

Grüezi Shanghai

Newsletter of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

October 2010

Word from the Consul General

Dajia hao! 大家好!

I am happy to seize this opportunity to address the avid readers of our newsletter. I arrived - together with my wife and our two children - in Shanghai during the first week of October. This timing allowed us to visit the Expo 2010 before its closure and to take advantage of the mild climate that prevails in this region during the month of October. Consequently, we had an excellent start in our new home city and felt at ease right from the beginning. We are happy to be back in Asia after spending from 1998 to 2001 three and a half years in Thailand.

The Expo is about to close its doors. In addition to promoting concepts on improving the quality of urban life, it has highlighted the impressive progress Shanghai has achieved in the last two decades. The success story of this amazing city does not end with the Expo. Shanghai's vibrant character remains and will continue to drive its development, stimulating the imagination and attracting people from around the world. I am very much looking forward to serving in this place and fostering the relations between the Yangtze Delta Area and Switzerland during the next years.

Heinrich Schellenberg



Consul General Heinrich Schellenberg

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Portrait of Consul General Heinrich Schellenberg

"I am lucky – lucky to be in Shanghai!"

Nearly two months after the departure of Mr William Frei, the Consulate General was able to welcome Mr Heinrich Schellenberg.

Starting his diplomatic career in 1991 after earning his law degree (lic. iur.) from Zurich University and working both in the legal and financial sector, he completed his training in Bern, Mexico and Geneva. Since then, he has been posted in Bern, Bangkok, Stockholm and Mexico City.

He comes to Shanghai with his wife Grisel Sandoval Schellenberg, and their sons André (9) and Antoine (6). The family is looking forward to this new exciting posting and their life in Shanghai.

Interview

What do you believe will be the most challenging aspect of your work here in Shanghai?

Handling the agenda; in my first 10 working days I had more than 30 meetings, receptions etc. Reconciling my professional activities with the expectations of my family will be demanding, but I am confident that I will succeed.

What do you see as Shanghai's key factor to sustain its economic competitiveness?

The progress this city has achieved in the last two decades is most impressive. It seems to me that Shanghai continues to move in the right direction, trying to shift towards a more knowledge-based economy with more value added. I think the key is to avoid complacency and continue on this path.

What reasons pushed you to enter the diplomatic career?

My genuine interest in foreign languages and cultures, different mentalities, my wish to live in different countries and to take up new challenges every few years.



Consul General Heinrich Schellenberg



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Switzerland.

If you could describe each city you have been posted to in three words, what would they be?

Mexico City: hearty, intense, irrational

Bern: calm, clean, orderly

Stockholm: beautiful, thoughtful, plenty of water

Bangkok: welcoming, charming, chaotic

Geneva: splendid scenery, luxury, cosmopolitan atmosphere

Did you prepare in any way for your new posting in Shanghai?

I read a number of books about China, some Chinese literature, and tried to learn some Chinese.

What has been the most exciting happening in your first three weeks in China?

To watch Roger Federer at the Shanghai Masters – despite his defeat in the final round.

How do you and your family spend your free time?

With friends, reading, visiting museums, playing tennis – we might resume golfing.

Your Chinese zodiac sign is the dragon; its typical characteristics are: ambitious, risk taker, passionate, lucky and artistic. Can you relate?

To some extent; as usual with this kind of characterization, some features are true, others are not, all in varying degrees. What certainly applies in my case is that I am lucky – lucky to be in Shanghai!

What is your “China bucket list” for the next four years?

Travelling throughout the country, learning some Chinese.

Can you eat with chopsticks?

Yes, I learnt how to use them properly during my first visit to China 24 years ago.

Sarah Edmonds & Jasmin Helbling

Swiss Presidential Delegation

President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard paid an official visit to China from August 10th to 14th 2010, whilst accompanied by a high-ranking business delegation.

Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs paid a visit to Shanghai to celebrate the Swiss National Pavilion Day, as well as the 60th anniversary of Swiss-Chinese bilateral relations.

Beginning the official visit in Chongqing, the delegation headed by Mrs Leuthard arrived from the south western city to Shanghai on August 11th. After a very interesting visit to the third largest PC supplier in the world Lenovo (Shanghai) Electronics Technology Co., the delegation was received by the Mayor of Shanghai Han Zheng for a courtesy call. The day ended on a festive note, with a fantastic performance of the Basel Symphony Orchestra at the Oriental Art Center, highlight of the orchestra's China tour.

In the morning of August 12th, the delegation attended the Swiss National Pavilion Day celebration ceremony at the Expo Center, where Mrs Leuthard delivered a speech and enjoyed a cultural performance. After the ceremony, the whole delegation visited several pavilions on the Expo site, including the China Pavilion, Swiss Cities Pavilion of Basel, Geneva and Zurich and the Swiss Pavilion.

