

The Swiss Embassy and the Consulate-General in Shanghai have concluded a successful economic mission to Wuhan. Attended by representatives from 20



Swiss companies and institutions, the mission held exchanges with the local government and business leaders. Swiss and local companies shared their insights and experiences of doing business in China and pledged their willingness to collaborate further.



Swiss Ambassador meets Deputy Governor of Hubei Province Tong Daochi.
© Swiss Embassy

Fintech series launched in Hong Kong, Shanghai

During the first “Future of Money” Fintech series launched by swissnex China, professionals, enthusiasts, and interested parties discussed the latest trends in Blockchain technology and regulatory developments in Switzerland and China. The series’ events are expected to increase cooperative opportunities between the two countries in the near future. [Read more>>>](#)

Trade and Investment

Jiangsu roadshow tours four cities



The Jiangsu roadshow, organized by the Swiss Business Hub (SBH) China in November, brought representatives of Swiss cantons and regions, and its knowledge partners to Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou, and Shanghai. The delegation visited Chinese companies to learn more about their business plans in Europe and promote exchanges with Switzerland. [Read more >>](#)
[SBH on LinkedIn](#)

Drug Discovery – Made in Switzerland in Shanghai

Organized by SBH China, the event invited Swiss experts from the biopharmaceutical and biotechnological sectors to share their insights and present their current projects in drug discovery. The event was a unique opportunity for pharmaceutical experts to collaborate, facilitating a deeper understanding for Chinese pharma companies about the strategic advantages

of Switzerland as a premier innovation center and leading pharma hub.

2017 Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism

St. Bernard duo tours China to promote Tourism Year

The 2017 Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism received a helping paw from Apero and Bricotine, two St. Bernards that traveled to China to promote Switzerland as a year-round sustainable mountain tourism destination. The two dogs also participated in the World Winter Sports (Beijing) Expo 2017 (WWSE) and visited Beijing and Shanghai.

Review their China trip on Sina Weibo (@狗to瑞士). [Read more>>>](#)



Two St. Bernard dogs visited the Great Wall in Beijing. © Swiss Embassy

Science and Education

China's first official Swiss School opens in Beijing



Opening ceremony of Swiss School Beijing on October 30. © Swiss Embassy

Swiss School Beijing is China's first school supported by the Swiss government, offering a unique window onto the Swiss education system. In its inaugural year, the school is available to students in kindergarten and Primary 1 and 2. New classes will be rolled out every subsequent year. In addition to learning German, students are taught Chinese, English, and French.

Alumni ties praised at gathering

Glühwein, raclette, Swiss chalet, and a cozy winter tourism layout created a relaxing and intimate atmosphere for the All-Swiss Schools & Universities Alumni Gathering held at the Swiss Embassy in November. The friendship

and networks among Swiss alumni was lauded by the Swiss ambassador, who shared latest developments of Sino-Swiss bilateral ties in the context of the Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism. [Read more>>>](#)

Panel discussion on aging issues

A panel discussion on improving the alignment of health and care to change the future of ageing was held at the Swiss Embassy in November, with experts from Switzerland and China sharing their insights on the issue. The panel also witnessed the signing of an MoU between the China Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics and Switzerland's EasyCare Academy, which is expected to bring the latest international standards for geriatric needs assessment to China. [Read more>>>](#)

Cultural News

First-ever SwissWeek held in Chengdu



The first SwissWeek in Chengdu was a big success. © Swiss Embassy

Swiss food and beverages, home appliances, diverse cultures and winter sports were just some of the highlights at the SwissWeek Chengdu in November. Supported by the Swiss Consulate-General in Chengdu, the city's first SwissWeek attracted representatives from more than 30 Swiss brands and companies. [Read more>>>](#)

2nd edition of Sino-Swiss Women's Forum in Chengdu

After a successful first edition in Geneva in 2015, the second edition of the Sino-Swiss Women's Forum (SSWF) was held in Chengdu from November 15 to 18. Supported by the Consulate-General of Switzerland in Chengdu, the forum gathered women leaders, entrepreneurs, and government officials from China and Switzerland who shared ideas about Sino-Swiss cooperation on innovation and entrepreneurship. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day in Shantou

Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel inaugurated Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day on November 14 in Shantou. Hosted biannually by the Consulate General in Guangzhou, the event has become a proactive platform for locals to learn more about Switzerland as an attractive tourist destination and better understand its cultural diversity, economic competitiveness, and innovative capacities. [Read more >>>](#)

China Encounters

Corinne Sutter: Chasing for speed



Corinne Sutter has established herself as a speed painting artist. © Ellen Mathys

Renowned caricaturist and speed painter Corinne Sutter shot to fame after demonstrating her artistic talents in Switzerland's Got Talent in 2016. Recently, Sutter appeared on China's popular talk show, Day Day Up, as part of a contingent of Swiss artists promoting their talents – and country – to Chinese viewers. Sutter reveals her artistic vision and her

experience working with Chinese TV show. [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](#), follow its WeChat: [SwissChat](#).

09/01-12/01 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen

Bastian Baker China Tour



Armed with his guitar and folk songs, [Bastian Baker](#) has established himself as a headlining act at home and abroad. Since the release of his first single at 19, Baker has risen to fame and received numerous accolades. His tour to China will bring him to different cities and reach more fans.

22/01 – Beijing, 23/01 – Shanghai

Sino-Swiss Architecture Forum



Swiss architect Mario Botta is a prolific and well-known crafter of space, renowned for his designs of places of worship, private homes, and museums. The Sino-Swiss Architecture Forum will promote the exchange of ideas among the Swiss master, young Swiss architects, and Chinese architects on the topic of sustainable architecture.

Until 21/01 – Chronus Art Center Shanghai

unReal. The Algorithmic Present



This exhibition shows the audience how to confront their daily digital reality of bits and bytes through 23 works by international artists. Several works on display have been specifically created for this exhibition, such as new creations by Swiss artists Cod.Act, Pe Lang, and Zahra Poonawala.

Until 04/03 – Shanghai Power Station of Art

‘Bijoux en jeu’: Swiss Contemporary Jewelry Exhibition



The exhibition incorporates five themes: telling, adorning, using, shaping, and making. It shows 200 works from 37 predominantly Swiss creators between 1970 and 2013 from the Swiss Confederation and the MUDAC (Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts).

Until mid-February – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu

Dog and panda statues on parade



From November 2017, the second part of the Year of Tourism flagship project will feature the artistic installation of life-size statues of a St. Bernard and a panda in different cities. The statues, painted by young and creative artists, are an emblem of the strong ties that connect the two countries.

03 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and more

Francophonie: celebrating French culture in China



Now in its 23rd year, this year's Mois de la Francophonie will celebrate French cultures embodied in different forms: art, literature, film, circus and many other creative pursuits.

03 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and more

Rendezvous with French music



Mars en Folie, a unique French contemporary music festival, will kick off during the Francophonie festival in March. Swiss pop band Le Roi Angus will join bands from other Francophonie countries. Altogether, they will stage 30 concerts in different Chinese cities.

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