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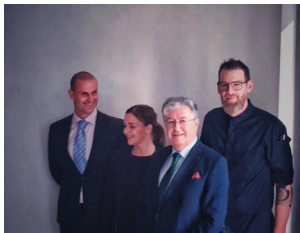
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Swissnews

Embassy of Switzerland in China
瑞士驻华大使馆



Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel
with Michelin-star chef
Marc Strebel (R) at the
Swiss Gastronomic
Week at TRB Forbidden
City. ©Ma Xuelian

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

I hope you are keeping warm and cozy over winter as we prepare to embrace another new year! As we reflect on 2018, there are many highlights for our Embassy and Consulates General. Dozens of high-level visits as well as countless projects and events have allowed us to advance Sino-Swiss collaboration to a new level.

In September, Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann led a 50-strong delegation including representatives from Switzerland's political, business, science and education sectors. With our Chinese counterparts, we explored new priorities for cooperation, particularly in the fields of education and research, and in connection with the Belt and Road Initiative.

As an open economy and innovative country, Switzerland has been working intensely with China on the trade and economic front. In November, we championed our innovative capacities and high-quality lifestyle at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai. More than 70 Swiss companies and institutional partners participated in the expo, demonstrating Switzerland's global leadership in innovation, culture and tourism.

By deepening Sino-Swiss economic ties, we further strengthen our relations across other spheres such as culture. Since the launch of the Swiss

Gastronomic Week in April, we have invited three top chefs to Beijing and introduced exquisite haute cuisine and wine to Chinese plates. Expect more such exchanges to take place next year.

About next year, let me tell you that our Embassy will continue to be active and communicative about innovation and promising new Sino-Swiss collaboration. It will be this time with drones and robotics. If China is unquestionably the leading country in terms of engineering and producing broad public and standard drones, Switzerland is a world leader and plays a pioneer role in niche segments for very specific and specialized drones.

Finally, in the spirit of the festive season, I would like to wish you and your family a cheerful Christmas and prosperous new year. Thank you for your support throughout this year and have a safe, peaceful holiday.

Warm regards,

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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Bilateral Relations

Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann visits China



FC Schneider-Ammann
in Shanghai. ©swissnex
China

Swiss Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann visited China in September, leading a delegation of representatives from a wide range of sectors. His visit aimed to foster further contacts within the Chinese government and explore new priorities for cooperation, particularly in education and research, and in connection with the Belt and Road Initiative.

China's human rights record reviewed in Geneva

China's human rights record was examined by the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Working Group in Geneva in November. Switzerland has recommended China to improve the human rights situation of ethnic Tibetans, Uyghurs and Human Rights defenders as well as to continue its endeavour of women empowerment. All UN members undergo such a periodic review every four to five years, whereby the other states can give recommendations. [More about UPR Sessions.](#)

Finance and Economy

Switzerland to further improve framework conditions for blockchain/DLT

The Swiss Federal Council adopted a report in early December on the legal framework for blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT) in the financial sector. The report shows that Switzerland's legal framework is well suited to dealing with new technologies, including blockchain. Nevertheless, there is still a need for selective adjustments. [Read more>>>](#)

CIIE: Switzerland champions innovation, lifestyle



Swiss National Pavilion at CIIE. ©SBH

Covering a range of fields including cleantech, pharmaceuticals, finance, the Swiss National Pavilion at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) delivered an interactive demonstration of Switzerland's global leadership in innovation, culture and tourism. More than 15,000 Swiss products and samples were distributed throughout the expo, which ran 5-10 November. [Read more>>](#)

New brochure on Sino-Swiss business ties

In line with recent rankings reaffirming the outstanding strength and dynamism of the Swiss economy, the Embassy of Switzerland presents its first "Sino-Swiss Business Relations" brochure. Released in October, the publication outlines Switzerland's strengths as a business and investment destination. The brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

Sino-Swiss Techno Park opens in Chongqing



The Sino-Swiss Techno Park is expected to boost Sino-Swiss trade and economic relations.
©SSTP

The Sino-Swiss Techno Park in Chongqing opened in December, delivering a boost to domestic and international enterprises with new technologies, new manufacturing processes and new materials. The 19-hectare green park provides a state-of-the-art range of diversified business, research and development spaces for Swiss and global companies, especially high-tech SMEs. [Read more>>>](#)

Swiss delegation signs deal on Shenzhen visit

A delegation from the Ticino Chamber of Commerce was introduced to China's innovation in new energy, new materials, smart healthcare, aerospace technology, photovoltaic application and smart city capacity at the China Hi-Tech Fair in November. An agreement was signed between the chamber and Shenzhen in order to facilitate more cooperation in the future.

New direct flight between Shenzhen and Zurich



©CG
Guangzhou

This first direct route connecting Guangzhou and Shenzhen with Switzerland was launched by Hainan Airlines in August. In addition to driving a tourism boom, it is also expected to enhance collaboration and exchanges between the two countries across many areas.



Company visit during the roadshow. ©SBH



The briefing in Chengdu. ©CG Chengdu

Investment roadshow

A roadshow hosted by the Swiss Business Hub China in November focused on more targeted investors in

Ambassador's briefing

With a big-picture strategic view of current developments, the Belt and Road Initiative and ongoing global

Jiangsu and Shanghai. With company visits and presentations, it provided potential investors with in-depth expertise and solutions on specific topics related to companies' international expansion and the unique advantages Switzerland offers Chinese companies.

