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Swissnews



Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel with a young guest during the Swiss Innovation Week. © Swiss Embassy

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

I am delighted to present our summer newsletter, which includes noteworthy events related to Sino-Swiss bilateral relations held in recent months.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the success of the inaugural [Swiss Innovation Week \(SIW\)](#). As the largest-ever event organized by the Embassy, SIW put the spotlight on dynamic projects and brought

together 20 sponsors and partners in one extraordinary event. Together, we engaged with about 4,000 guests and hosted 35 events across various fields that have profound impact on the different spheres of Sino-Swiss bilateral relations.

SIW is an extension of the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership, which is dedicated to developing platforms and institutionalizing frameworks. Moreover, it is a platform in its own right that facilitates dialogue and deepens cooperation. Over the course of a memorable week, we witnessed the meetings of great minds, exchanges of stimulating ideas, sharing of innovation know-how, commitments to further collaboration, the launch of new initiatives and, more importantly, the establishment of new partnerships.

Recent months have also seen dynamic exchanges between Switzerland and China in the fields of economy, trade and investment promotion. A high-level delegation from Geneva, led by Geneva State Councilor Pierre Maudet and comprised of officials and entrepreneurs, explored the innovative power of China during their visit in early July. The Consulate General in Shanghai led a delegation of SMEs to the manufacturing hub of Wuxi. The investment promotion roadshow from the Swiss Business Hub China further introduced Switzerland to interested Chinese investors, while the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement, now in its fourth year of implementation, continues to improve based on feedback to [a new survey](#).

In addition to fruitful exchanges, we look forward to future events set to further deepen our bilateral ties. These include the work visit of Federal Councilor Johann Schneider-Ammann, two Swiss Gastronomic Weeks with Michelin-starred chefs at Hotel Éclat and TRB Forbidden City, Switzerland's participation at the World Winter Sports (Beijing) Expo, and the Swiss Incubator at WEF Tianjin, to name but a few.

As we draw closer to our Swiss National Day on 1 August, I invite you to continue embracing the innovation and creativity that dynamize our Sino-Swiss summer!

Warm regards,

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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Swiss Innovation Week

Swiss Innovation Week highlights digitalization



A visitor tries the Birdly VR stimulator during the innovation week. © Swiss Embassy

The first-ever Swiss Innovation Week was held from 2 to 6 July under the theme of digitalization. Bringing together 20 partners and sponsors, the week hosted 35 events that demonstrated Switzerland's outstanding technology-driven creation process and innovative prowess. It also served as a platform for the launch of new projects such as the Sino-Swiss AI Conference 2018. [Read more>>>](#)

Bilateral Relations

China, Switzerland hold human rights dialogue

Switzerland and China held their 16th round of human rights dialogue in June in Beijing. Both sides engaged in an open and mutually critical debate that addressed national and international human rights issues, in particular the judicial and penal system and minority rights. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss Ambassador on first official visit to Hainan

Swiss Ambassador to China Jean-Jacques de Dardel paid his first official visit to Hainan Province, and met with Provincial Governor Shen Xiaoming on 28 May. Their discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism, healthcare,



high-tech, finance and headquarter economy. Ambassador de Dardel later visited Hospitality Institution of Sanya, and the HNA Group, which is scheduled to open the first direct flight between Shenzhen and Zurich in late August. [Read more>>>](#)

Ambassador de Dardel meets with Hainan Provincial Governor Shen Xiaoming. © Hainan Daily

Economy and Investment

Participate in the Sino-Swiss FTA survey!

The Swiss Business Hub China invites all Swiss and Chinese companies to participate in a survey on the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement. A joint research project by the University of St. Gallen and the University of International Business and Economics, the survey evaluates the usage and implementation of the Sino-Swiss FTA four years after its inception. To participate, please click [here](#).

Geneva strengthens ties with China

An economic delegation from Geneva, led by State Councilor Pierre Maudet and comprising 36 entrepreneurs, officials, representatives of a cantonal incubator UNIGE and the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Shanghai in early July. They visited Chinese multinational companies, universities and incubators to explore collaboration opportunities particularly in economy, finance and innovation. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss economic mission to Wuxi

Supported by SwissCham, the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai organized an economic mission to Wuxi, Jiangsu Province. Wuxi has a thriving economy and, like Switzerland, is known for its well-performing small- and middle-sized companies. The delegation, consisting of 25 members representing 19 Swiss companies and organizations, met with municipal officials and local firms, and visited Chinese companies and institutions.

