Word from the Consul General

Dear Swiss Friends, dear Friends of Switzerland,

After 30 days in office as Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai, it is with great pleasure that I reach out to the readers of the Grüezi Shanghai magazine through my first editorial for this newsletter.

My family and I arrived in fall, and from the outset, the city’s brisk pace has revealed itself in a lot of diplomatic and cultural activities as well as meetings in the economic field. It is hence not possible to cover all the interesting encounters and events in this last issue of the year, but you will find a selection of some of the recent Swiss highlights, which took place in this most exciting metropolis.

The bilateral political and economic ties between Switzerland and China are currently at their best, and an impressive number of projects are under way to further deepen and strengthen the relations between our two countries. I am particularly happy to announce for next year the 20th anniversary of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and the 65th anniversary of the Swiss-Chinese diplomatic relations in 2015. These commemorations will be marked by appropriate events. Likewise, we will make full use of the visit of Solar Impulse to Nanjing announced for next spring.

With this diversified outlook, I very much look forward to serving in this dynamic and vibrant place and to take on many fresh challenges in the years to come. I hope to get to know many of you personally and would like to encourage you to engage with the team of the Consulate General and myself in an open and direct dialogue.

Yours sincerely

Consul General
Alexander Hoffet
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Economic Mission to Nanjing

4th Economic Mission, 14th – 16th September 2014

For the fourth time since 2013, the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai and SwissCham Shanghai jointly organised an Economic Mission to a city in the Yangtze Delta region. The main purpose of these missions is to offer Swiss companies a better understanding of the local business and investment environment and to establish contacts with Government officials and relevant institutions. On this fourth mission, Consul General Heinrich Schellenberg led the 22 participating delegates to Nanjing, capital and one of the strongest economies of the Jiangsu province. The city is known for its rich culture, history and large student population, which is the third largest throughout China after Beijing and Shanghai.

Day 1: After a short briefing by the Consul General, the delegation was heading to the city’s High-Tech Industrial Development Zone located 15.5 kilometres away from downtown Nanjing. The first two visits were dedicated to companies in the Bio-Medicine Valley; one to Mokobio Co. Ltd, which elaborates attractive government incentives for start-ups, and the other to the Model Animal Research Center of Nanjing University, which uses the latest technology to breed thousands of mutant mice used for medical purposes. The delegation continued its mission to Compal, one of Taiwan’s largest electronic goods manufacturers. The visit to Yurun Group was the last stop of the day. Yurun is most famous for its food processing industry but also invests into a diversified corporate group integrating real estate, commerce, logistics, tourism, finance, and construction. At present, the Group has two listed companies: Yurun Food and Central Emporium. It ranks no. 112 among China’s Top 500 Enterprises, and no. 8 among China’s Top 500 Private Enterprises for its comprehensive strength. The delegation engaged in an in-depth and heartily discussion with the Vice President of the group, Mr Song Hongbing.
Day 2: The following day started with a highlight, the official meeting with the Vice-Governor of Jiangsu province, Mr Fu Ziyi. Thereafter the delegation met with the Vice President of Nanjing Southeast University, who already maintains a good collaborative relationship with the Swiss University ETHZ. In the afternoon the delegation was received by the Vice Mayor of Nanjing, Mr Luo Qun. The group was then invited to visit the Nanjing Museum, where also the de-briefing was made. This marked the end of a very attractive two-day Economic Mission.

Gregory Blatt (Solar Impulse, left) and Cao Sumin, Deputy Director General of Jiangsu Science and Technology Department (right), and Stella Nie (middle)

Heinrich Schellenberg and Vice Governor Fu Ziyi

At the Nanjing High-Tech Zone the delegation was welcomed with a Swiss flag

The delegation at the Nanjing High-Tech Park

The delegates of the Economic Mission to Nanjing with the Vice President of Yurun Group (middle, Consul General Schellenberg to his right, Andreas Luchsinger to his left)

by Michael Waser
Company Openings and Celebrations

20th Anniversary of Buhler China in Wuxi (left) and opening of Datwyler in Taicang (right) on the same day, 19.09.2010
Previous CG Mr Heinrich Schillenberg attended both celebrations

Photo Credit: ©ROLEX / KAI HARTMANN
Consul General Alexander Hoffet and his spouse Katerina Hoffet with Roger Federer at Shanghai Rolex Master on 12.10.2014

Mr Hoffet met with Group CEO of SwissRe, Mr Michel Liès at the IBLAC in Shanghai on 02.11.2014

Consul General Mr Hoffet cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the ZUGORAMA (V-ZUG) in Shanghai on 06.11.2014

