

If this message is not displayed correctly, [click here for the browser version](#).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

December 2019/ no 17

Swissnews

Embassy of Switzerland in China
瑞士驻华大使馆



Message from Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni



Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni and Maria Cristina Regazzoni send Swiss compatriots and friends of Switzerland season's greetings! @Swiss Embassy

Dear compatriots, friends of Switzerland,

Greetings from Beijing. As the curtain falls on 2019, I'm closing my first year as Ambassador of Switzerland to China, North Korea and Mongolia. Maria Cristina and I have made Beijing our home and we look forward to exploring more of the city and the rest of the country.

Looking back, the year of the Pig saw further development of the very good relations between Switzerland and China. President Ueli Maurer met with President Xi Jinping in April in Beijing and the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding focusing on financial and economic matters related to the Belt and Road Initiative; Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis met China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi in October in Berne, to discuss issues of mutual interest to both countries.

Many a successful events took place at the Embassy this year, including Swiss Innovation Week. This year's Innovation Week focused on drones. As the most innovative country, Switzerland is also home of drones. The Embassy invited Swiss drone makers and startups to showcase their products and better understand the Chinese market. We concluded the week with a spectacular

drone race between Swiss and Chinese pilots.

Next year will be a milestone as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Swiss and Chinese diplomatic relations. We will open the anniversary year with a concert on January 17, the day 70 years ago when Switzerland announced the recognition of People's Republic of China. We have many events and activities in the pipeline to mark the anniversary and please stay tuned.

Last but not least I wish you and your loved ones a great time during Christmas and this holiday season and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020!

Sincerely,

Bernardino Regazzoni

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

CONTENTS

[Bilateral Relations](#)

[Economy and Finance](#)

[Science and Education](#)

[Development news](#)

[Cultural News](#)

[Upcoming Event](#)

Bilateral Relations

Swiss President Ueli Maurer meets Chinese President Xi Jinping



Swiss President Ueli Maurer meets Chinese President Xi Jinping © Gabriele Battaglia / RSI

On Monday, 29 April, Swiss President Ueli Maurer was received by Chinese President Xi Jinping for a state visit. The official talks focused on ways of further developing the very good relations between Switzerland and China, economic and financial policy matters, and the Belt and Road Initiative. [Read more](#)

Ignazio Cassis meets China's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Wang Yi in Bern to discuss bilateral cooperation, human rights and multilateralism



Ignazio Cassis met China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi in Bern for the second round of strategic dialogue. © Keystone

Federal Councillor and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis met China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi on 22 October 2019, as the two countries gear up to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations. The meeting provided an opportunity to explore issues of current interest to both countries. The meeting builds on the strategic dialogue established between Switzerland and China in 2017 and follows on from Mr Cassis visit to Beijing in April 2018. [Read more](#)

Economy and Finance

President Maurer speaks at fintech forum in Shanghai



Mr Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation delivers an opening keynote speech, calling for the Sino-Swiss collaboration and mutual benefit in fintech. ©swissnex China

Swiss president spoke at a fintech forum on April 23 as part of his state visit in Shanghai. Two delegations of Swiss officials and executives from financial institutions who accompanied President Maurer for the state visit, also attended the forum. The forum- the Future of Money: Brilliance in Fintech, was organised by swissnex, a global network aims at connecting Switzerland with the world's innovation hubs. [Read more](#)

Swiss and Chinese businesses meet for investment opportunities in Switzerland

The first Sino-Swiss Executive Investors Summit, organised by Swiss Business Hub China and aiming at drawing business investment from China, took place in four cities across China from September 6 to September 12. The summit, held at Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuhan and Beijing, introduced Switzerland's investment opportunities and its business environment. Business executives from both Swiss and Chinese companies based in China attended the summit.

Swiss Pavilion at Smart China Expo in Chongqing



Swiss Pavilion at 2019 Smart China Expo in Chongqing ©FDFA

The 2019 Smart China Expo took place in Chongqing from August 26 to 29. More than a dozen Swiss companies joined forces under the Swiss Pavilion which was organised by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu. The pavilion showcased the cutting-edge technologies and products in areas such as big data, smart manufacturing, and AR. The four-day expo attracted over 800 exhibitors and 600,000 visitors.

Science and Education

Swiss Day at Tsinghua University



Swiss Day at Tsinghua University ©STE

Swiss Day, a day of events and activities introducing Switzerland and Swiss universities, took place at Tsinghua University in Beijing on November 1. The Science, Technology and Education Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in China organised the event. Professor Giacomo Indiveri from University of Zurich gave a lecture on neuromorphic intelligence, the copying of the behaviour of the human brain in computing and engineering.

St. Gallen Symposium signs agreement with Caixin



St. Gallen Symposium signs agreement with Caixin ©STE

The St. Gallen Symposium - an annual two-day conference, organised by the International Students' Committee, signed a cooperation agreement with Caixin, the Chinese media group to foster their partnership. Swiss ambassador to China Bernardino Regazzoni and Hu Shuli, the founder and publisher of Caixin magazine witnessed the signing ceremony. St. Gallen Symposium and Caixin Global both provide a platform for high-level dialogue between political, business and academic leaders around the globe to address the world's urgent matters in political and societal development.

