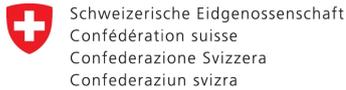


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Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai
瑞士驻上海总领事馆

N° 2
December 2020

Grüezi Shanghai



Message from Consul General Olivier Zehnder

Dear fellow Citizens,

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

With the end of 2020 approaching, I would like in the name of the whole team of the Consulate General to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021. We are conscious of how challenging these times are for you and your families during this period. Please be assured of our full understanding and support.



Swiss consulate team at the CIIE Sino-Swiss Business reception © CG SH and Swiss Centers

In this edition of Grüezi Shanghai you will find an overview of the activities of the Consulate during the second half of this year, as well as of other Swiss organizations in Shanghai. At the end of the newsletter you will also find important information about postal voting and visa guidelines.

This second half of the year was a busy season. Several economic events took place. Ambassador Regazzoni visited Swiss companies based in Suzhou, participated in the Swiss Alumni China event and led a Swiss delegation to the 3rd CIIE. In early December the Consulate organized an economic mission mainly for SMEs in Minhang, a district of Shanghai which hosts nearly 80 Swiss companies.

The cultural sector has seen an active season with numerous art fairs and

exhibitions. Between the Settimana della lingua Italiana, a week celebrating the Italian language, and the West Bund Art Fair, the culture section of our Consulate organized latterly an event titled "Miss Switzerland, Meet Switzerland" which brought a touch of *swissness* to Shanghai.

Our Consulate also welcomed new colleagues this summer. Mrs. Daniela Rey Aponte arrived from Mexico City, Mr. Ralph Steinegger from Singapore and Mr. Rolf Schweizer from Bern. I extend a cordial welcome to them and their families!

Despite the challenging situation of this special year, I wish you and your families my best wishes for Christmas and New Year!

Olivier Zehnder
Consul General

CONTENTS

[Economic Section](#)

[Culture](#)

[Pro Helvetia](#)

[Swiss Business Hub](#)

[swissnex China](#)

[SwissCham Shanghai](#)

[Swiss Centers China](#)

[Swiss Club Shanghai](#)

[Chancery and Visa](#)

[Welcome to the new colleagues](#)

Economic Section

Business Resilience in a Challenging Year



While COVID-19 is still taking its toll across the world and human mobility is still restricted, Swiss business community in the Yangtze-Delta River embraced the opportunities to



Group picture during a visit to Firmenich © Minhngang FAO

meet and exchange about challenges and business resilience in this special year.

An economic mission to Minhngang was organised on 7th Dec. with a delegation of representatives of Swiss enterprises in the district, Swiss consumer goods companies as well as SwissCham BoD members. Led by the Consul General, the delegation had meetings with the district’s Governor & Vice governor, officials from Hongqiao CBD area, followed by a visit to Firmenich and Zizhu Hi-Tech Park. Follow-ups and further contacts are expected in the coming year.

Another larger gathering of the business community took place during the 3rd CIIE, at the Sino-Swiss 70th Anniversary Business Reception. Around 300 guests, together with the Ambassador and the Consul General, listened with great interest to a panel discussion with women entrepreneurs, demonstrating leadership during COVID-19 and commitment of Swiss companies to sustainability. Earlier in October, Swiss business community in Suzhou had the pleasure to have a dinner meeting with Ambassador Regazzoni, during his visit to the city and to some Swiss companies.

Regular visits to Swiss companies by the Consul General continued in the 2nd half of 2020, which concluded with insightful discussions with more than 40 company executives.

As the year 2020 draws to close, the Economic Section looks forward to a better version of a new year, to more interactions, and remains available for any assistance required to support Swiss business community.

Culture

Culture industry bounces back from pandemic with active Swiss participation

Settimana della Lingua Italiana 2020

A Swiss-Italian film “Finding Camille” was screened on the night of November 23 at the Fosun Foundation. Mr. Han Bo, our local guest speaker, was invited to share with the audience some insights into the movie. More than 100 citizens



Students from a local primary school

participated the event and the film visiting the Consulate © ZHU
director, Mrs. Bindu de Stoppani,
welcomed the audience via an online video.

