



Media release

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Swiss companies showcase sustainable edge at China's import expo

World leading Swiss multinational corporations including engineering giant ABB, world pharmaceutical leaders Roche and Novartis, food and beverage giant Nestlé, inspection group SGS and Insurer Swiss Re as well as top-notch Swiss small and medium-sized enterprises are participating in this year's China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai from November 5 to 10.

Representing sectors ranging from consumer goods to medical equipment, information technology to trade services, Swiss companies highlighted their sustainable and innovative positioning through solutions such as fast charging stations for electric vehicles, environmentally friendly packaging and robot nurses using artificial intelligence and automation.

Swiss Ambassador to China Bernardino Regazzoni, Swiss Consul General in Shanghai Olivier Zehnder, Economic Counsellor Yves Reymond and the director of Swiss Business Hub in China Yves Morath visited the Swiss companies on Thursday and Friday.

“Swiss companies epitomize Switzerland's innovation edge as well as sustainable approach to businesses. As one of the most innovative countries in the world, Switzerland is proud to be home to so many industry leads. By being present in China, Swiss companies have helped to strengthen the Innovative Strategic Partnership between the two countries and made considerable contributions to China's economy,” said Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Switzerland and China. Swiss enterprises in particular have taken the lead in strengthening bilateral relations. Swiss companies were among the first to come to the country when China first implemented reform and opening-up policies. For example, Swiss elevator maker Schindler formed the first ever Sino-foreign industrial joint venture in 1980. More recently, Switzerland became the first continental European country to sign a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China in 2013.

Swiss and Chinese economies have proven to complement each other and the FTA has simplified import procedures for both countries. In 2017 alone, more than 100 million Swiss

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Francs were saved due to the agreement. China is Switzerland's 3rd trade partner while Switzerland is China's 10th foreign supplier worldwide.

Ambassador Regazzoni also met with the Governor of Henan Province, Mr. Yin Hong. The Henan Provincial government held an industrial promotion event on Thursday in which Swiss and Henan companies introduced their business.

On the sidelines of the Expo, Ambassador Regazzoni and his delegation attended the Sino-Swiss Business event, organized by the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai, on Friday to celebrate with the business community the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations. A panel of CEOs discussed how they have adapted to cope with the pandemic and what opportunities it has brought.

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