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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
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Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai  
瑞士驻上海总领事馆

## Grüezi Shanghai



### Message from Consul General Olivier Zehnder

Dear fellow Citizens,

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

During this first half of the year, we have multiplied events combining culture and economy under the motto "smart and sustainable". The season has been particularly fruitful in promoting bilateral economic relations in our consular district and exploring possible cooperation in the area of innovation, sustainability and vocational training. Our economic section maintained regular contacts with Swiss companies and supported them in connecting with official authorities. We led several economic missions with business delegations to Zhejiang and Jiangsu, with a special focus on SMEs. On the occasion of the Swiss Ambassador's visit in March, we organized a reception with Swiss financial actors. In cooperation with SwissCham, we launched a business forum with female executive leaders and are looking forward to its follow-up.



Consul General Olivier Zehnder visiting Jiashan Museum during the Sino-Swiss Cultural Night © Jiashan Museum

Among the major events that occupied our culture section, we presented a Swiss documentary on the theme of education for children in special needs during the month of "Francophonie", in March. The exhibition "Constructive

Alps” designed in Switzerland started touring in Shanghai and Zhejiang province and underlines the advantages linked to the use of natural materials in eco-friendly architecture. It will be soon presented in Anhui and Jiangsu provinces. Finally, Montreux Jazz Festival is coming to China for the first time this autumn, in Hangzhou. I encourage you to stay tuned for more cultural events to come up!

Despite a “normality” settling in, we still hope for a relaxation of travel controls and we especially keep in mind those of you who do not have the opportunity to reunite with their families.

The summer is synonym of change for our team. This year we bid farewell to Peter Stäheli and Birgit Quednau who are returning to Bern after five years in Shanghai. We will also say goodbye to Sophie Baumgartner, who will go back to Switzerland as well. But we will welcome two new colleagues, Mr. Istvan Kocsis, our new Deputy Consul General, and Mr. Michel Wiedmer, who will succeed to Peter Stäheli as the new Head of Visa section. I would like to extend to them and their families a warm welcome to our team and community!

I wish you all a pleasant summer and I am already looking forward to seeing you at the many social gatherings of the Swiss community in Shanghai!

Olivier Zehnder

Consul General

## **CONTENTS**

[Economic Section](#)

[Culture](#)

[Pro Helvetia](#)

[Swiss Business Hub](#)

[Swissnex China](#)

[SwissCham Shanghai](#)

[Swiss Centers China](#)

[Swiss Club Shanghai](#)

[Chancery](#)

[Welcome to the new colleagues](#)

## Economic Section

### Rediscovering the Yangtze River Delta Region: Official Visits and Economic Missions

Swiss Ambassador Bernardino Regazzoni visited Shanghai in March for a financial mission to witness the development of Shanghai as an international financial center. He met with the Vice Mayor of Shanghai and exchanged with the representatives of Swiss financial institutions.



Ambassador Regazzoni meeting the Vice Mayor of Shanghai © Mr. Pan

The Consul General's first official visit outside Shanghai took place in April in Changzhou, a city that hosts some prestigious names in the Swiss manufacturing industry. The visit enabled an in-depth roundtable discussion with CEOs of Swiss companies, and an official meeting with the Vice Mayor of Changzhou.

As a follow-up to our 2019 mission in Zhejiang Province, we organized in April an economic and innovation mission to Hangzhou, in cooperation with the Innovation Committee of SwissCham. The two-day visit enabled the delegation to gain expertise on the local innovation ecosystem and facilitated

interactions between Swiss companies and local authorities.

On a smaller scale, the Consul General visited in May the cities of Huai'an and Zhenjiang, in Jiangsu province. The delegation discovered leading local companies in the new tech sectors.

More recently, an economic and cultural mission took place in Nantong, Jiangsu, led by the Consul General and accompanied by the President of SwissCham Shanghai and executives of six Swiss companies. Many thanks to Staubli, Mettler Toledo, Clariant and Siegfried, for receiving the delegation, and providing opportunities for company executives to share their best practice.