"We are impressed by the Chinese people's great enthusiasm for the Swiss Pavilion and glad to see that it is one of the most popular national exhibitions at the World Expo", said President Leuthard. Referring to the popular solar cells hanging on the Pavilion facade sold in the shop, she said "We hope that the solar cells will act as a lasting reminder not only of the Swiss Pavilion and Expo, but also of our joint efforts to create a more sustainable future."

Following Shanghai, the delegation moved on to Beijing, where the most important part of their working visit was awaiting. There, they held official talks with both the Chinese President Hu Jintao and the Chairman of China's National People's Congress Wu Bangguo. These meetings had the purpose of



Mrs Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation and Mr Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai.



Swiss National Pavilion Day at World Expo 2010 – Speech and Signing of the Expo Book by Mrs Doris Leuthard.



strengthening and consolidating relations between the two countries and improving the access of Swiss products and investments to the Chinese market.

A great success flourished from the official talks, in that President Doris Leuthard and President Hu Jintao approvingly acknowledged the findings of the feasibility study for a bilateral free trade agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in their presence announcing that negotiations between Switzerland and China should commence in the near future.

In economic terms, China (including Hong Kong) has since 2002 been Switzerland's most important trading partner in Asia and is already our third largest supplier of goods worldwide and the fourth largest market for Swiss exports (after the EU, the USA and Japan). It is worth noting that Switzerland is one of the few western countries to have achieved a trade surplus in dealings with China since 2003. In 2009, the bilateral trade volume amounted to around CHF 10.6 billion. Economic exchanges saw Swiss exports reach CHF 5.5 billion, while imports from China amounted to CHF 5.1 billion. The level of Swiss investments in China had reached around CHF 6.8 billion by the end of 2008. Trade relations with China are continuing to develop at a faster pace than overall Swiss export trade.



President Doris Leuthard at the China Pavilion.



Mrs Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation and Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China in Beijing.

President Doris Leuthard at the Swiss Pavilion.

Pictures by Swiss Pavilion 2010

Swiss National Pavilion Day



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Switzerland.

Visit of Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey

Sixty years ago, Switzerland was one of the first western countries to recognise and to enter into diplomatic relations with the newly founded People's Republic of China.

As part of the celebrations taking place throughout the year for this anniversary, Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, has been on an official working visit to China from June 27th to 29th 2010. Her visit kicked off with an appearance at the World Expo 2010, where she visited the Swiss Pavilion managed by Presence Switzerland and the Swiss Cities Pavilion of Basel, Geneva and Zurich.

She moved on from Shanghai to Beijing, with her visit focusing on continuing the official political dialogue between Switzerland and China in the pursuit of deepening their bilateral relations. The Head of the FDFA met with China's first Vice-Premier Li Keqiang and launched together with her Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi a series of meetings between high-ranking officials of the two countries to discuss financial and currency issues, disarmament and arms control, human rights, humanitarian aid and disaster prevention, as well as conditions in the Near and Middle East, the Korean Peninsula and Africa.

Federal Councillor Calmy-Rey also visited the Einstein exhibition, which was put together by the Berne Historical Museum to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the theory of relativity. Supported by the FDFA, this wandering exhibition will visit a number of selected Chinese cities until 2012.



Handing over a price to a lucky Chinese family at the Swiss Pavilion.



Mr Xu Hubin, Director of the China Pavilion, presents a gift to Federal Councillor Calmy-Rey.



With the Swiss Cities Pavilion team.
Pictures by Swiss Pavilion 2010

60-years bilateral relations Switzerland-China

Switzerland celebrated the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations in Shanghai with a visit from Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger and lighting up the skyline.

On September 14th 1950, Switzerland became one of the first western countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Since then, and especially since the beginning of the Reform and Opening Policy of 1978, bilateral relations between both countries intensified and diversified. Beyond politics, they now include cooperation in fields such as economy, culture, tourism, defence, science and education. Celebrations of this anniversary have been many throughout the year and included the visits of several official delegations such as of Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey and President of the Confederation Doris Leuthard.

In September itself, Shanghai not only had a high ranking visitor, Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger, but also a fantastic light show by world renowned artist Gerry Hofstetter. In the spirit of furthering Swiss-Chinese bilateral relations, Mr Leuenberger's visit was placed under the sign of sustainable development, with a special focus on water management when meeting his Chinese homologue, Chinese Minister of Water Resources Chen Lei. Concretely, the two ministers agreed to continue developing their cooperation in a joint project in the autonomous region of Xinjiang Province, along with an ongoing surveillance project of large scale dams in China. Both provide excellent opportunities for mutual learning and progression.

Along with taking part in a conference based on the topic of sustainable development organized at the Swiss Pavilion on September 13th, Mr Leuenberger was given a guided tour of the Yangshan deep water port. He was deeply impressed with the sheer size of the port and its impeccable organization.



Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger in Shanghai.



Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger and Minister Chen Lei.