Deputy CG Mrs Anna Mattei gave a speech at the launch ceremony of Hero Baby Products in Shanghai on 25.10.14

CG Mr Hoffet at the opening of the Zurich Insurance Shanghai Branch on 30.10.14

H.E. Ambassador Jean-Jacques de Dardel addressing the audience during the Swiss All Alumni Event on 30.10.14
swissnex China

News from the Higher Education and Technology side

It was an active summer at swissnex China. It felt like everybody wanted to come to China, feel the pulse of the city and get a glimpse of this fascinating environment. Some came for a short visit and just passed by, whereas others stayed a little longer for a sabbatical, an internship, or a study tour. Hence we were busy focusing on preparing numerous visits of delegations and organizing great events for the Swiss community and friends. Let us share some impressions with you (from left to right):

Our conference room was transformed into a class room for the annual visit of the students from HEC Lausanne (1). Some got a bit ‘home sick’ on our first National Day event (2), which was held on the roof top of the Olé Café. We were pleasantly surprised by the large number of guests that we could welcome! The University of Health Sciences / HESAV (3) came by and got
introduced to our activities. The active students of the EPFL Summer School (4) paid again a visit to Shanghai, and some days later we learnt a lot about Cloud Computing (swissnex China Lecture) (5), and Young Talents from EPFL. We welcomed the students from the Confucius Institute, University of Basel (6) and joined them for a visit to the Swiss Center Shanghai in the Pilot Free Trade Zone. In order to connect and interact with the newly arrived exchange students from Switzerland, we invited them to a welcome gathering (7).

A highlight was the visit of the Venture Leaders (8) on their China tour from Beijing to Shanghai, as they joined the Global Pitch Fest (9), which was held at the Power Station of Art subsequently to the LIFT China Conference (10/11). The Shanghai BioClouds work shop (12) took place in our premises, and the winner of the Seedstars Shanghai (13) was selected. Last but not least we welcomed the EMBA class of the University of Zurich on the occasion of their annual visit for a workshop and networking event (14/15).

There will be more events to come as we are approaching the end of the year. If you like to join them and read about our latest scoops – please visit our new website http://www.swissnexchina.org/! But, as always, our doors are open and if you want to come by to get a feel on what we do and meet us in person – just let us know!

See you soon!

Team swissnex China

Also connect with us through our various channels, click on the icon here:

For further information please refer to www.swissnexchina.org

by Isabel Goetz
Swiss Business Hub

Promotion event

Hochdorf Nutricare AG together with their Chinese partner Biolife (China) held a promotion event for their premium infant formula series ‘Natrapure’ in Shanghai on 23rd July 2014. Representing official Switzerland, the Swiss Business Hub actively supported the event by giving a lecture and introducing advanced Swiss technologies and capacities to produce high quality infant formula. The partnership between Hochdorf and Biolife started in 2008 and has rapidly developed since; currently their 'Natrapure' products are being distributed throughout the country. Since 2011, SBH China has continuously supported various events across a number of Chinese provinces, including Dalian, Xiamen, Nanjing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

At the same time, Hochdorf also attended the Shanghai International Children Baby Maternity Industry Expo (CBME China), the world’s largest B2B sourcing event annually held in Shanghai. Among the 1751 exhibitors at this year’s CBME, eight Swiss companies or their distributors and partners were present including Ameda, Bio-familia, Hochdorf, Holle, Medela, Micro Scooter and Pharmalys Laboratories.

Happy team picture after a banquet dinner. Attendees include Dr Thomas Eisenring, CEO at Hochdorf Group, Mr Guihai Lu, CEO at Biolife (China), Mrs Mingya Ye, Trade Promotion Officer at Swiss Business Hub, and distributors and partners of Natrapure products in various regions.

For further information please refer to:

Swiss Business Hub China

Switzerland Global Enterprise
http://www.s-ge.com

Expert Directory
http://www.expertdirectory.ch

by Mingya Ye and Fabio Müller
Mr Fabio Müller
New Trade Promotion Director SBH China /Head of Shanghai Office

Fabio Müller was born in Bern and grew up in Neuhausen am Rheinfall in the canton of Schaffhausen. After graduating from high school, Fabio decided to move to the western part of Switzerland to pursue a M.A. in Chinese Studies at the University of Geneva. During this time, he spent two years in Beijing as an exchange student. After his graduation, Fabio gained first work experience in China at the China headquarter of Rieter in Shanghai. He then decided to go back to Switzerland to earn a second Master's Degree in Marketing, Communication and Services Management from the University of St. Gallen. Making use of his newly acquired business knowledge, he first worked as Project Manager in a start-up private bank in Zurich before he headed back to China as General Manager of the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham) in Beijing.

