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Embassy of Switzerland Beijing

Embassy of Switzerland in China
瑞士驻华大使馆



Message from Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni



Swiss Ambassador to
China Bernardino
Regazzoni © JC
Marmaraok

Dear compatriots, dear friends of Switzerland,

I hope you and your loved ones have been staying safe and healthy during this difficult time. I want to use this opportunity to reiterate my solidarity with you.

Since the outbreak in January, our Embassy has been working at full speed to respond to requests from our compatriots. With the help of France and Canada, we have successfully arranged repatriation of 16 Swiss nationals and their family members from Hubei province despite no staff on the ground, tight time constraint, stringent lockdown and road blockages. Together with the Swiss cooperation offices SDC in Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Embassy has helped seven Swiss nationals and two family members leave Mongolia, and five Swiss and families leave the DPRK.

With the outbreak in Switzerland, the Embassy has geared up to facilitate procurement of medical equipment as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) in China. So far we have helped many cargo aircrafts full of these equipment flying back to Switzerland. The procurement is a work in progress. The Embassy spares no effort in helping meet medical purchase requests from governmental entities.

We also have been coordinating donations for the Swiss Red Cross from

companies and public entities, whose support we are grateful for. At an earlier stage of the outbreak, Switzerland has provided medical equipment to China.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations. We organized an opening ceremony on January 17 with the presence of the President of Swiss Parliament, Mrs. Isabelle Moret, and Mr. Chen Zhu, Vice Chairman of National People's Congress of China. The Embassy was not able to organize as many events as we planned initially due to COVID-19. We have had a series of portraits of people who have contributed to Sino-Swiss relations on social media instead. And I'm looking forward to days when we can celebrate the anniversary live.

Slowly but surely, life is getting back to normal here in China and in Europe. But there are still major restrictions in terms of international travels. I hope that Swiss nationals will soon be able to come back to China.

Bernardino Regazzoni

Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Bilateral Relations

Sino-Swiss relations: celebrations kicked off for the 70th anniversary



President of Swiss Parliament Moret presents gift to the Vice Chairman of China's

The Embassy of Switzerland in China hosted a concert and a grand reception on Friday January 17 in the presence of Mrs. Isabelle Moret, President of Swiss Parliament, Mr. Chen Zhu, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Swiss Ambassador to China Mr. Bernardino Regazzoni and more than 200 distinguished guests at the Ambassador's residence, ushering in a year-long celebration of the 70th

NPC Chen Zhu. ©Swiss
Embassy Beijing

anniversary of diplomatic relations between
Switzerland and the People's Republic of China. [Read
more](#)

COVID-19: medical procurement

The Embassy facilitates medical procurement for Swiss entities



Medical equipment
flying out from a
Shanghai airport.
©Consulate General of
Switzerland in Shanghai

The Embassy's Swiss Business Hub and economic team have dedicated themselves to supporting Swiss public entities in procurement of medical equipment in China. We offer consultancy services and facilitate transport solutions. With careful and extensive research, we have compiled a list of Chinese producers of the most frequently purchased medical equipment in fighting against COVID-19. Swiss company SGS supported the Embassy in checking quality standards of the medical equipment. Moreover, starting from March, the Embassy has facilitated

around 100 flights to ensure smooth cargo transportation of essential medical equipment.

COVID-19: donations

Donations from Switzerland and China



Chinese e-commerce
giant JD.com donates
PPE to Swiss Red
Cross. ©Swiss
Embassy Beijing

Many Swiss companies based in China have donated to Chinese public organizations since the COVID-19 outbreak. Switzerland has provided medical equipment, mainly respiratory supplies, to China in the early stage of the outbreak. Similarly, Chinese entities have approached the Embassy for donating to Swiss Red Cross after the outbreak in Switzerland. Among them was China's e-commerce giant JD.com which donated 800,000 KN95 protective masks, 800,000 disposable medical masks, 800,000 surgical gloves, 20,000 pairs of goggles and 10,000 protective gowns. The donations have been shipped to Shanghai airport

where the first batch flew out at the beginning of May.

COVID-19: Repatriation

Swiss nationals and families being repatriated from Hubei province

The Swiss Embassy has been fully mobilized to help Swiss nationals and their families in China in the early

stage of the outbreak. The Embassy coordinated with local governments as well as France and Canada to repatriate Swiss nationals and their families in Hubei province, who expressed wishes to leave the province. On February 2, we arranged eight Swiss and their family members to get on an EU flight from Wuhan to Paris; another batch of seven people boarded EU flight from Wuhan to Paris on February 20. Furthermore, one Swiss flew out from Wuhan on a Canadian flight on February 11.



One batch of Swiss nationals and families repatriated to Switzerland. ©Swiss Embassy Beijing

Working with Swiss cooperation offices SDC in Ulaanbaatar and Pyongyang, the Embassy has helped seven Swiss nationals and two family members leave Mongolia, and five Swiss and families leave the DPRK.

Visa

Visa policies and consular services during COVID-19



Swiss passport.
©Claudio Schwarz on Unsplash.

On 18 March 2020, the Swiss Federal Council decided, for three months, that entry at the Schengen external borders is generally prohibited with few exceptions. Switzerland follows the practice of other Schengen states. Switzerland will also no longer issue Schengen visas until June 15, 2020. National visas will only be issued in exceptional cases, for example to family members of Swiss citizens with a right of presence in Switzerland who require a visa and to specialists from the health sector. Previously issued visas

remain valid.

Unfortunately foreigners with valid visas and residence permits are not allowed to enter China since March 28. The Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham), in cooperation with the Embassy and the consulates, is working on bringing urgently needed Swiss nationals back to China.

For additional information, please consult the webpage of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM.

If you have further questions regarding visa matters please contact us via: beijing.visa@eda.admin.ch.

Consular Section (not for visas): In case of emergency, Consular services remain available outside of office hours:

Helpline FDFA: +41 800 247 365 or +41 58 465 33 33, helpline@eda.admin.ch or +86 139 0133 1023

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