Illumination of Lupu Bridge and Bund

On a more festive note, Shanghai was stage to the illuminations of world renowned light artist Gerry Hofstetter, a gift to China in honour of the anniversary. Bringing his illuminations for the first time to China, Mr Hofstetter light up the city for three nights, the 13th on the Lupu bridge, the two following nights on the Bund. Following the theme of Switzerland-China relations, symbols of both countries were shown, such as white crosses and yellow stars or cows and panda. The illuminations were a great success, making the anniversary first page news of several newspapers, whilst accruing numerous press clippings.



Pudong Development Bank



Lupu Bridge

Swatch Peace Hotel & Fairmont Peace Hotels / Pudong Development Bank

Pictures by Swiss Pavilion 2010

“Future Cities“ Expo Conference

The Swiss Pavilion under the banner of future cities

VIP visit to the Swiss Pavilion: Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger, and the Chinese Minister of Water Resources, Chen Lei, opened an exhibition on the new Monte Rosa Hut and the “Future Cities” conference.

Making cities environmentally friendly and enjoyable to live in is one of the biggest challenges of the modern world. For the first time in human history, over half of the world’s population is living in cities. In China, it could even be a third of the population by 2030. “Better City, Better Life” is the theme of this year’s world exhibition in Shanghai. ETH Zurich, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and swissnex China successfully pulled off a joint conference on three main topics related to “Future Cities”: “Water Management”, “Sustainable Building” and “Mobility and Air Quality”. In this context, they also staged an exhibition in the Swiss Pavilion on the new Monte Rosa Hut, a building in the Swiss Alps, 3’000 metres above sea level. Thanks to a sophisticated control system, the hut is largely self sufficient in terms of its energy and water supply, and thus serves as a model for sustainable use of resources – even for buildings in booming mega cities like Shanghai.

Mega cities challenge theory and practice

The exhibition and the conference were officially opened on September 13th 2010. FC Leuenberger and Minister Lei welcomed the fact that two of the world’s leading institutions for science and technology are taking the subject to heart. Together with swissnex China, they invited top scientists, business representatives, politicians and officials from both countries to the conference.

Jacques Herzog, professor of architecture at ETH Zurich and joint proprietor of the architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, whose portfolio includes the Peking “Bird’s Nest” – the stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games – gave a speech at the opening. He pointed out that a city is always based upon different ideas and models, thus giving it a specific character. They are also a crucial factor in how a city faces fresh challenges.



Prof. Jacques Herzog, ETH Zurich and Herzog & de Meuron Architects, Dr. Flavia Schlegel, Executive Director swissnex China, Minister Chen Lei, Ministry of Water Resources of China, Swiss Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger, Prof. Zhu Zhiyuan, Executive Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Prof. Ralph Eichler, President of ETH Zurich.



Opening Ceremony of Future Cities Conferences and Monte Rosa Hut.

Global task

Sustainable urban development is a global and interdisciplinary task. Consequently, ETH Zurich is involved in innovative research initiatives in Singapore mainly and Addis Ababa which bring together academic partners from the four corners of the globe. ETH Zurich President Ralph Eichler said: "The knowledge obtained internationally will not just be part of our students' basic education in a few years time; it also enables measures to be drawn up that make it possible for us to live together on this planet respectfully and with dignity."

In order to tackle the problems cities currently face, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is also focusing on collaborating with international institutions. According to the vice-president of the CAS's Shanghai branch, Prof. Zhu Zhi Yuan, Switzerland has many years of experience in this field. "In recent years there has been extensive cooperation between the CAS and Swiss research institutions. I hope the symposium in Shanghai on future cities will provide a decent platform for a scientific exchange."

The series of events on the future of cities is thus an important part of the festivities to mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and China, as Dr. Flavia Schlegel, the head of swissnex China, noted. They should strengthen the good relations between Switzerland and China, especially in the field of research.

Upcoming Events

23.-24.10 2010

China International Education Expo Shanghai

Shanghai East Asia Exhibition Hall

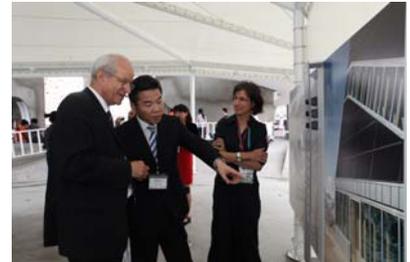
www.chinaeducationexpo.com/english/exhibitor/venue.html#a4

28.10.2010

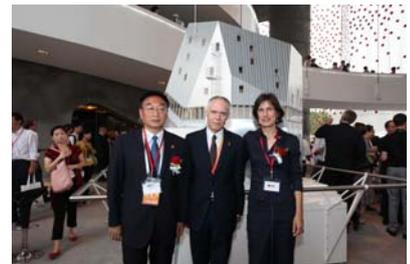
BBQ lecture – Rubbish and Left Over

Minsheng Museum

www.swissnexchina.org/activities/events/expo-2010-bbq-lectures



Prof. Ralph Eichler, President of ETH Zurich, Prof. Zhu Zhiyuan, Executive Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Dr. Flavia Schlegel, Executive Director swissnex China.