Investment opportunities promoted in Fujian

The Swiss Business Hub China organized an investment promotion roadshow

for the first time in Fujian in late June, introducing Switzerland's favorable investment environment and policies to Chinese companies. The delegation, comprised of representatives from Swiss cantonal and regional economic promotion agencies in addition to legal, human resources and tax experts, visited eight Chinese companies to explore opportunities for collaboration with Swiss partners across different fields.

Switzerland highlighted at China-South Asia Expo

To mark the 35th anniversary of Kunming and Zurich's establishment as sister cities and to showcase the strengths of Switzerland, the Swiss Consulate General in Chengdu organized a Swiss Pavilion together with Switzerland Tourism, swissnex China and well-known Swiss brands at the 5th China-South Asia Expo. The expo, held from June 14 to 20, attracted 200,000 visitors each day.



A Swiss booth is featured at the China-South Asia Expo. © CG Chengdu

Sichuan Airlines launches Chengdu-Zurich flight

A new flight from Chengdu to Zurich (via Prague) was launched by Sichuan Airlines on 23 June. A "Swiss Night" was organized by the Swiss Consulate General in Chengdu, Sina.com and Sichuan Airlines to celebrate the twice-weekly new route, which operates every Wednesday and Saturday.

[Read more>>>](#)



The new flight from Chengdu to Zurich was launched on 23 June. © CG Chengdu

Ambassador briefs Hong Kong business community

This year's edition of the Swiss Ambassador's briefing was launched on 4 June, bringing the annual series to Hong Kong for the first time. Speaking to members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce at the Hong Kong Club, Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel provided an overview of affairs in China and update on Sino-Swiss relations. The next briefings are 27 September (Beijing) and 11 October (Shanghai).

New visa service provider from September

Please be advised that, as of 3 September 2018, VFS Global will be the new partner of Swiss representations in China for visa applications. The current provider, TLS, will cease service on 31 August. Appointment booking through VFS will be opened mid-August for appointments after September 5. The new website and new locations for VFS will be published in August on the Embassy of Switzerland's [website](#).

Science and Education

State Secretary Dell'Ambrogio on work visit to China



State Secretary Dell'Ambrogio speaks at Swiss Innovation Week. © Swiss Embassy

As part of the third dialogue of the joint working group on education, State Secretary of Education, Research and Innovation Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, together with representatives of Swiss educational institutions, visited Chengdu and Beijing in July. The delegation held fruitful discussions with the Ministry of Education, the Chinese National Science Foundation, China

Education Association for International Exchange, and Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. The delegation took also part in a roundtable discussion about the Swiss system of vocational and professional education and training.

Swiss startups featured at CES Asia 2018

Seven top Swiss startups were featured at world-renowned technology fair the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) Asia in Shanghai in June. The participating startups – Biowatch, Kenzen, Myotest, Soflow, Scantrust, Ubisim, and Urban Farmers – represented diverse fields including smart solutions, virtual reality and sustainability. The companies showcased their innovation capacities and built relationships with potential Chinese partners.

Development News

Conference on integrated water resources, risk

Low-carbon capacity training workshop in Chengdu

A low-carbon capacity training workshop for the Chengdu municipal and district governments will be held on 12 and 13 of September in Chengdu. Frank Eggmann, Consulate General of Switzerland, Zhu Xiaowen, Vice Inspector of Chengdu Municipal Development and Reform Commission, and Felix Fellmann, head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in China will address 100 participants at the opening of the workshop.

MOU signed on natural hazard prevention

A symposium on geological hazard prevention between the Land and Resources Department of Sichuan Province and Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu was held in May. A memorandum of understanding between the Sichuan Geological Monitoring Center and Swiss earth science services company GEOTEST was signed on the sideline of the meeting.

