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瑞士驻华大使馆



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Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel
(L) with the visiting
Foreign Minister Ignazio
Cassis on the Great

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

I have just returned from Ulaanbaatar accompanying our Federal Councilor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis on his work visit to Beijing, Xi'an and Mongolia. Though I have been to Xi'an a number of times, each time I have the pleasure of visiting this ancient capital, I am amazed by the richness of its culture, history and diversity.

This visit is Mr. Cassis' first official visit to China since he took office last November, and his first official visit outside Europe. It is furthermore significant because the foreign ministers from Switzerland and China Mr. Cassis and Mr. Wang Yi held a strategic dialogue, the first one in the rich history of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations. An innovative high-level

Wall, April 2. © Swiss
Embassy

strategic platform is being set up to foster closer relations between Switzerland and China. This platform is to be launched on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos and will convene political and economic delegates from our two countries.

Both Switzerland and China are strong advocates of free trade. In the spirit of this commitment, Mr. Cassis and Mr. Wang Yi reaffirmed their intentions to expand the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement signed in 2014. Further talks on core issues will follow across different portfolios. As China announces a further opening of its market, especially in the financial sector, we expect to see more collaboration between our countries in both the public and private sectors.

In their own distinctive ways, both our countries are true leaders in finance, science and technology. The "Future of Money" series on "AI in WealthTech" hosted by swissnex China in April rightly takes the pulse of industries by drawing on the expertise of top academics and opinion leaders in stimulating discussions.

On a lighter note, I would like to encourage our food aficionados to mark their calendars for the first-ever Swiss Gastronomic Week on April 23 (with two more weeks to follow later this year). The weeks will highlight Swiss haute cuisine and celebrate the diversity of Swiss gastronomy, its creativity, organic produce and the long history of Swiss wine culture. Whether you are a gourmet connoisseur or just an amateur foodie, we invite you to meet and greet celebrated Swiss chefs and savor their many delicacies on these special occasions.

Bring your enthusiasm (as well as your appetite), and I look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards,

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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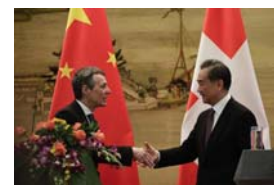
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Bilateral Relations

Switzerland, China hold first strategic dialogue

The first strategic dialogue in the history of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations was held on the occasion of Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis' visit to China. The two countries will continue to forge closer ties with the introduction of an innovative high-level strategic platform, and continue to expand the Sino-Swiss free trade agreement. [Read more>>>](#)

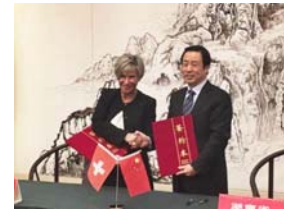


Swiss and Chinese

foreign ministers meet
for the first strategic
dialogue. © Keystone

Schaffhausen, Hunan establish friendly ties

The Canton of Schaffhausen in northern Switzerland established a friendly province-canton relationship with Hunan Province in February. Both sides pledged to strengthen official communications, exchanges and cooperation in economy and trade, regional sustainable development, health care, population management, education and training, and tourism promotion. [Read more>>>](#)



Schaffhausen and Hunan are expected to see more collaborations following the friendly ties. © CG Guangzhou

Economy and Investment

Ambassador briefs MBA students on China economy

Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel delivered a keynote lecture to more than 120 students participating in the International Institute for Management Development's (IMD) China Discovery Expedition 2018. Students enrolled in the IMD's 2017-18 Executive Master of Business Administration program comprise seasoned professionals from 26 industries and 27 countries. Ambassador de Dardel addressed topics as diverse as Sino-European relations, trade, investment and development in China as well as the nature and dynamics of China's recent economic growth.

Eyeing opportunities

Swiss Consul General in Chengdu Frank Eggmann met with officials of Kunming, Yunnan Province, to discuss Switzerland's participation at this year's China-South Asia Expo and Kunming Import & Export Fair. The Yunnan city will host both events from June 14 to 20.