West Bund Art & Design 2020

All eyes were on Shanghai as the city hosted multiple art fairs in November. Today, more than ever, the importance of culture for our society is clear and art shows cannot take place without the strong support of the private sector. This year's edition of West Bund Art & Design presented three Swiss companies as its leading partners, La Prairie, UBS and Audemars Piguet.

Public event under the umbrella of 70th anniversary of the bilateral relationship

If you miss Switzerland, Switzerland comes to you. Initiated and organized by the Swiss Consulate in Shanghai, a public project titled "Miss Switzerland, Meet Switzerland" took place at Life Hub@Jinqiao, Pudong in early December. This one-week event allowed citizens to know more about Swiss activities in the fields of innovation, design and sustainability, along with classic Swiss products and food.

Special delegations to the Consulate

Our consulate also received two groups of special guests, students from local public primary schools. Since travelling abroad is difficult, the consulate opens a new window for local students to get to know Switzerland. After listening to the presentations, the kids raised up interesting questions and enjoyed a tour of the consulate where they were delighted to get the Happy Lilly signed by the Consul General.

Pro Helvetia



Matthieu Cherubini & Hervé Graumann, Knowbotic Research, LAN, Ubermorgen: these four Swiss artist groups are currently presented at a group exhibition titled "We=Link: Sideways", organized by Chronus Art Center in Shanghai and supported by Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council. Their works will be on view until May 23,

Installation view of We=Link: Sideways © the artists, HeK. Courtesy of Chronus Art Center

twenty-eight artists and artist collectives, from the pioneers of net art to millennials. The works on display and online span three decades of net art practice, from arguably the first internet-era artwork of the Thing BBS in 1991 to the most current production continuing to evolve as the exhibition opens.

More on Pro Helvetia Shanghai's [website](#).

2021, accompanied by a series of exhibition-related programs and performances. This exhibition features twenty-two works by

Swiss Business Hub



Yves Morath visiting the CIIE © SBH

Mr. Yves Morath, Head of Swiss Business Hub China and Counsellor of Embassy of Switzerland in China, together with SHB local team, visited the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) on November 5 and 6. Mr. Morath had very interesting talks with Swiss exhibitors and also witnessed the signing of collaboration agreement

between a Swiss company in cleantech industry and a Chinese local government. The global pandemic brings many challenges to the business development while many Swiss exhibitors still managed to grow in the Chinese market this year. The Swiss exhibitors' active participation in CIIE showed their strong commitment in China market despite the challenges.

In 2020, SBH China organised several webinars regarding Artificial Intelligence and Personalised Health sectors. The main topics included 1) to introduce the AI cluster environment in both China and Switzerland / how to upscale AI algorithm and data 2) why can life sciences companies make success in Switzerland? / how innovation plays a key role in the life sciences industry in Switzerland? The specialists and speakers from both China and Switzerland were very happy to share their insights and experience with audiences from private sectors, academia and institutions. The participants all enjoyed and spoke highly of the webinar format.

2020: A Year of Change and Exploration



©swissnex China

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19, swissnex China has been exploring new event formats to connect Swiss education, innovation and art-science with Chinese audiences and beyond.

In September and October, swissnex China held virtual demo days of [Venture Leaders China](#) and

[Venture Leaders Fintech](#) for top Swiss startups to engage with Chinese investors, mentors, and potential business partners to pitch their ideas and raise funds.

In October, [Swiss Alumni China](#) took place onboard a cruise ship along Shanghai's iconic Bund waterfront. More than 200 Alumni from over 20 Swiss Public Universities attended the event.

In November, the [Einstein Day](#) brought together vice presidents, provosts, deans and accomplished alumni of 5 top Swiss universities in a Zoom webinar to share about study programs and university choices.

Every month, the [Café des Sciences lecture](#) event invites Swiss Spotlight Scientists and Startups to present their projects and connect with the community.

swissnex China also held two engaging, in-depth and high-level discussions on "Working Tomorrow": «tell» event on "[The Future of Work: AI shifts in Critical skills](#)" (part of the Swiss Digital Days 2020) and "[Reimagining Human Skills in a Tech-empowered Future](#)" (part of the nex20 celebration of the 20 years' anniversary of swissnex Network).