Minister Chen Lei, Ministry of Water Resources of China, Swiss Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger, Dr. Flavia Schlegel, Executive Director swissnex China.



Participants at the "Future Cities" conference.



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Switzerland.

Principality of Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein and China celebrate their diplomatic relations

In late August, Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein and Liechtenstein's Prime Minister Klaus Tschüscher visited China, accompanied by a high-ranking business delegation. The visit marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Alpine principality and the People's Republic of China. After talks with top Chinese officials in Beijing, the delegation came to Shanghai to celebrate Liechtenstein's National Day at Expo 2010.

The highlight of the visit to Beijing was a meeting with the Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping. Commemorating the establishment of diplomatic relations, Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein and Vice-President Xi both expressed their appreciation for the close cooperation between the two countries. Opportunities to further intensify economic cooperation, trade relations, cooperation in tax matters, as well as collaboration in areas such as culture and education were discussed. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed, in which Liechtenstein recognizes China as a market economy. Finally, Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein invited Vice-President Xi to visit Liechtenstein.

On September 1st, Liechtenstein celebrated its National Day at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. In his speech during the official ceremony, Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein praised the world's fair as an extraordinary opportunity to introduce the small country to the Chinese population and thus further strengthen the relations between the two countries. He added that he was confident that Expo 2010 would be the beginning of the next cycle of 60 years of close bilateral relations. Zhang Mao, Party Secretary of the Ministry of Health and head of the Chinese delegation on Liechtenstein's National Day, underlined the importance of Expo to China as a developing country. China was honored by the fact that Expo 2010 was the first world's fair outside Europe in which Liechtenstein took part. He added that the Chinese also appreciated that Liechtenstein had built a second Expo pavilion in its capital Vaduz. See next article.



Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein (middle) and Prime Minister Klaus Tschüscher met with Vice-President Xi Jinping in Beijing.



Prime Minister Klaus Tschüscher, Swiss Ambassador Blaise Godet and Prince Max von Liechtenstein.



Andreas Schmucki, Chief Operating Officer, gave the delegation a tour through the Swiss Pavilion.

Liechtenstein's participation in Expo 2010 Shanghai

Liechtenstein is not well known in China. The name Liechtenstein or the phonetic translation of its name in Chinese “liè zhi dun shì deng” evokes no more than vague associations. It is thus the goal of Liechtenstein's participation at Expo 2010 to make the country better known as a modern, sovereign European state, located in the middle of the Alps. This notion is captured in a poetic Chinese phrase: *Towering Alps, resplendent Liechtenstein*.

巍峨阿尔卑斯山 璀璨列支敦士登

梁固荣 书

The phrase, rendered in traditional Chinese symbols by the prominent Chinese artist and calligrapher Liang Guorong, decorates the facade of the Liechtenstein Pavilion at Expo 2010.

Liechtenstein's participation theme

Addressing the Expo theme “Better City, Better Life”, Liechtenstein shows how a small state deals with global challenges such as urbanization and environmental degradation. Choosing “Dialogue and Respect” as theme to translate these issues, Liechtenstein emphasizes the need to respect nature as well as the need for close cooperation with neighbours Switzerland and Austria in order to thrive.

Three pavilions

Liechtenstein's Expo participation consists of three pavilions. In Shanghai, the focus is on introducing the Principality of Liechtenstein to the predominantly Chinese visitors. The Expo Pavilion in Liechtenstein's capital Vaduz symbolizes "Dialogue and Respect" between China and Liechtenstein in particular. During the six Expo months, the pavilion in Vaduz features diverse cultural events and many shows by Chinese performers.

The third pavilion is on the worldwide web. In cooperation with the Institute of Architecture and Planning of the Hochschule Liechtenstein, this virtual pavilion provides space for online laboratories in which students, architects and planners from both Liechtenstein and China are invited to develop designs and visions of urban habitats. While the website www.expo2010.li may constitute just a virtual pavilion, it is the most durable. It can still be visited long after the two walk-in pavilions in Shanghai and Vaduz will have been dismantled.



Liechtenstein Pavilion at Expo 2010 Shanghai.



Expo Pavilion in Liechtenstein's capital Vaduz.



Visit to the Liechtenstein Pavilion on Liechtenstein's National Day at Expo 2010.