[China market insights](#)

trade woes, Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel provided a comprehensive overview of the state of affairs in China, the greater region and in the Sino-Swiss bilateral space to the business communities in Shanghai and Chengdu in October and November respectively.

[Swiss Chamber of Commerce](#)

S-GE head promotes trade, investment in SW China

Daniel Küng, CEO of Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE), Switzerland's trade and investment promotion agency, met with investors and potential business partners during his first visit to Chengdu and Chongqing in November. Mr. Küng also gave his insights into Swiss banking, wealth management and family matters during a panel discussion at the "Global Wisdom, Local Finance" conference organized by the Swiss-China Cooperation. [More about S-GE](#)

Embassy partners with Global Wealth Leaders Summit

The Embassy of Switzerland in China became a partner of Asian Private Banker's inaugural China Global Wealth Leaders Summit held in October in Shanghai. Featuring Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel as a keynote speaker, the summit gathered leaders of China's largest private banking and wealth management companies for premium thought leadership on the new era of sustainable private wealth management. [Read more>>>](#)

Science and Education

Call for startups at Swiss Pavilion @ CES Asia 2019

Join the [International Consumer Electronics Show \(CES\) Asia 2019](#), the premier event for the consumer technology industry in China and Asia. As part of the Swiss Startup Pavilion hosted by [swissnex China](#), participating companies will be offered free booth space, pitching opportunities and great exposure among other benefits. Interested? Please click here for more information. [More information>>>](#)

[Join swissnex China!](#)

Are you an ambitious, self-driven young professional looking to boost your

career? Join the dynamic swissnex China team in Shanghai!

Project coordinator (full-time) | Internships in: Innovation & entrepreneurship | PR & communications | Science outreach

Swiss hospitality education show in Chengdu

The Swiss Education Group (SEG) and the Swiss Consulate General in Chengdu jointly held the “Swiss Education Experience Sharing Day” to introduce Swiss hotel and tourism management schools and its world-leading experience to Chinese audiences.

Development News

Workshop on Koshi River Basin held in Beijing

In November, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation hosted a workshop on possible transboundary cooperation in Koshi River Basin with experts from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, and Chinese institutes experienced in mountain hazard management, glacier monitoring and river basin planning. A potential cooperation would look into the forecasting and early warning system in the upper reaches to reduce human suffering and economic loss in the lower reaches.

China, Switzerland to further cooperation

Fruitful discussions between representatives of the Ministry of Emergency and Management of China and Humanitarian Aid and SHA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation were held in Bern in December. The two countries will pursue further cooperation in earthquake assistance, urban search and rescue activities and rapid response mechanisms.

Nearly Zero Energy Building Conference

The Fifth Nearly Zero Energy Building Conference was held in Beijing in December. Professor Ruedi Kriesi, founder of Swiss building standard-Minergie, was invited under the Sino-Swiss Low Carbon City project. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation hosted the sub-forum on Sino-Swiss Nearly Zero Energy Building Technology and Standard.

Cultural News

Gastronomic Weeks celebrate haute cuisines

The Embassy of Switzerland hosted two more Swiss Gastronomic Weeks in September and October, along with an [exclusive wine and chocolate tasting](#) with KOLs. Michelin-star chefs [Armin Amrein](#) and [Marc Strabel](#) made guest appearances at Hotel Éclat and TRB Forbidden City. The gastronomic weeks, organized by the Embassy, give Chinese diners a taste of exquisite Swiss cuisines and creations by the country's top chefs.



Swiss haute cuisines are brought to China by Michelin-star chefs.
©Swiss Embassy

Swiss Ambassador's art prize recipient honored

In January, Swiss Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel, also ambassador to Mongolia, will welcome Namuun Batbileg back to Ulaanbaatar. Awarded the Swiss Ambassador's Art Prize in July, she completed a successful residency at the prestigious art school HEAD in Geneva. A reception will be hosted in her honor and visitors will be able to admire her works.

Upcoming Event

Until 10/02, 2019 – Ming Contemporary Art Museum

Resculpt by Thomas Hirschhorn



Resculpt aims to give a new form, a new shape, or to sculpt again, differently. The aesthetic of Resculpt is inspired by images of destruction by various forms including violence, war, accident, nature, engineering, corruption and fatality. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

Until 10/03, 2019 – Power Station of Art

12th Shanghai Biennale



Two projects from Switzerland are present at this year's biennale: the video projection Forest Law draws on research of the Ecuadorian rainforest. The Auroville Project investigates the potential of utopian ideals in the near future. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

Until 10/03 – OCT-LOFT, Nanshan, Shenzhen

Augustin Rebetez debuts at Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale



Rebetz makes vivacious poetry burst out of simple materials. The contrasts that he stages in his project “Throw Your Shadows” – with pictures, drawings, installations or stop-motion movies – depict a tragicomically reality. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

Until 24/03, 2019 – A4 Museum Chengdu

Roman Signer Solo Exhibition: Video & Film 1975-1989 and Now



Roman Signer’s work consists of video art, Fluxus and Dada art. The exhibition features 206 of his artworks. It links the various cultural trends and artistic innovations that emerged in the West in the early 1980s, bringing about dialogue and collision within a Chinese context.

03, 2019 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and more

Francophonie: celebrating French culture in China



This year’s Mois de la Francophonie will celebrate French-speaking cultures embodied in different forms such as art, literature and film. The aim of the celebration is to promote the French-speaking culture and its heritage, French language education, as well as to improve cross-cultural understanding.

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