Together with his wife Min, who grew up in Shanghai, he is excited to return to this fascinating city for his new assignment at the Swiss Business Hub. In his spare time, Fabio enjoys making music, travelling and outdoor sports.
Pro Helvetia

Excellent Swiss Design @ West Bund Art & Design Fair

From 25th September to 26th October, Shanghai’s art scene celebrated the inauguration of the Westbund Art & Design Fair. For the first edition of the fair, Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Design Prize Switzerland and Swissnex China presented the exhibition ‘Excellent Swiss Design’. Curated by Michel Hueter, the Swiss exhibition featured the work of five of the country’s most exceptional young designers, demonstrating the intricate links between the core traditions of Europe’s finest designs and the fresh innovations of the Far East.

The first Westbund Art & Design Fair was a great success and attracted more than 70,000 visitors. The fair also received extensive media coverage as well as a first international reputation among art practitioners. The works of the Swiss designers arouse considerable interest not only of the audience but also of some of Asia’s most renowned designers. Swiss designs have found a new home, right here in Shanghai, halfway across the world.

For further information please refer to the following website:

www.prohelvetia.cn

by Cathy Fu
SwissCham

The Bridge Journal of SwissCham China

The upcoming issue of the Bridge magazine will be available soon here and feature the following stories:

**Interview with the new Consul General Alexander Hoffet**
Consul General Alexander Hoffet assumed his new position in Shanghai this fall. In our interview the Consul General will share his initial thoughts on taking up his post and we will find out about his plans, both personal and professional, for his mission in China.

**Free Trade Agreement Switzerland – China – Where do we stand?**
The FTA between the two countries has been officially enacted this summer. Trade figures have already increased in the last couple of months. We will have a closer look at the latest developments and where this journey could take Switzerland and China in the long run.

**Swiss precision manufacturing and China: How does this work?**
In this new section introducing a key Swiss industry in China, we will explore the Swiss precision manufacturing sector and its performance in China. China is in the process of moving away from low skill manufacturing into higher end activities, and Swiss companies are world renowned in this sector. How are they taking advantages of the opportunities China provides?

For further information please refer to the following website: [www.swisscham.org/china](http://www.swisscham.org/china)
Cultural Highlights in Autumn

Swiss Powerbrass in Shanghai

Around 60 members of Swiss Powerbrass, a music group from Buochs, Switzerland, followed the invitation of the 2014 Shanghai Tourism Festival to perform in Shanghai. The band had a dense programme during their one-week stay in China. Besides a big parade at Huaihai Road and a live concert for a local TV station, they gave several smaller concerts throughout the city. A highlight – in our perspective - was their extra concert for the Consulate General at Jing’an park. Hundreds of people stopped by to listen to the Swiss power sound. The audience was especially amused by the four Alphorns the group brought to Shanghai.

Italian Language Week

We all know that Switzerland has more to offer than snowy mountains and clean lakes. One of our country’s most interesting features is for instance the multilingualism. To promote the beauty of this cultural and linguistic diversity in China, the Consulate General co-organised this year’s Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo and invited Swiss writer and film maker Flavio Stroppini to introduce his work and promote the Italian language to the Chinese audience.

During his three days in Shanghai, Mr Stroppini presented his work at the West Bund Long Museum as well as at the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) and met with local artists for cultural exchange. Around 100 people attended his lectures and showed great interest in his work. The audience was also keen on learning more about Switzerland’s multilingualism and the Swiss-Italian culture in particular. Mr Stroppini was delighted to receive such positive feedback and to have an active audience that asked a lot of questions.

Further to Flavio Stroppini’s visit to Shanghai, the Consulate General presented the two Swiss-Italian films Tutti Giù and Marcello Marcello. Both films were screened at the West Bund Long Museum and attracted around 60 people.
Announcement Escalade 2014

11th December – SAVE THE DATE

The second edition of the ‘Escalade’ is in the pipeline! For those of you who did not have the chance to attend last year, the ‘Escalade’ is a major cultural event of the city of Geneva and is held every year in December. The historical background of the night is to celebrate the victory of Geneva over the Savoy County in a battle, which goes back to 1602.

This year’s celebration will take place at the Geneva Restaurant on Thursday, 11th December. It will start at 16:00 for families and kids (special programme) and at 18:00 anyone else may join. Of course the Marmite de l’Escalade will not be missing!

The event is organized by swissnex China and the Consulate General of Switzerland and all Swiss Citizens and friends of Switzerland are most welcome. Stay tuned, more information is coming soon!