by Pio Schurti, Liechtenstein Pavilion

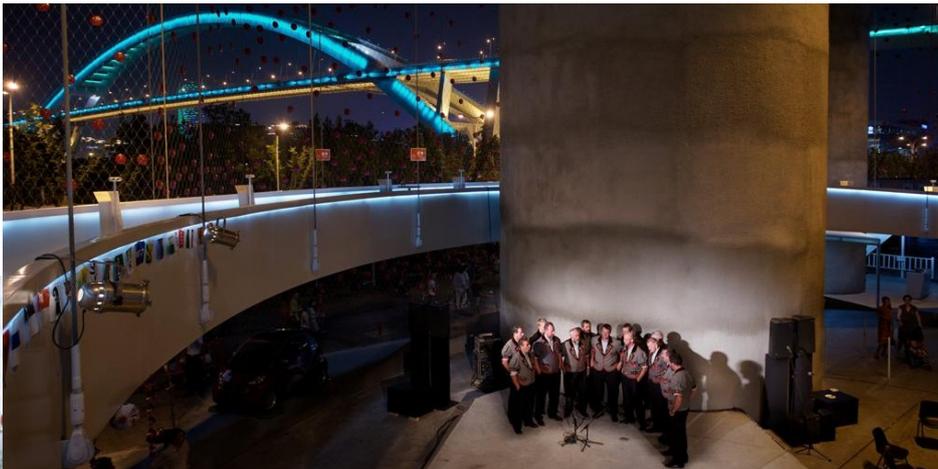
First of August 2010 – Swiss National Day at Swiss Pavilion

organised by Swiss Club Shanghai



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Further information: www.swissclubshanghai.org



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Pro Helvetia Shanghai Office

Official Opening

On Friday, October 15th 2010 the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia held the opening reception of its Shanghai office in the beautiful garden of the Shanghai Arts & Crafts Museum. Mr Pius Knüsel, Director of Pro Helvetia, Mr Heinrich Schellenberg, Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai, Ms Sylvia Xu, Head of Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Yves Schumacher, Project Manager of 3D Paper Art Exhibition and more than 120 guests attended the reception.

Established in 1939, Pro Helvetia dedicates its activities to promote national and international cultural works. At present, Pro Helvetia has nine offices around the world. During his speech, Mr Pius Knüsel mentioned that the main reason for opening the office in China was neither the economy nor the size of the country, but the urge of Swiss artists to discover China and vice versa. Pro Helvetia Shanghai wants to show that a cultural exchange is both beneficial for China and Shanghai. Therefore, in 2008, a provisional office was opened. Two years later, after sixty successful projects, Pro Helvetia finally decided to settle down permanently in Shanghai. There are different reasons why Shanghai was chosen to be the office and not Beijing. According to Sylvia Xu, Shanghai offers better infrastructure and international practice for arts projects. Being close to swissnex China will furthermore allow for better cooperation.

During the reception, guests were given the possibility to have a look at the 3D Paper Art exhibition, a Sino-Swiss joint project where 60 pieces of paper art from different decades were chosen by the curators Ariana Pradal and Nan Zhou. According to Mr Yves Schumacher, it was an inter-cultural project with topics ranging from “Exploring & Discovering”, “Construction & Transformation”, to “Light & Shade”, where one could imagine the merging of cultures and transgression of borders between culture and technique.

www.prohelvetia.cn

swiss arts council
prohelvetia



Official Opening of Pro Helvetia Shanghai Office.



“Light & Shadow”
Fold a piece of paper...



“Exploring & Discovering”
Paper transformed into unlimited series or forms.

by Aina Nedi

Opening Ceremony for Longxing Township Kindergarten, Chongzhou

A Swiss Project for Earthquake Reconstruction

Following the devastating Sichuan earthquake in 2008, SwissCham Shanghai, with the support of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss community in China, as well as the people in Switzerland represented by the non-profit organization HEKS (Swiss Interchurch Aid), initiated and financially sponsored a project with the goal of rebuilding a school in one of the most severely damaged areas of the province. In terms of design, the concept was to construct a building for the children that is safe, durable and sustainable, as well as in accordance with the current, strict Chinese Earthquake Regulations.

Finally on September 3rd of this year, 16 months after the launch of the project, the kindergarten, which covers an area of 6'500 square meters, was ready to open its doors. It has a capacity of over 250 students and is also accessible to disabled children. The Swiss community, in the presence of Ambassador Blaise Godet and the various donors of the project, gathered in Chongzhou, Sichuan to bear witness to the highly anticipated opening ceremony of the Longxing Township Kindergarten. All participants were happily greeted by the visibly excited children and future students of the school, who proceeded to showcase a performance for this special occasion. After the various speeches by those who were instrumental in the project's realization, the kindergarten was officially opened and handed over to the Chinese Government.

SwissCham Shanghai is honored to have had the opportunity to be a part of this extraordinary project and would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all those involved in its conception, especially the sponsors.

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Switzerland.

Vaisseau mv Aargau

Des navires sous pavillon suisse aux quatre coins du monde

Peu de citoyens suisses savent que leur pays dispose d'une flotte maritime. La Suisse dispose officiellement d'une telle flotte depuis avril 1941. C'est à ce moment-là que l'Arrêté fédéral sur la navigation maritime sous pavillon suisse fut introduit, car le pays avait besoin de rester approvisionné en temps de guerre.

