



Media release

Beijing 10 July 2012

Sino-Swiss Economic Forum: participation of Swiss Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann

Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department for Economic affairs, Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann, opened the 2nd Sino-Swiss Economic Forum on July 10th 2012. A Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a Sino-Swiss eco-industrial park was signed.

The 2nd Sino-Swiss Economic Forum was held on July 10th 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Beijing in the presence of Vice-Minister Zhong Shan of the Ministry of Commerce. It was organized by the Embassy of Switzerland and the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham Beijing) in collaboration with the Swiss business Hub and Cleantech Switzerland, two institutions that promote trade and investment between China and Switzerland.

Several workshops took place during the forum in the fields of Industry, Finance, Health and Clean technologies with 250 experts and participants. On that occasion, the Swiss innovation capacity was presented to Chinese industry leaders. Informative discussions and workshops gave the opportunity to Swiss companies to introduce their technologies and talk about implementation prospects in China.

On July 9th, Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with his Chinese counterpart, Minister Chen Deming, on the establishment of a Sino-Swiss eco-industrial park in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province. An implementing "Framework Contract" was then signed during the Forum between Cleantech Switzerland and the city of Zhenjiang, as well as a contract between Cleantech Switzerland and the city of Maanshan, Anhui Province, concerning the project "Maanshan New Energy Benchmark Development Plan". These contracts shall create business opportunities for Swiss cleantech companies in the planning



and building phase of the eco-industrial parks, while providing their expertise in green technologies.

This forum occurred during Mr. Schneider-Ammann's official visit to China from July 9th to 13th. The Swiss Federal Councillor is accompanied by a large delegation of Swiss business leaders. On July 9th, Mr. Schneider-Ammann held talks with his Chinese counterpart, Minister Chen Deming of the Ministry of Commerce, as well as Minister Yin Weimin of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Minister Yuan Guiren of the Ministry of Education, Minister Zhou Shengxian of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Minister Wan Gang of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Vice-Minister Niu Dun of the Ministry of Agriculture. On July 11th, the Swiss delegation will travel to Xiamen and on July 12th to Shanghai for official meetings. The delegation will also meet with local Swiss business communities and visit Swiss companies.

There are about 400 Swiss firms with over 900 branches represented in China, employing several tens of thousands people. According to the Swiss National Bank, Swiss direct investments to China amounted 1,7 billion Swiss francs in 2010, while accumulated Swiss direct investments stood at 8 billion Swiss francs in the same year. In 2011, the volume of bilateral trade between Switzerland and mainland China accounted for about 15 billion Swiss francs, which corresponds to an increase of nearly 12% from 2010. Most of the exchanged products are machinery, watches, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Person of Contact:

Embassy of Switzerland in China: Jenny Piaget, Head of the Cultural and Media Section, tel: +86 183 1106 3730