Programme

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by the Organization Committee of the Escalade
News from the Chancery

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipality and the Shanghai Exit-Entry Bureau have asked us to inform all Swiss citizens and citizens of Liechtenstein living and/or working within our Consular District about the following issues:

Changing reports
If you change your passport, your name, your civil status, your place of work, your residence or if you quit your job, it is mandatory to inform the Public Security Bureau within 10 days. If you miss to do so, you could encounter problems and may need to pay a penalty.

Your Chinese visa – overstay penalty
It is recommended to always check the validity of your Chinese visa and inform the Chinese authorities early in case you need to extend or renew your visa (at least 7 working days before the visa expires for a visa extension for tourism/visit or 30 days for the extension of your working-residence permit). Please be informed that the renewal of the working-residence permit takes approximately 15 working days. The passport will be kept for the duration of the processing period. Domestic China travel may be possible during the processing period if a domestic travel permit is issued. If you miss to extend your visa on time (overstay) you will have to pay a penalty fee. If you do not pay this penalty you risk to get arrested by the police.

Required documentation for residence permit of family members
In order to prove the relationship of a family member, original documents are required (birth certificate, marriage certificate, family certificate) and must be legalized by the competent Chinese representation in Switzerland or by the competent Swiss representation in China. Documents without legalization are no longer accepted.

Registration of a newborn child for the Chinese Visa or residence permit
The registration shall be made at the Exit & Entry Administration authority within 60 days after birth. A passport of the newborn is required. The working process will be 7 working days. If the passport cannot be issued within this period, a confirmation letter of the competent Consulate may be required.
Passport and visa control by the Shanghai police

Police controls can take place randomly in public areas. As such, it is recommended to always carry a copy of your passport including your valid visa with you. This will help you avoid any unnecessary waiting time or misunderstanding during these police controls.

Cases of fraud

Please be particularly cautious on the Bund, on the Nanjing Road pedestrian area, in front of the Hilton Hotel or at any other tourist hotspot of people asking to practice their English. They often bring the tourists to a massage shop or to a bar, which normally ends with a very costly bill. They threaten tourists to pay the bill immediately and often ask for credit cards. If you experience such a situation, the Chinese authorities recommend calling the Police station (phone number 110) for assistance immediately. In order to avoid such an unpleasant experience, the Chinese authorities strongly suggest ignoring such kind of offers and people.

All information is without guarantee and subject to change. Thank you for your attention.

Chancery FAQ

Frequently asked questions Part III

This is the third and last part of the FAQ series from the Chancery:

Questions about naturalizations

I am a foreigner living in China and married to a Swiss citizen. How can I apply for naturalization?

You must have lived in a stable marriage for at least six years and must have close connections with Switzerland. Regardless of where you live, you must be integrated in the Swiss way of life, comply with the Swiss rule of law, and you must not endanger Switzerland's internal or external security. The Swiss spouse must have been of Swiss citizenship before marriage.
Where can I get an application form and where must I send it to?
From the Consulate General and after the interview with the applicant, the documentation will be sent for decision to the Federal Office for Migration in Bern. The procedure takes between one and two years in general.

Questions about social insurance

I have to get a life certificate endorsed for my old-age and survivors’ insurance pension. Where can I do that?
As a general rule, anyone who receives an old-age and survivors’ insurance (AHV) or invalidity insurance (IV) pension is obliged to sign every year a so-called life certificate and to have it endorsed by an official authority. This can also be done by the Consulate General (in this case the person must come personally to the Swiss counter with his passport during opening hours).

As a Swiss citizen abroad, can I make voluntary contributions to old-age and survivors insurance and disability insurance?
You must hold a Swiss nationality or that of an EU or EFTA state, not be domiciled in an EU or EFTA state, and have been insured under the old-age and survivors’ insurance for five years without a break in the period immediately beforehand. Each family member wishing to join the voluntary old-age and survivors’ insurance has to make an individual membership application. The declaration of membership of the voluntary insurance scheme has to be submitted to the Consulate General within one year of leaving the compulsory insurance scheme. Membership of the voluntary insurance scheme is no longer possible after this deadline!

Please note that you should address your inquiry directly to the following address:

Office Central Compensation Office CdC (Swiss Compensation office SCO)
Avenue Edmond Vaucher 18
CH-1211 Genève 2
Tel. +41 22 795 91 11, Fax +741 22 795 98 55
E-Mail: csc-af@zas.admin.ch / website: www.zas.admin.ch

All information is without guarantee and subject to change.
2014 Nanjing Youth Olympics

Consular delegation visits Swiss athletes in Nanjing

From 16th to 28th August 2014, 19 Swiss athletes aged between 14 and 18 participated in this year’s Youth Olympics Games (YOG). The games are held every four years, in summer and winter events, consistent with the ‘big brother’ of the Olympic Games. In addition to the sport event the young athletes can engage in cultural exchange programmes and have the opportunity to meet Olympic athletes.

