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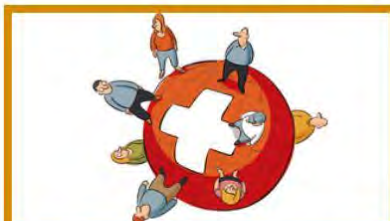
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**Swissnews**

**Embassy of Switzerland in China**  
瑞士驻华大使馆

## Swiss abroad and the parliamentary elections

The 'Swiss abroad' are all those citizens who have Swiss nationality, do not live in Switzerland but are registered with a Swiss representation abroad. Can these citizens vote in elections to the National Council and Council of States – and if so, under what conditions?



**The Swiss abroad: can they participate in parliamentary elections?**

**Can Swiss citizens living abroad stand for election to the Council of States?**

This is regulated at cantonal level. In which cantons can Swiss citizens living abroad stand for election to the Council of States?

**Political rights of the Swiss living abroad**

The circumstances under which Swiss living abroad can exercise their political rights in Switzerland.

Cantonal information



**Further information:**

[Elections in Europe 2019](#)

[Calendar for the 2019 National Council elections](#)

[Election Quiz](#)

[Election glossary](#)

## Message from Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel



Ambassador de Dardel and his wife at his farewell reception in Beijing. He will leave his post in early March after five years of ambassador to China, Mongolia and the DPRK. ©Swiss Embassy in China

Dear Swiss citizens and friends of Switzerland,

As we embark on 2019 and the Chinese Year of the Pig, we also usher into an exciting period for Sino-Swiss relations as evidenced by the High-level Platform of the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership attended by Swiss President Ueli Maurer and Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in Zurich in January. In their talks, both leaders reiterated our countries' commitment to further promote cooperation across many areas of bilateral relations.

The two sides pledged in particular the common wish to further cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), digitization and new energy to enrich the new platform.

As Switzerland ranks first among the most innovative countries in the world, it is no wonder that it is a leader in AI, digitalization and robotics. We are therefore proud to announce that the Swiss Innovation Week will once again be held in June at the Embassy, building on the success of last year's event. Focusing on drones and robotics, Swiss Innovation Week 2019 will serve as an effective bridge uniting Swiss and Chinese companies, organizations and

entrepreneurs eager to explore new opportunities. We look forward to showcasing Switzerland's leading advantages in science and technology to visitors.

Beyond the tech world, we have also been facilitating cultural, educational and tourism cooperation to enhance bilateral ties. I encourage you to learn more about our diverse program of events including our education fair, gastronomy week, film screenings and concerts scheduled in coming months.

On a personal note, my mission in China will soon conclude. I will leave my post at the beginning of March, before retiring in the fall after 38 years in the diplomatic service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many counterparts, partners and colleagues alongside whom I have worked. Your wisdom, expertise and continuous efforts to elevate Sino-Swiss ties have enriched my tenure on a personal and professional basis. My five-year ambassadorship in Beijing has enabled me to develop a profound relationship with China that will endure long into the future. I look forward to returning to China regularly to further promote bilateral exchanges and contribute individually to the people-to-people exchanges at the heart of our countries' relations.

Warm regards,

Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

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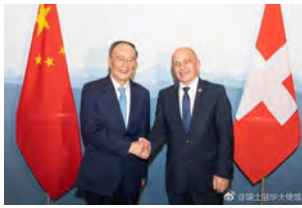
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## **Bilateral Relations**

### **High-level Sino-Swiss platform launched in Zurich**

Swiss President Ueli Maurer and Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan inaugurated the High-level Platform of the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic



President Maurer (R) and Vice President Wang Qishan met in Zurich. ©FDFA

Partnership in Zurich on 21 January, with a business dialogue focusing on 'Digitalization drives innovation'. The two leaders also discussed global governance, world trade, and the Belt and Road Initiative. President Maurer accepted Vice President Wang's invitation to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in April in Beijing. [Read more>>>](#)

## Sino-Swiss partnership a model for the future: Maurer

Swiss President Ueli Maurer has reflected on highlights in Sino-Swiss ties in a recent [op-ed published by China Daily](#). The Federal Councilor paid tribute to many bilateral achievements including the implementation of the Sino-Swiss free trade agreement and the Innovative Strategic Partnership, which proves that close cooperation between different political and societal models is possible and necessary.

## Ambassador de Dardel bids farewell to Beijing

Dr. Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Switzerland's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), bid farewell to his counterparts, partners and colleagues at his Beijing residence on 22 February. His departure in early March follows five years of ambassadorship in the capital.