La flotte suisse comprend actuellement plus d'une trentaine de navires de commerce d'une capacité totale de chargement d'un million de tonnes (tonnage de port en lourd – TPL), ce qui équivaut à environ un pour mille du tonnage mondial. Elle se compose de vraquiers, de porte-conteneurs, de navires à usages multiples ainsi que de navires-citernes pour le transport d'asphalte et de produits divers, affrétés à la demande à l'échelle mondiale. La flotte est exploitée par 6 sociétés d'armateurs dont leur siège doit être en Suisse.

En cas de nécessité, la Confédération peut réquisitionner les navires de commerce suisses pour assurer l'approvisionnement économique du pays. Le maintien de l'approvisionnement du pays en cas de conflit reste d'ailleurs la raison d'être de la flotte de commerce battant pavillon suisse, bien que ces navires relèvent de la propriété privée et soient exploités selon les principes de l'économie de marché en temps de paix.

L'Office suisse de la navigation maritime (OSNM) du Département des affaires étrangères (DFAE) sise à Bâle s'occupe de toutes les affaires maritimes suisses, y compris l'enregistrement des yachts de haute mer et petits bateaux suisses. Elle est régulièrement informée par les armateurs de la position de chaque navire suisse.

Les capitaines des navires qui mouillent dans un port où se trouve une représentation suisse (ambassade ou consulat) ont l'obligation d'annoncer à celle-ci leur arrivée et leur départ. La représentation doit viser l'enrôlement et le dérôlement des membres de l'équipage.

Le 1^{er} septembre dernier, Phonesili Phengrasamy, vice-Consul à Shanghai, a eu l'honneur et le plaisir de participer à la remise des documents officialisant un nouveau vaisseau sous pavillon suisse construit en Chine par l'entreprise maritime suisse Massoel Meridian Ltd. sise à Genève et qui se nomme Aargau.



Les membres de l'équipage et les officiers du navire tenant le drapeau Suisse et le drapeau de l'entreprise Massoel.



Remise de la Lettre de mer au Cpt. Romanov, capitaine du mv Aargau.



mv Aargau quittant le chantier naval de Yizheng.

M. Stan Kitarovic, actuel directeur technique de projets chez Massoel Meridian et directeur de l'équipe technique en Chine, a une expérience de plus de 30 ans comme chef ingénieur sur les navires et comme ingénieur technique à terre. Il a accueilli M. Phengrasamy à Universe Shipbuilding à Yizheng dans la province chinoise de Jiangsu et l'a guidé à bord du navire.

C'est en sa présence que les documents d'enregistrement du navire Aargau ont été remis au capitaine Romanov et l'enrôlement des membres de l'équipage à majorité ukrainienne et philippine a pu se faire.

Le navire Aargau transporte des produits agricoles, des fertilisants, du charbon, différents minerais, du ciment et des produits d'acier.

Le magnifique navire qui mesure 31 m de large et 190 m de long, était amarré sur l'un des deux fleuves qui traversent la ville – le fleuve Yangtze (ou Chang Jiang), en attendant de pouvoir sillonner les mers et fleuves du monde. A son bord, outre son capitaine, s'activent 19 membres de l'équipage. Un bon vent sur une mer calme leur est souhaité!



mv Aargau, vue frontale

Sources:

www.swiss-ships.ch/fr_startseite.htm
www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/smno/trasea/seashi.html

Toutes les photos avec l'aimable autorisation de Massoel Meridian Ltd.

par Phonesili Phengrasamy



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Switzerland.

Interview

Mr Michael Deslarzes, CEO of the Massoel Group has been kindly invited to answer some questions about the construction of ships and the activities of a Swiss company involved in maritime transportation.

Mr Deslarzes, why did you choose Yizheng as shipyard to construct a new vessel? Which country is now leader in shipbuilding?

China is without doubt becoming a major shipbuilding nation, in particular for cargo vessels. Japanese shipyards are historically the leaders, but I believe they will have to start a phasing out process as their cost-base can no longer justify their activities in this sector. Japanese, as European yards, will probably remain active for high added value business and specialized vessels, sectors in which they will remain competitive, but the biggest slice of tomorrow's shipbuilding certainly belongs to China.

As from 2006 it became clear to us that the future of shipbuilding was here and we decided to start an extensive shipyard inspection program. We had a team of naval architects and marine surveyors to visit over 20 yards that year. We received very mixed results from these inspections, yards quality ranging from low to very satisfactory. It is in our opinion Universe Shipbuilding in Yizheng that showed the best potential for our project. Since then, we have built 7 vessels with this shipyard, and we are willing to carry on this cooperation in the future.

How long do you need to construct a new vessel? How long for a vessel like Aargau?

From the acceptance of the ships plans to the beginning of her trading life, we can estimate about 14 to 20 months.

How much does a vessel construction cost in CHF?

The price will depend on the vessel type and specifications; the bigger and the most efficient cargo ships can easily exceed CHF 100 million per unit. At the same time, smaller types of cargo vessels can be built for as little as CHF 12 to 15 million per unit. To give an example, the mv Aargau, which is a middle-size bulk carrier, will cost between CHF 25 to 35 million, depending on the market, the shipyard and the construction specifications.