The China-Swiss Artificial Intelligence Symposium held in Shenzhen



The China-Swiss Artificial Intelligence Symposium held in Shenzhen. ©FDFA

The China-Swiss Artificial Intelligence Symposium was held in Shenzhen in October. This symposium offered a perfect opportunity for Chinese companies to discover the potential of Switzerland, to have a better understanding of the Cantons and especially their excellence in AI industry.

Development news

Hong Kong hosts Race for Water, the world's largest solar powered boat



Race for Water crew in Central, Hong Kong. ©FDFA

Swiss foundation Race for Water, a catamaran powered only by clean energy- the sun, wind and hydrogen, is currently on its 5 year Odyssey around the globe to raise awareness of the impact of marine plastic pollution. The 114-foot catamaran was docked at Pier No. 9 in Central in Hong Kong from October 23 to November 6. More than 1500 people went on board the vessel, including Hong Kong's Secretary for the Environment Wong Kam Sing.

Social entrepreneurship discussed at Shenzhen forum

The 2nd annual forum on Sino-Swiss Social Entrepreneurship and Transformation, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, took place in Shenzhen from October 27 to 31. This year's topic was to further explore how to use social entrepreneurship to solve development issues, such as elder care, education, and environmental protection.



Social entrepreneurship discussed at Shenzhen forum. ©FDFA

Cultural News

Swiss Gastronomic Week: Michelin-Star chef brings the flavours and looks of Switzerland to Beijing

A two-Michelin-star chef and his team based in

Southern Switzerland is serving gourmets in Beijing with his signature dish and a special menu that please the palate and the eye for the Swiss Gastronomic Week at Hotel Éclat from November 7 to 10. [Read more](#)



Two Michelin star chef Rolf Fliegau and his team outside Giardino Hotel in Ascona ©FDFA

On Autumnal Equinox - Raise your glass to wine of the future

What a better way to officially welcome autumn than having a glass of Swiss wine? The Ambassador of Switzerland to China, Bernardino Regazzoni and his wife Maria Cristina Regazzoni, invited guests to enjoy Swiss wine on the night of Autumnal Equinox to celebrate the season of harvest. The wines tasted are made from grape varieties developed by a renowned Swiss research institute. The grapes, which are immune to diseases, made world headlines and represented a breakthrough in viticulture. [Read more](#)



Bottles of wine tasted at the event ©FDFA

Upcoming Event

17/01, 2020 – The Embassy of Switzerland, Beijing

Opening of the year of the 70th anniversary of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations

On the occasion of the visit of Mrs. Isabelle Moret, President of the Swiss Parliament, and to mark the opening of the Year of the 70th Anniversary of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations, the Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Bernardino Regazzoni and his wife Mrs. Maria Cristina Regazzoni are hosting guests for a concert followed by a reception on January 17, the day when Switzerland announced the recognition of the People's Republic of China.

01,2020– 5F, UN Bookstore, Guangzhou

German-speaking movie screening: Recycling Lily



The 10th German-speaking movie night will screen a Swiss romantic comedy - Recycling Lily. This movie is about a perfection-obsessed Bin Inspector, Hansjörg Sthäli, falls for the wrong girl, Lily Frei, a charming waitress at his local diner and a compulsive hoarder at home.

Until 12/02,2020– Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum

The Last Swiss Holocaust Survivors at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum



With the support of the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai, the Last Swiss Holocaust Survivors opens at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum on December 12th, 2019. It is the first time the exhibition is shown in China after touring Switzerland, the United States, Germany, Singapore, Albania, Israel and Italy. The exhibition tells the untold stories of survivors in Switzerland through film and photography, giving a voice to the witnesses who built a new life in Switzerland after surviving the Holocaust. The accounts of the witnesses in this exhibition keep the memory of the atrocities committed alive and protect it for future generations.

03,2020 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and more

Francophonie: celebrating French culture in China



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

03,2020 – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and more

Rendezvous with French music



Swiss band Klischée, who are known for their lively performance, is coming to perform for this year's Francophone music festival. They will be performing in Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Guanzhou, Please follow embassy's official wechat and weibo accounts for more details.

18/03-21/03, 2020 – Shenzhen

Swiss design at Shenzhen Creative Week

For the third year, Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council is introducing Swiss design to the Shenzhen Creative Week, one of the most successful commercial fairs in China's furniture and interior design industry. The Design Switzerland booth presents the works of four Swiss brands/ designers, namely, AATB, Laure Gremion, Shizuka Saito, and Studio Ilio. Works created by this young generation of designers present a lively picture of Swiss contemporary design. By introducing to Chinese manufacturers, investors, and brand managers during side events, these Swiss designers embrace a unique opportunity to

discover China's creative industry and gain visibility. This project is supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council.

26/03-29/03, 2020 – Guangzhou

Swiss Jazz band Heritage Trio at the 2nd European Jazz Festival in Guangzhou



This jazz band was founded by the brilliant pianist and composer Thierry Lang, together with Darryl Hall as bassist and Mario Gonzi as drummer. This dream team has already gained wide international recognition and had multiple music tours to Europe, Russia, Japan and South Korea. The 2nd European Jazz Festival is a unique music feast organized by ten Consulates General in Guangzhou: Austria, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey. This year, the Heritage Trio will represent Switzerland and Austria.