Farewell reception for Ambassador de Dardel. ©Swiss Embassy in China

Taking office in March 2014, Ambassador de Dardel led the Embassy of Switzerland in China, Switzerland's largest embassy in the world, and oversaw four consulates general and two cooperation offices. He presided over a series of milestones in the bilateral relations between Switzerland and China, Mongolia and the DPRK. Ambassador de Dardel will be succeeded by Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni on 11 March.

## Economy and Finance

### Basel, Shanghai to deepen healthcare collaboration

A delegation from the Swiss Canton of Basel-Stadt including state and health policymakers will visit Shanghai from 28 February to 1 March to discuss cooperation across various fields, especially healthcare. Basel and Shanghai

have maintained a successful sister-city partnership since 2007. Basel is a leading healthcare center in Switzerland and the Upper Rhine area.

## Drug discovery event to explore new opportunities

Innovation trends in China are leading domestic pharmaceutical and biotech companies to pursue drug discovery R&D cooperation opportunities abroad, with Switzerland emerging as a key destination. Switzerland is renowned for its high-caliber drug discovery capacity and talent pool, particularly among Chinese researchers and companies. Switzerland Innovation, the umbrella organization of Swiss innovation parks, offers various platforms and collaboration opportunities. In order to enable further Sino-Swiss partnering opportunities, Swiss Business Hub (SBH) China will organize a second drug discovery event in Shanghai on 15 March for Chinese and Swiss companies and institutions in the industry.

### Swiss federal elections 2019: make your vote count

On 20 October, elections will be held to fill Switzerland's 246 parliamentary seats. Swiss nationals registered on the Register of the Swiss Abroad can vote for candidates and stand for election. For detailed information, please check the 2019 elections web portal [here](#).

## Science and Education

### Second Swiss Education Fair to be held in April

Interested in studying in Switzerland? Join the Second Swiss Education Fair China in Shanghai and Chengdu on 13 and 14 April. More than 10 Swiss educational institutions will be exhibiting at the fair, including swissnex, boarding schools, hospitality schools and business school. Organized by Switzerland Global Enterprise and Swiss Business Hub China, the fair is supported by the Consulates General of Switzerland in Shanghai and Chengdu. For more information, please contact Ms. Daisy Cao at [yuanyuan.cao@eda.admin.ch](mailto:yuan yuan.cao@eda.admin.ch).



SEF 2019 will have about 10 Swiss educational institutions present. ©SBH China

## Swiss, Chinese universities launch economic center

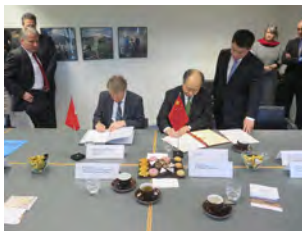


Opening of the China Economics and Finance Center. ©swissnex China

The China Economics and Finance Center based at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou opened in January. Established by the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Lausanne (HEC Lausanne), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) and Zhejiang University, the center held a dialogue on innovation and development facilitated by swissnex China to commemorate its opening. The center aims to promote research and academic exchanges and build new partnerships between Switzerland and China. [Read more>>>](#)

## Development News

### Switzerland, China pledge deeper cooperation on int'l development, humanitarian aid



A MOU on international development cooperation and humanitarian aid is signed in Bern. ©SDC

A high-level meeting between the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation was held in Bern in January. A Memorandum of Understanding aimed at further strengthening exchanges between the two countries on international development cooperation and humanitarian aid was signed following the meeting. Launched in March 2018, CIDCA oversees international development cooperation matters previously handled by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Training on climate change adaptation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation will host a three-day workshop on climate change with experts from the UK and Switzerland from 12 to 15 March in Jiangxi Province. The training aims to help trainees identify potential risks of climate change and equip them with the knowledge and skills to develop adaptation plans to reduce risks systematically at sub-national levels.

## Cultural News

### 'Golden Cook' laureate to open new edition of Swiss Gastronomic Week

Mark your calendar! Chef Elodie Jacot-Manesse, crowned the youngest-ever 'Golden Cook' laureate in 2017, will headline the 4th edition of the Swiss Gastronomic Week at the TRB Forbidden City from 26 to 28 April. Working alongside internationally-acclaimed Chef Franck Giovannini at the three-Michelin starred [L'Hotel de Ville](#) in Crissier, she is responsible for the famous Cuisine Academy of Benoît Violier.