Stay tuned for more exciting news and activities: follow swissnex on [LinkedIn](#), [WeChat](#) (swissnex), [Weibo](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or sign up to our [monthly Highlights newsletter](#) and our [bi-monthly Science-Switzerland newsletter](#)!

Development Zone Directory 2020 is Now Available!

A lot has changed since SwissCham Shanghai published its first edition of the Development Zone Directory back in 2017. But China remains one of the top investment hotspots in the world, despite ongoing trade and other disputes the country faces. While it is true that companies and countries are relocating or building up additional supply chains to lessen their dependence on China, it is also a fact that no other country has the industrial capacity, growing middle class and growth potential.

The Chinese market attracts the most foreign direct investment and it well may do so for many years to come, given the large untapped markets in the central and western part of the country. Earlier this year, Premier Li Keqiang mentioned that there are 600 million Chinese citizens living with RMB 1,000 of monthly disposable income. While this may sound surprising, it also shows the potential that Chinese inner regions have for the future.

Investing in China and selling to the Chinese consumers is something that makes sense for companies from around the world. The development zones listed in this directory are here to support and help foreign investors to deal with the unique challenges in the Chinese market. “In China, for China” is a strategy that lets you tap the biggest consumer market in the world while limiting your exposure and reliance on a single country.

Please click [here](#) to download the directory for free.



swisscham.org

Development Zone Directory
Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang
2020 / 2021

100+ entries

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Swiss Centers China

The Swiss Centers China is proud to be part of the Swiss presence at the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in November 2020. Collaborating with the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce in



Zurich (SCCC), Swisscham and S-GE, two Swiss Centers Booths in Food and Consumer Goods



CIIE 2020 Booth © Swiss Centers

attracted many buyers and media. It presented a great platform for the 15 brands who joined the cluster. Watch the promotion video [here](#) and have a look at a selection of [photos from the 2nd day](#).

Swiss Centers will continue to drive hands-on projects and assisting Swiss brands to explore sales and branding opportunities in China. This is why two Swiss Centers permanent sales and exhibition channels have been established within the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub (G-Hub) as well as the Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Center (Hongqiao 365).

UBS and the International Monetary Fund respectively expect a Chinese GDP growth of 7.5% and 8.2% in 2021, and Swiss Centers China is confident, that Swiss brands in all industries can profit from the strong recovery in China.

Swiss Club Shanghai

Swiss Club Santa Event

Santa visited Geneva Restaurant on December 6, where he was greeted with much anticipation by nineteen children and their parents. Santa followed the behavior of the children very closely during the year, so that he could praise and give his improvement suggestions in Swiss German, German, French and English.

All children received afterwards a Santa gift bag with chocolates and a Grättibenz. After Santa left, the children were also able to enjoy themselves in the separate play room, while the parents continued eating and chatting.

For this event the Swiss Club welcomed guests not only from Shanghai, but also from Taicang and Kunshan, as they try to play an active part for the Swiss community in the whole Yangtze-Delta River.

The Swiss Club Shanghai would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Find more pictures of past events and all upcoming events on www.swissclubshanghai.org

Chancery and Visa

Voting right / distribution of electoral material

As a general rule, each Swiss citizen living abroad is obliged to register with one of the Swiss representations abroad. Once registered, the Swiss citizens can at any time make an application to exercise his/her political rights abroad by applying directly in person at the counter or by sending us the [application form](#). The official electoral material will then be sent directly by mail to the Swiss citizen's address abroad. Voters must return their ballot by mail to the cantonal authority. Due to a lack of legal basis and the principle of equal treatment, Swiss citizens residing abroad are unfortunately not allowed to transmit their electoral material via the Swiss representations abroad. Also bear in mind that the Swiss Confederation cannot be held responsible for the efficiency of the foreign postal services at the country of residence. A postulate on this particular issue of the National Counsellor Mr. Andri Silberschmidt has been published on [Swissinfo.ch](#). Any questions or difficulties encountered with the voting procedure should be referred directly to the municipality in question.