## Culture

### A vibrant Swiss cultural scene in the Yangtze River Delta



Consul General and the autistic children after their performance © ZHU

*Swiss documentary film shown during the "Mois de la Francophonie"*

In March we presented the film "À l'École des Philosophes", a documentary about how kids with mental disabilities take their first steps at school. The documentary has been screened three times in Shanghai, targeting different

audiences including teachers from local special education schools and autistic children. An online Q&A session was also organized with the participation of the film director Mr. Fernand Melgar and the teacher Mrs. Adeline Schopfer.

#### *Tour of the Exhibition "Constructive Alps"*

In April, we started our tour of the exhibition in Hangzhou, Jiashan and Shanghai and we will continue to present it in Jiangsu and Anhui in the second half of the year. Designed by the Alpine Museum in Bern and brought to China for the first time, this exhibition presents some of the award-winning projects of the "Constructive Alps Architecture Prize" which sheds light on the

aspects of environment-friendly architectural solutions, use of natural materials and respect for landscape. Consul General Olivier Zehnder participated in the media events and openings, encouraging people to increase the awareness on climate change and environment protection.

### *The launch of Montreux Jazz Festival in Hangzhou*

The Montreux Jazz Festival is coming to China for the very first time from October 4 to 8, 2021 in Fuyang District of Hangzhou. Consul General Olivier Zehnder attended the media conference and encouraged the festival to demonstrate how East meets West.

## Pro Helvetia

### John Armleder solo exhibition "Again, Just Again"

**Dates:** July 24, 2021 – October 3, 2021

**Venue:** Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai

**Curators:** Larys Frogier, Billy Tang

**Supported by:** Pro Helvetia Shanghai, Swiss Arts Council

Rockbund Art Museum (RAM) is very pleased to present the first major survey exhibition of the renowned Swiss artist John Armleder in China. As the inaugural highly anticipated exhibition after the museum's major renovation, "Again, Just Again" is a celebration of his influential five decade of work and inspired by the many inter-disciplinary detours in art throughout this journey. The exhibition features an ambitious display of new and existing work such as painting, ready-mades, works created on-site, works on paper, site-specific wall drawings, and archival material. With each floor of this newly renovated museum celebrating its ten-year anniversary, the spaces have been transformed through a unique



scenography assembled to guide the audience through a choreography of unexpected encounters and visual experiences. For the duration of “Again, Just Again”, Rockbund Art Museum will host a series of public programming and educational events including: guide tours, lectures, panel discussions, live music, performance, and workshops.

**Swiss Business Hub**

## Switzerland: guest of honor at the first Hainan expo



Swiss National Pavilion at first Hainan Expo © Swiss Embassy

The first China International Consumer Products Expo (Hainan Expo) took place in Haikou, Hainan Province during 7-10 May. Around 40 of Switzerland's most renowned companies in the luxury and consumer goods sector participated in this Expo, with a total exhibition area of around 1,100 m<sup>2</sup>.

Switzerland, as exclusive Guest Country of Honour, showcased its

innovativeness, traditions and sustainability under the motto 'This is Swiss quality'. Also, on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Guy Parmelin sent a greeting message.

On behalf of Switzerland, the Swiss Business Hub (SBH), in collaboration with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE), has organized and operated the Swiss National Pavilion at the Hainan Expo. 26 Swiss companies exhibited in the Swiss National Pavilion showcasing Switzerland's leading role in watchmaking, luxury goods, and premium consumer products. The support from 3 main partners and 11 sponsors also contributed to the success of the Pavilion. Switzerland's presence at the Expo has received massive media attention, which has so far met with an exceptionally high response from the Chinese target audience.

Right after Hainan Expo, SBH successfully organized the Swiss Pavilion with 10 Swiss brands at China Beauty Expo (12-14 May) in Shanghai for the first time and proactively supported S-GE with Swiss Pavilion at SIAL China (18-20 May).