What kind of qualifications should a person have to be enrolled in a vessel's crew?

A number of specific qualifications are required by international law. Naval academies provide the relevant training, notably in the UK, Ukraine, Croatia and the Philippines. All crew onboard hold the adequate qualifications and have followed specific training to comply with these regulations. Crew documents are checked by a national agency, generally the Navigation or Maritime office, before a flag endorsement is issued to allow the crewmember to board and work on the ship. In addition to the regulatory requirements, we



Mr Michael Deslarzes, Massoel's CEO

Massoel Meridian Ltd.

The Massoel Group was founded in 1982 and is based in Fribourg FR, with its management company Massoel Meridian Ltd. based in Geneva GE.

Activities

Ship owning, ship management and ship operating

Number of vessels in total

14

Number of vessels under Swiss flag

7

Covered regions

The vessels are trading worldwide

Total number of employees

35

Total number of crew

Over 300

For more information: www.massoel.ch

apply a company training program which includes specific familiarization with our management procedures and the ship. To give an example, it generally takes over 20 years of combined sea and academic experience to become the captain of a vessel like the mv Aargau, so clearly a high degree of personal motivation is required.

How many months can a crew stay on sea/on board with his own subsistence/provisions?

The ships are regularly supplied with all necessary provisions. The longest sea passage that can be expected on ocean-going vessel like the Aargau would normally never exceed 40 days. It is not a problem for us to supply for over 60 days of provisions onboard, the vessels being fitted with various high volumetric storage rooms, refrigeration and freezing compartments.

What kind of difficulties or incidents a vessel might face on sea? Did any of your vessels face any of these difficulties/incidents and how was it solved?

As in many other industries, zero risk operations is certainly an objective, but cannot be guaranteed. To give a few examples, heavy weather, technical breakdown and even more recently the threat of piracy could potentially put the ship at risk.

The last serious incident we have faced was linked to a cargo of agricultural products that started a spontaneous combustion into the cargo hold of one of our ships in transit. It is an unlikely, but possible, event. The root cause of the self-ignition was identified as an error in the fumigation process of the cargo executed at the loading port by shippers. The problem was tackled by flooding the hold with inert gas, stopping the combustion and permitting the vessel to safely proceed to a nearby port for inspection and removal of the partially burnt cargo. In that case, a combination of good management, functional and efficient safety equipment and a well trained crew enabled us to avoid potentially disastrous consequences.

How long can a vessel generally sail (its maximum age)? What happen when a vessel is too old to sail? How and where can it be destroyed or unbuilt & recycled?

Generally, ocean-going cargo vessels will trade for about 25 years before being sent for demolition. The hull of the ship will be fully recycled and most equipment sold as second-hand devices. The steel from the hull will be cut into small pieces and the scrap metal obtained will be used for the production of new steel. Nowadays, the bigger players in terms of ship demolition remain India and Bangladesh, where ships are beached up to the yard and scrapped. However since a few years China is emerging as a leader for clean and efficient recycling of vessels, having modern docking facilities permitting eco-friendly recycling of ships. I expect this trend to continue as the industry is becoming more conscious of the environmental impact of ships recycling.

Yizheng (Jiangsu, China)

City of about 600'000 inhabitants with an area of 900km² and situated in northern Jiangsu Province, depending on the Yangzhou Prefecture.

Ancient town with a history of 2'500 years which gradually became with the opening of the Grand Canal a transport and trade hub in the Tang and the Song dynasty.

Major rivers

Chang Jiang which is known as Yangtze River (west to east) & Grand Canal (north to south).

Nature resources

Underground water, basalt, fruit, sand, medical herbs and aquatic products.

Climate

Subtropical monsoon climate with humid and changeable wind.

Economy

Mainly industry (auto parts manufacture, chemical fiber, textile, shipbuilding and repair, etc.), logistical industrial hub for storing & transporting crude oil to the north, and less than 5 % of agriculture.

Source:

www.jiangsu.net/city/city.php?name=yizheng

by Phonesili Phengrasamy

Chinese National Day

October 1st is the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and celebrated as China's National Holiday.

History

On October 1st 1949, the Chinese Communist Party declared victory over the Chinese Nationalist Party, putting an end to Chinese Civil War. The grand ceremony for the founding of People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) was held on this day in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Mao Zedong, Chairman of the Central People's Government, then declared the founding of the People's Republic of China at the ceremony and raised the first national flag of China himself in front of 300'000 soldiers and people.

In past times, the day was marked by large political gatherings and speeches, military parades, state banquets and the like. Since 1999, as China's economy developed, Chinese people have been guaranteed a week off during the holiday, turning the holiday into both a patriotic and economic fixture of the Autumn season. In folk parlance, National Day is referred to as one of the "Golden Weeks" of the year, the other one being the week during the Chinese Lunar New Year. Most Chinese people spare time to visit relatives and friends and to travel during the holiday.