Science and Education

Analysts debate artificial intelligence in WealthTech



Swissnex China launched the second edition of its "Future of Money" series in April, generating lively debate and discussion about "AI in WealthTech." Swiss and Chinese Academics and opinion leaders shared their insights into the future trends of the financial industry and its related technological developments. [Read more>>>](#)

Swissnex China
launched the second
edition of its "Future of

Money" series. ©
swissnex China

First Swiss Education Fair held in Shanghai

Swiss Business Hub China organized its first-ever Swiss Education Fair in Shanghai in March. Twelve schools participated in the event, showcasing Switzerland's top-quality educational system. Institutions represented at the event included world-renowned hospitality schools, a university of applied sciences, boarding and private schools, and the swissnex China office. Swiss Business Hub China hopes the well-attended and informative fair will become a regular event in Shanghai. [Read more>>>](#)

Education Day focuses on tertiary innovation



The Fourth Swiss Education Day is held in Chengdu. © CG Chengdu

Organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu and Swiss China Center, the fourth edition of Swiss Education Day was held March at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. Speaking to visitors, Swiss Consul General Frank Eggmann highlighted strengths of Switzerland's education model including its system and resources.

Cultural News

Swiss Gastronomic Week to bring culinary enjoyment



The first week is to be held from April 24 to 29 at Hilton Beijing. © Kulm Hotel

The Swiss Embassy is launching a series of Swiss Gastronomic Weeks this year that will give people a taste of the country's renowned culinary and wine culture. These weeks will celebrate the diversity of Swiss gastronomy, its creativity and sustainability. The first week will be held at the Hilton Beijing from April 24 to 29, with two more weeks to follow. [Read more>>>](#)

Verbier Festival set to dazzle music aficionados with mammoth program

The 25th edition of the Verbier Festival will be held from July 19 to August 5, featuring 59 concerts, 88 artists and more than 270 young musicians. The festival's founder and director, Martin Engström, has prepared an impressive program this year that encapsulates the event's proud past and exciting future. The Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, under its beloved Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy, toured China from 23 March to 1 April to mark the anniversary. [Read more>>>](#)



The Verbier Festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. © Verbier Festival

Architecture Dialogue focuses on sustainable design

The first edition of Sino-Swiss Architecture Dialogue was held in Beijing and Shanghai in January, with sustainable architecture as its main topic. Organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in China and the Consulate General in Shanghai, the dialogue was attended by renowned Swiss architect Mario Botta and young architects from both countries. The event allowed professionals to network and exchange ideas with each other. [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 follow the Embassy's WeChat (SwissChat) and Weibo accounts.

06/04 – 27/06 – Tongji University

Sino-Swiss Contemporary Jewelry and Accessory Design Exhibition



Featuring five leading art institutions in the field of contemporary accessory design, the exhibition is being held at Tongji University, Shanghai. Geneva School of Art and Design, one of the major institutions of art and design education in Europe, is presenting creative designs by its students.

08/04 – 15/04 – Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing

Magdalena Kožená & La Cetra Barockorchester Basel



The Monteverdi program performed by Magdalena Kožená and the Basel La Cetra Baroque Orchestra constitutes a significant shift from a regular concert recital to a theatrical performance. It exceeds the framework of semi-theatrical performances thanks to its stage design, costumes, lighting and the acting.

18/04 – Beijing Concert Hall

Emmanuel Siffert conducts China National Symphony Orchestra



Swiss conductor Emmanuel Siffert performs with musical, opera and ballet ensembles around the world. He will lead the China National Symphony Orchestra in performing music by Chinese composer Wang Xilin including “Symphony No. 3” and “Music for Piano and 23 Instruments.”

03/05 – 11/05 – Shanghai, Nanjing, Hefei, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Xi'an, Beijing

Christy Doran Jazz Concert Tour



Known for his avant-garde music, versatile guitarist Christy Doran has played in a host of bands and projects. Doran and his band Sound Fountain will embark on a China tour in May, giving audiences the opportunity to appreciate their trademark solid, spherical sounds.

11/05 – Chongzhou, Sichuan

Memorial Concert for 10th Anniversary of Wenchuan Earthquake



The Longxing Township Kindergarten in Chongzhou was re-built by Chinese authorities and the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. To mark its 10th anniversary, the SCCC will lead a Swiss business delegation to Longxing and a memorial concert will be held.

28/05 – 01/06 – Sanya

Swiss-Chinese Friendship Days in Sanya



Swiss-Chinese Friendship Day will be held in Sanya for the first time in May. Highlighted by exhilarating events, the celebration 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.

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