Cultural News

Switzerland to host Concours Mondial de Bruxelles

The town of Aigle in Switzerland will become the world's wine capital in 2019 after it was announced the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles will host its next event there. Next year



Switzerland will also host the general meeting of the International Organization of Vine and Wine and the Winegrowers' Festival (Fête des Vignerons), held once every 25 years since 1797. [Read more>>>](#)



Switzerland is to host the 2019 Concours Mondial de Bruxelles. © Concours Mondial de Bruxelles

Michelin-starred chefs grace Swiss Gastronomic Week



Two Swiss Gastronomic Weeks will be held with Michelin-starred chefs in Beijing. © La Maison du Village

The Embassy of Switzerland will launch two Swiss Gastronomic Weeks in September and October, working with Michelin-starred chefs at a top-notch hotel and restaurant in Beijing. Chef Armin Amrein with restaurant [Glow in Davos](#) and Chef Marc Strebel with [La Maison du Village](#) will take over the kitchens at Hotel Éclat and TRB Forbidden City respectively, to take guests on a tour to discover exquisite Swiss cuisines.

Out of Paradise wins big at Shanghai Int'l Film Festival

Out of Paradise (2018) by Swiss-Mongolian director Batbayar Chogsom received the Golden Goblet Award in the main category 'Best Feature Film' at the 21st Shanghai International Film Festival in June. The film is a heartwarming road movie about an innocent nomadic couple embarking on an arduous journey to the metropolis of Ulaanbaatar. With the initiative from the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai, Director Chogsom held a master class on screen writing at the Shanghai Theater Academy.

Academic campaign: "Sino-Swiss ties for 68 Years"

Swiss Consul General to Chengdu Frank Eggmann has launched a series of "lecture marathons" about Sino-Swiss relations over the past 68 years at universities in southwest China. More exchanges and collaborations between Swiss and Chinese universities in southwest China are expected in the future.

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.

Until 07/10 – YUZ Museum Shanghai

Charlie Chaplin. A Vision



Presented in chronological order, the exhibition explores the reasons for Chaplin's success, those that brought about and nourished his critical fortunes, and measures the role that the photographic image played in the prosperity of the legend.

Until 17/10 – Shanghai Chronus Art Center

Machines are Not Alone



Exposing machines as systems, networks, milieus, and natures of different orders and cultures, the exhibition investigates and discusses the symbiosis and reciprocity between natural and cultural machines.

28/07 – Embassy of Switzerland in China

Swiss National Day Celebration



The Swiss Club Beijing will organize its annual celebration at the Embassy of Switzerland in China on July 28 with interactive and family-fun programs to mark the founding of the Swiss Confederation 727 years ago.

02/08 – 20/08 – 15 Chinese cities

MINUA - Silk Road Re-embarked



MINUA's music presents itself in constant alteration, always searching for a manifestation of subtle beauty that hides itself in a seemingly unimportant detail. Their second China tour will be tracing another historical route: the cities on the "Southern Inspection Tour" by the Emperor Qianlong in 1751.

04/08 – 17/10 – Shanghai Power Station of Art

Franklin Chow, Zigzagging My Way Home



This exhibition is artist Franklin Chow's brand new composition that reflects a "zigzagging way home" whilst revisiting China in his seventies. Wandering a zigzagging path through interlaced journeys, visitors are led on an exploration and encouraged to respond to various issues together with Franklin Chow.

15/08 – 27/08 – Yangzhou, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Chengdu

Geneva Brass Quintet Concert



The Geneva Brass Quintet is a chamber music group. Aiming to share their passion with the public, the ensemble is well-known in Switzerland thanks to their eclectic repertoire spanning various periods. The group also emphasizes Swiss composers, many of whom have written pieces specifically for them.

21/09 – 22/09 – Shanghai Grand Theatre

Grand Theater of Geneva Ballet Company



The Grand Theater of Geneva Ballet Company is composed of 22 classically trained dancers and is known for its original and daring artistic choices. By working with young choreographers, it hopes to establish a momentum of modernity that echoes its richness and creates a dynamic towards the future.

20/09 – 24/09 – Chengdu

Swiss Booth at Western China International Fair



The Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu invites Swiss companies to join its business booth at the Western China International Fair in Chengdu. It represents one of the most important international exhibition for advanced materials, biotechnology, building technology, car manufacturing and so on.

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