Celebrations

The National Day Parade

The National Day Parade was designated by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference as an important component of the grand ceremony for the founding of P.R.C. From 1949 to 1959, 11 national parades were held on October 1st, though no national parades were held for the next 24 years. It was not until 1984 that the national parade was resumed by the then Central People's Government at the urging of Deng Xiaoping on the thirty-fifth National Day of the P.R.C. Since that time, when the anniversary is a multiple of five (e.g. the 50th, 55th or 60th), large scale state functions may be held such as the inspection of troops in Tiananmen Square. Therefore, there was a Grand National Day Parade in 2009 for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of P.R.C.



National Day Parade at Tiananmen Square, Beijing.



National Day Fireworks in Hong Kong.
(Picture: www.fireworkshk.com)



The Flower Bed in Tiananmen Square.

Fireworks Show

Fireworks displays are usually held nationwide in all cities during China's National Day, one of the grandest and most famous being The Hong Kong National Day Fireworks Display held since 1997 in Victoria Harbour.

National Day Decorations

The Flower Bed

The National Day Flower Bed can be found in the main squares of many cities during the holiday. The Flower Bed in Tiananmen Square is of course the grandest and most beautiful.

Hanging Chinese National Flags and Red Chinese Lanterns

During China's National Day, Chinese National Flags and red lanterns are seen everywhere, especially hanging at the gates of government office buildings as well as all kinds of stores and shops and along the main streets. The red lantern is a symbol of festivity, luck and happiness.

Travel and shopping during the National Day

Many Chinese people like to enjoy this week-long holiday by taking a short excursion or long distance family visit. The result is that many famous destinations become very crowded.

The week-long National Day Holiday is a week for retail sales. Almost all department stores, supermarkets, and small shops feature discounts.



by Heidi Zhang



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Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

www.eda.admin.ch/shanghai



Switzerland.

Facts & Figures of our Consular District

Update Autumn 2010

This Consulate General is responsible for the Swiss living in the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and the municipality of Shanghai. The growing Swiss community of registered citizens is now reaching 900.

The closer collaboration between Switzerland and China is reflected in the substantial increase in the number of visa issued this year. The figures are impressive, with twice as much demand in February 2010 compared to the previous year!

Swiss living in our Consular district*	878	100 %
Adults	596	68 %
Children under 18 years old	282	32 %

Swiss living in our Consular provinces*		
Shanghai	769	88 %
Jiangsu	79	9 %
Zhejiang	28	3 %
Anhui	2	0.2 %

Languages

German		63 %
French		26 %
Italian		2 %
English		9 %

* October 2010,
registered Swiss citizens only

Swiss visa issued

2009		12'095
until September 2010		15'225
average increase from 2009 to September 2010		54 %

Swiss living in the Consular districts in the P.R. China*	3'352	100 %
Hong Kong & Macao	1'650	49 %
Shanghai	864	26 %
Beijing	660	20 %
Guangzhou	178	5 %

*2009, registered Swiss citizens only

Swiss Community – The platform for the Swiss Abroad

www.swisscommunity.org



Just a few clicks put Swiss people living abroad in contact with each other, worldwide and free of charge, and bring them up to date on current affairs back home.

SwissCommunity is a free, high-quality online platform exclusively serving the Swiss who have been, are, or will be resident abroad. It is a “club” for international Switzerland, designed and tailored to meet the needs of Swiss people worldwide.

Networking

SwissCommunity serves some basic requirements – such as the need to make contact and swap information, ideas and "secret tips". It also caters for the wish to exchange experiences or find one's feet abroad among fellow-nationals.

Informing

Swiss people abroad feel close ties to their cantons and like to keep abreast of what is happening at home. To allow the Swiss abroad to maintain links with their place of origin or canton from their host countries, SwissCommunity offers a space to each Swiss Canton, where they are introduced under various headings, such as their economy, political life, education, tourism, culture and tradition. SwissCommunity members can also obtain direct information from their home cantons, such as results of referenda, news, etc.

SwissCommunity is just like you: unique!

Join SwissCommunity and build up your contacts and links with the Swiss diaspora all over the world, and with Switzerland itself.



OSA – at the service of the Swiss abroad since 1916.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) was founded in 1916 and is a foundation whose mission is to inform, link, lobby and advise the 700'000 Swiss residents abroad.

www.aso.ch

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

www.eda.admin.ch/shanghai



Switzerland.

Births

Congratulations to the proud parents!



Rylan LY

was born on the 9th of March 2010 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Lynn GATELY and LY Chi Hao.



Emily 晓蕾 NAYLOR 马

was born on the 2nd of July 2010 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are 马静妮 and Philippe NAYLOR.



Mia HOFER

was born on the 8th of September 2010 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are JI Linyan and Yves HOFER.

Contact

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Your article in the next Grüezi Shanghai!

You are welcome to propose events, news or information that are of interest and relevance to the Swiss community for the next Grüezi Shanghai.

Please contact us at sha.vertretung@eda.admin.ch.

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