Famed Chef Elodie Jacot-Manesse (L) will headline Swiss Gastronomic Week at the TRB Forbidden City.  
©PRS

## 2nd edition of Sino-Swiss Architecture Dialogue



Mario Botta in Beijing in 2018. ©Swiss Embassy in China

[Mario Botta. The Space Beyond](#), a documentary about the namesake famed architect, will be screened in Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu in mid-April in the framework of the 2nd edition of the Sino-Swiss Architecture Dialogue. The master will participate in discussions and architecture workshops with audiences throughout the tour. In the film, Botta tries to understand why a globalized society experiences the urge to build sacred spaces. At 75, he is one of the few architects who has built places of worship for the three main monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. [More about Botta>>>](#)

### Upcoming Event

12/03 – 19/03 – Shanghai, Chengdu, Wanlong, Beijing, Guangzhou, HK

#### Documentary screening: 'Jean Troillet, Toujours Aventurier'



A small bivouac at 3,040 meters on the slopes of Mont Dolent is the setting for great encounters. Over the course of 10 days, famous adventurer and mountaineer Jean Troillet revisits the high points of his life as documented by director Sébastien Devrient.

15/03 – 22/03 – Shanghai, Xi'an, Beijing

#### 'A Shanxiner In Muotathal' Concert and Workshop



During her concert tour in China, Swiss-Chinese composer and pipa soloist Yang Jing will hold workshops to discuss the topics of cultural interchange, and how artists can innovate, combine elements of different styles to develop new musical directions. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

16/03 – 31/03 – Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing, Dalian, Shanghai, Chengdu

### Rendezvous with French music



French contemporary music festival Mars en Folie will be held during the Francophonie Festival in March. Swiss rock bands Stevans and Phanee de Pool will join groups from other Francophonie countries for a dozen concerts across various Chinese cities.

16/03 – Guangzhou

### Documentary screening: 'More than Honey'



The global bee population has been declining at an alarming rate over recent years. Although the causes of colony collapse disorder are complex, the implications to our world are immense. More than Honey, directed by Markus Imhoof, explores this crisis through the stories of people whose lives depend on bees.

19/03 – 22/03 – Shenzhen

### Design Switzerland: Between Creativity, Functionality and Beauty



The Design Switzerland booth presents the works of Swiss local brand schoenstaub and of Swiss designer/group Dimitri Bähler, Egli Studio and Matthieu Girel. The works manifest both a solid inheritance from traditional industrial design, and an exploration that seeks dialogue with the time we live in. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

21/03 – 31/03 – Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Jiangmen, Shenzhen

### Diallo and Bianco to headline jazz festival



Swiss jazz duo Claude Diallo and Patrick Bianco will perform original compositions, improvisations and creative interpretations of standards. Renowned for their devotion and passion, the duo navigates the musical space between traditional and modern jazz. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

21/03 – Shanghai

### Café des Sciences to explore Sino-Swiss innovation

Café des Sciences is a new, free lecture series exploring



developments in science and innovation. Hosted by swissnex China, the series will give audiences insight into innovative, impactful research and projects from Switzerland and China. Lectures will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

29/03 – 03/04 – Shenzhen, Ningbo, Dalian, Shanghai

### **Sophie de Quay & the WaveGuards China Tour**



The songs of the band are a mixture of pop, electro and acoustic, creating an intimate atmosphere in which the strong and touching voice of the lead singer Sophie resounds. For two years, they have performed more than 100 concerts throughout the world. Supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

09/05 – 12/05, 15/05 – 18/05 – Shanghai

### **VR\_I Asia tour**



VR\_I is a contemporary dance piece in immersive virtual reality. Choreographers invite the audience to engage in a unique sensory experience. Equipped with virtual reality headsets, five visitors at a time are given the opportunity to freely navigate a real world inhabited by virtual dancers.

24/05 – Shanghai

### **Swiss Alumni China Soirée**



The evening, organized by swissnex China and to be joined by around 200 alumni, will be a great opportunity for the community from 25 Swiss universities to stay connected, exchange ideas and be informed of the latest news from swissnex.

### **CONTACT**

Embassy of Switzerland in China, 3 Sanlitun Dongwujie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600, P.R. China  
+86 10 8532 8888  
bei.newsletter@eda.admin.ch | [www.eda.admin.ch/beijing](http://www.eda.admin.ch/beijing)

Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, 22F, Building A Far East International Plaza  
319 Xianxia Road, Changning District, Shanghai 200051, P.R. China  
+86 21 6270 0519, [sha.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sha.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)

Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou, 27F, Kingold Century, No. 62, Jinsui Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510623, P.R. China





+86 20 3833 0450, ggz.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu, 28F, Yanlord Landmark Tower 1, Section 2, Renmin South Road, Chengdu, 610016, P. R. China

+86 28 6890 0372, ctu.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, 62F, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road Wanchai, Hong Kong

+852 3509 5000, hon.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

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