From the Swiss Consulate, Mr Sacha Steiner, Head of Chancery, together with Ms Sandra Trachsel of the Visa section visited the Youth Olympic Games by invitation of Mrs Isabelle Bossi, Head of the Swiss Olympic delegation. The representatives of the Consulate closely followed the golf tournament in the morning and paid a visit to the Olympic village in the afternoon. They also had the chance to meet Mr Jörg Schild, President of Swiss Olympic, and get in touch with some of our Swiss athletes.

The performance of the Swiss Olympic team was remarkable: The 19 athletes won 3 gold and 1 silver medal and several top 8 classifications for Switzerland. Congratulations!

Swiss Olympic team with Sacha Steiner and Sandra Trachsel (2nd and 1st from right)

For further information please visit: http://www.swissolympicteam.ch/yog/

by Michael Waser
Auslandschweizer-Organisation

JOIN US!
Experience Switzerland with the OSA youth offers

The New OSA Youth Offers
Information and registration: www.swisscommunity.org

Leisure offers
- New Year’s camp in Sedrun: 27.12.-14.05.2015
- Sports camp Belalp: 14.02.-22.02.2015
- Snow Sports in Davos: 04.04.-12.04.2015
- Discover Switzerland: 2 weeks

Training offers
- German course in Bern: 05.01.-16.01.2015
- Training in Switzerland: 2 weeks
- Springboard: 3 to 6 months

Politics
- Coming of age celebration: 17.10.-23.10.2014
- Federal Youth Session: 10.11.-16.11.2014

Information and registration:
www.aso.ch
www.swisscommunity.org

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service,
Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern
SwissCommunity.org

The virtual club of international Switzerland

Did you know that there is a dedicated online network for Swiss people worldwide? At SwissCommunity.org, Swiss abroad all over the globe establish and maintain relationships with one another and benefit from a comprehensive range of services. It has never been easier to find your feet abroad in the company of fellow nationals. In various discussion forums members have the opportunity to exchange information and views and to participate in the political and social debates taking place in their homeland. Alongside the usual community features, SwissCommunity.org also offers reliable information on Swiss politics, business and culture, on Swiss cantons and on Swiss embassies and consulates abroad. Members further profit from a broad package of other services, such as attractive special offers from partners of SwissCommunity.org, an exclusive online magazine, the e-paper of "Swiss Review", invitations to Swiss events, the latest information from their home canton and much more besides.

SwissCommunity.org is enjoying ever increasing popularity and now boasts more than 31,000 members. It is no coincidence that many diplomats and journalists are impressed with the platform and use it regularly for their work. You, too, should join this international Swiss club and play a crucial role in promoting the interests of the Swiss abroad in your native Switzerland! We look forward to welcoming you soon to SwissCommunity.org!

www.swisscommunity.org

SwissCommunity.org was created by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), actively involved for the Swiss worldwide since 1916.

For more information please refer to:

www.swisscommunity.org
Weddings

Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Yan PAN & Markus HAERRI

got married on 23rd August 2014 in Shanghai.

Qian ZHOU & Simon MUELLER

got married on 9th September 2014 in Nanjing.

Wan ZHOU & Mathias BITZI

got married on 20th September 2014 in Shanghai.
Births

Congratulations to the proud parents!

Victoire Marie Jixin FERLA

was born on 28th May 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Siegrid and Louis-Alexandre FERLA.

Jie Xi YANG

was born on 8th June 2014 in Ninghai.

The happy parents are Cui YANG and Urs FUHRER.
Finja-Míngyuè NOTTER

was born on 24th June 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Jessica NOTTER-BURRI and Oliver NOTTER.

---

Henley Wyatt Bodo James MOORE

was born on 15th July 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Chantal von Alvensleben and Courtney MOORE.

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Melody STOCKLIN

was born on 17th July 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Jie STOCKLIN-CHEN and Sacha STOCKLIN.
Elio GIANETTI

was born on 20th July 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Wenyun ZHAO and Brenno GIANETTI.

Lyonel CHAPATTE

was born on 28th August 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Wen TIAN and Florent CHAPATTE.

Serena Armida MELILLO

was born on 3rd September 2014 in Shanghai.

The happy parents are Priscilla XU and Nicola MELILLO.
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.

Contact

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Partners

03 Issue 2014