### Swissnex China

## Swissnex in China: Continuation of Signature Events and Start of New Initiatives

In April, Swissnex in China welcomed 7 Swiss startups at the



Agri-Food-Tech Bootcamp 2021 to introduce them to the China market.



© Swissnex China

In May, Swissnex launched the 1st Sino-Swiss Energy Innovation Forum, which brought together over 330 Swiss and Chinese experts for a dialogue on the future of energy innovation. The two-day virtual forum was concluded with an exclusive networking reception on the Shanghai Tower, which showcased the best of Swiss energy and cleantech projects.

In June, Swiss Alumni China took place onboard a cruise ship along the Bund waterfront. More than 300 Alumni from over 20 institutions attended the event.

At the INNO-MATCH EXPO 2021 of the Pujiang Innovation Forum, Swissnex hosted the Swiss Pavilion to showcase Switzerland's efforts towards environmentally friendly development with projects from ETH Zurich, EPFL and Empa.

Swissnex also kicked off the swisstech China series with 18 startups showcasing at the swisstech pavilion at Consumer Technology & Innovation Show 2021. The series aims to promote Swiss startups across China's hottest tech events, which will also be present at Tech-G Shanghai International Consumer Electronics Show and at China Hi-Tech Fair.

Swissnex has continued its event series [Café des Sciences lecture](#), which provides scientists, startups and artists to present their projects, and [Art x Science Dialogues](#), which looks into new interdisciplinary initiatives and trends. It has also started a new webinar series [nexFrontier](#), which introduces the most pioneering research advancements in Switzerland and China.

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

**SwissCham Shanghai**

## Swiss Ball 2021 Carnival Fiesta

It is with great pleasure that



SwissCham would like to announce the biggest event of the Swiss community in China:

### Swiss Ball 2021

**Theme:** Carnival Fiesta

**Date:** Saturday, September 11, 2021

**Venue:** W Shanghai, the Bund

### Rundown:

**18:30 – 19:30** Registration & Cocktail

**19:30** Onwards Gala Dinner



© SwissCham Shanghai

Music, Dance, Entertainment and Fun until sunrise!

The yearly Swiss Ball has developed into a must-go-to event in Shanghai and SwissCham is inviting everyone to join us to make this Ball another memorable edition. You will be able to enjoy an exquisite gala menu, enchanting entertainment and win great lucky draw prizes.

Immerse yourself into the Carnival Fiesta! Let our live bands and DJ carry you away with music, catchy tunes and thrilling dance vibes throughout the night!

**Contact:** Nini Qi, SwissCham Shanghai

**Tel:** +86 21 5368 1237

**E-mail:** [swissball2021@sha.swisscham.org](mailto:swissball2021@sha.swisscham.org)

Please click [here](#) to access more event details

### Swiss Centers China

## Swiss exports to China surge as China's economic recovery remains unbalanced



An analysis of the latest figures from the Swiss Federal Customs Administration conducted by Swiss



© Swiss Cluster Booth at CIIE 2020

Centers China shows, that from January to April 2021, Switzerland exported goods in the value of 6.8 billion Swiss francs to China including Hong Kong – a plus of 26.6% year-on-year, and a plus of 14.9% when compared to the same period in 2019. China's economy is

growing, but the recovery from the Covid crisis is unbalanced. Industrial activity and trade are strong, while the service and consumption sectors are not yet on pre-pandemic levels. Without international travel, Chinese consumers turn to domestic channels to buy luxury products. China's luxury goods market grew by 48% in 2020.

China, including Hong Kong, is the world's largest market for Swiss watches. IMF forecasts a Chinese GDP growth of 8.4% in 2021, but economic activity may decelerate due to the slow recovery of income growth in the working class.