Visas to Switzerland

Entry into Switzerland

Entry into Switzerland continues – with few exceptions – to be prohibited for third country nationals. Foreign spouses of Swiss citizens, who are planning to travel together with their Swiss family members, are such an exception and may apply for a new visa if they plan to travel to Switzerland. Furthermore, please bear in mind that all Schengen visas issued before 16.03.2020 need an additional so-called Laissez-passer confirmation letter. Travelers are therefore required to contact the Visa Section of this Consulate General.

For further information on the exceptions, please check the website of this [Consulate General](#) or the [FAQ](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). Depending on the development of the epidemiological situation both within and outside Switzerland and the EU, travel restrictions may be eased or reintroduced in the future.

For additional visa information consult the website of the [State Secretariat for Migration \(SEM\)](#).

For information on the Covid-19 situation and health measures in Switzerland,

check the [website of the Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\)](#). As per now, there is no quarantine requirement for persons traveling from China to Switzerland. Please check the website of the FOPH again prior to departure.

Returning to China

Please be aware that the Chinese Authorities have implemented additional entry restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in China. Starting from 8 November 2020, an [additional test](#) (IgM antibody) is required 48 hours prior to boarding your flight to China. Starting from 10 November 2020, passengers need to apply for the [Chinese Health Declaration Code online](#). For detailed information, consult the website of the [Chinese Embassy in Bern](#) or the [Chinese Consulate General in Zurich](#).

Regarding flight information, kindly note that flight cancellations may occur on a short notice and the airlines affected do inform the involved passengers directly. We therefore recommend you to stay in touch with your airline prior to departure.

Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) / Renewal of the Council 2021-2025

The current legislature of the Council of the Swiss Abroad is coming to an end. A new Council will be elected in the first half of 2021 and constituted at the Congress of the OSA in August 2021. Please find the relevant information on the [OSA website](#) (in German and French).

Online Desk



As previously communicated, consular services such as registering as a Swiss abroad, notifications of change of civil status, address changes, etc. can be requested via our [Online Desk](#). In order to provide a more simplified registration process, Swiss citizens registering for the first time at one of our representations abroad from now on do not need to present their original passport or ID card anymore.

Travel Admin-App - Release 2.0

The Swiss Federal Council recommends that non-urgent travel abroad should continue to be avoided whenever possible. In case travel is necessary, we recommend you



to download the FDFA's [Travel Admin App](#), which has been improved with the recent update (2.0. Release).



Welcome to the new colleagues

Mrs. Daniela Rey Aponte, Consular Attachée



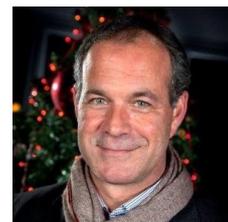
© RYN

At the beginning of August Mrs. Daniela Rey Aponte succeeded Mr. Alain Keller as a Consular Attaché/e, who was transferred to Cairo. Mrs. Rey Aponte was born in Lucerne where she grew up. She is married and has two children. She joined the consular service of the FDFA in 2007 and did her consular stage at the Swiss Mission in Paris. Afterwards she was on duty on different continents for several shorter and longer missions, one of them was in Beijing. She spent then 8 years in Latin America; Paraguay followed by 4 years in Mexico. Mrs. Rey

Aponte is very much looking forward to get to know her new environment and to discover China. She is excited to welcome you at the Swiss Consulate or to meet you at one of the many events of the Swiss community in Shanghai.

Mr. Rolf Schweizer, Deputy Consul General

Rolf joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1994 and was posted in France, Egypt, Hungary, Germany, and India. He also served as the Deputy Consul General of the Swiss Consulate in Stuttgart, Germany, and in the Swiss Embassy in Kosovo. He worked for two years in the Swiss Consulate in Guangzhou as Deputy Consul General in 2005. From August 2020, he started working as Deputy Consul General in Shanghai and he is in charge of culture, media and education.



© SHW

Mr. Ralph Steinegger, Head of Chancery



Before joining the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 2000, Mr. Steinegger worked at the Zurich newspaper Tages-Anzeiger. Mr. Steinegger's first assignment was in Rio de Janeiro. He was subsequently posted in Beijing, New York, Istanbul and Singapore. Mr. Ralph Steinegger settled in Shanghai with his wife and daughter. He



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particularly looks forward to getting to know the city and its people, and providing his fellow Swiss citizens with a friendly and efficient consular service.

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