At the China International Import Exhibition CIIE, taking place in Shanghai from November 5-10, 2021, Swiss Centers will organize one Swiss booth in partnership with the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce and SwissCham. At the Swiss Centers Cluster booth, Swiss companies will have the chance to highlight and showcase their high-quality consumer goods as well as food and agricultural products.

## Swiss Club Shanghai

### National Day Event by Swiss Club Shanghai @ Parkyard Hotel

The Swiss Club Shanghai is delighted to invite you to our traditional National Day event on **Saturday, 31st July 2021** in a new location @Parkyard Hotel, Pudong (Garden Pavilion).

A Buffet dinner with **Swiss & International specialties, BBQ and**

**SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION 2021**

Saturday  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2021  
Starting as from 5PM  
18:00 – 20:00 Dinner

Parkyard Hotel Shanghai  
(Garden Pavilion)  
699 Bibo Lu, Pudong,  
Shanghai

Dress code: Casual

Members/Students CNY 450  
Non-Members CNY 550

Dinner buffet with Swiss and international specialties, BBQ and Raclette station.  
Free flow of wine, beer and soft drinks

-Live Band  
-Lucky Draw  
-Rodeo Bull Ride Machine  
-Kids entertainment (bouncy castle, fishing game and other surprises)  
-Air-conditioned Garden Pavilion

Member Kids 7-14 years CNY 150  
Non-Member Kids 7-14 years CNY 200

## Raclette station awaits you.

Join us to celebrate the Birthday of Switzerland having a nice Glass of Swiss White Wine, Appenzeller Beer or enjoy a nice Nespresso Coffee while enjoying the Garden of the Parkyard Hotel and listen to our live Band. There will also be a jumping castle & Rodeo Bull for entertainment.



© Swiss Club Shanghai

Swiss Club Shanghai Members benefit from special discounted pricing.

Please send your registration and/or request to become member to **Events@swissclubshanghai.org** until **July 27th 2021**.

## Chancery

## Vaccination

In principle, the Swiss abroad must adhere to the vaccination strategy of their country of residence. For logistical reasons, it is not possible for the Swiss Confederation to send vaccines used in Switzerland to its Embassies and Consulates.

The vaccination situation in Switzerland is improving steadily and by the end of June half of the adult population in Switzerland is expected to be vaccinated according to the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH).

The situation for the Swiss abroad however who are temporarily in Switzerland and who wish to obtain the COVID-vaccine is still not quite satisfactory. If you wish to be vaccinated in Switzerland, we recommend that you contact your vaccination center and clarify whether you can be vaccinated as a Swiss abroad. As a general rule, a Swiss health insurance is required.

More information on this subject can be found on the [website of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad](#).

## Welcome to the new colleagues

### Mr. Istvan Kocsis, Deputy Consul General



© Istvan Kocsis

Having arrived from his previous posting in Hungary, Mr. Istvan Kocsis took over his new position in Shanghai in June. He joined the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994 and his first assignment was in Paris. Afterwards he served in Athens, Oslo, Kinshasa and Kiev. Mr. Istvan Kocsis was Deputy Head of Mission at our Embassies in Wellington, Antananarivo and Budapest. In 2010, he visited together with his wife Guadalupe the World Exposition in Shanghai and they are now excited to really discover this important metropole and its region. Istvan

was born in Bern and therefore speaks the Swiss German dialect “Bärndütsch”.

### Mr. Michel Wiedmer, Head of Visa and Deputy Head of Chancery

After having worked in the General Secretariat of the Federal Assembly and undergoing the training as company commander in the Swiss Armed Forces, Mr. Wiedmer joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 2014. He worked in different positions at the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore, before returning to Bern in 2018 for a training. Mr. Wiedmer was then posted as an Embassy Attaché to the Embassy of Switzerland in Caracas (Venezuela), where he was in charge of the Swiss community as well as visa/migration services and administrative matters. Mr. Wiedmer and his registered partner are happy to be back in Asia and are excited to get to know the Swiss community as well as city life in Shanghai.



© Michel Wiedmer

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