

If this message is not displayed correctly, click [here](#) for the browser version.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

N° 1
Summer 2022

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

Grüezi Shanghai



Message from Consul General Olivier Zehnder

Dear Swiss citizens,
Dear Friends of Switzerland,

To say that the past few months have been challenging, is an understatement. The recent lockdown in Shanghai has put us all to the test: many had to bid farewell to friends and family, and arrange departures in unpleasant circumstances. Others had to struggle to access basic necessities, services and information.

Businesses maintained activities in hardships and are still facing challenges now. This Consulate did its utmost to mitigate the impact of these arduous times on our citizens. After the months of lockdown that have characterized Shanghai's spring, we hope now to start witnessing the return of the lively and vibrant city that we all cherish, although COVID-related restrictions still impact our daily lives. I want to congratulate you all for your resilience and good spirit.

What is ahead is hopefully a new start. Many events will reunite the Swiss community once again: celebrations include the August 1st organized by the Swiss Club and the Swiss Ball organized by SwissCham in September. The Consulate General is excited to unveil the "So Swiss" pop-up in the second part of the year, which will showcase Switzerland in all its most innovative, creative and exciting sides. We are striving to bring more events to the



Consul General Olivier Zehnder with his wife Frédérique Zehnder at the Bund Shanghai © NLI

community: stay tuned!

As Consul General, I had the great opportunity to foster Switzerland-China relations in the Yangtze River Delta region. I am amazed by the great achievements and resilience of Swiss businesses in the region, as you continue to honor Swiss' brand of excellency, innovation and uphold high-quality. With the precious support of my wife Frédérique, we organized events to strenghten the links within the Swiss community.

Helas, it is also our time to say goodbye. After four years in my role as Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai, my mandate has come to term. My family and I lived through a very enriching experience, and I am excited to set off to Jakarta in my new role as Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN.

I want to thank the Swiss community for making Shanghai a home away from home; my colleagues at the Consulate General for the excellent collaboration, and my friends and family for these four wonderful years in Shanghai.

The summer, is for our team, always a bittersweet moment: we sadly have to say goodbye to our colleagues Martin Baier and Daniela Ziliotto-Cengia. But it is also with great pleasure that I introduce you my successor, Mr. Sacha Bachmann, who will take office in late August. This summer, this Consulate will also welcome Liliane Küffer to the consular section.

On behalf of the Consulate and myself, I wish you a wonderful summer ahead!

Olivier Zehnder
Consul General

CONTENTS

[ECONOMIC SECTION: Strenghtening connections in the Yangtze River Delta](#)

[CULTURE: Cultural activities under difficult circumstances](#)

[PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI: Let ideas bloom and fertilize](#)

[SWISS BUSINESS HUB: Swiss Pavillions to be present at various exhibitions](#)

[SWISSNEX IN CHINA: Forging new connections in a year of change](#)

[SWISSCHAM SHANGHAI: Swiss Ball - Space Odyssey, 27.09.2022](#)

[SWISS CENTERS CHINA: Swiss Business in China 2022 survey](#)

[SWISS CLUB SHANGHAI: National Day Event, 30.07.2022](#)

[CONSULAR AFFAIRS: Consular services during the Shanghai lockdown; Marriage for all enters into force on 01.07.2022](#)

GOODBYE FOR DEPARTING COLLEAGUES: Martin Baier and Daniela Ziliotto-Cengia

WELCOME TO NEW COLLEAGUES: Sacha Bachmann, Consul General; Liliane Küffer, Consular Attaché

ECONOMIC SECTION

Strengthening connections in the Yangtze River Delta



Group picture with representatives from Starrag Group and Winterthur Gas&Diesel, with Consulate's delegation

As his first company visit of the Year of the Tiger, Consul General Mr. Zehnder and his delegation visited Swiss companies Starrag Group and Winterthur Gas & Diesel: two hidden champions for high-precision cutting machinery and prime example of Switzerland and China partnership in engines for high-tonnage ships.

Despite the limitations posed by Covid-related measures in April and May 2022 in Shanghai, the Consulate continued to cultivate its network and relationships with the

Swiss business community in the Yangtze River Delta. Through clarifications in relation to policy interpretation and implementation, support for work resumptions and exchange of experiences and best practices, the Consulate supported the business community throughout the lockdown.

With the impossibility of organizing economic missions and company visits, the Economic section conducted online interviews with Swiss executives to gather their sentiment regarding companies' outlook on China, the challenges they have faced and currently facing in relation to Covid, geopolitical tensions and supply-chain disruptions. The discussions, led by the Consul General Olivier Zehnder, also highlighted promising trends and opportunities for certain sectors. Overall, these exchanges were an unique opportunity for close-ups with business executives, leading to truly compelling discussions.

In line with what emerged from the talks with the business community, the Consulate and partners will organize the "So Swiss" pop-up, planned for the last quarter of the year (Covid-related measures permitting). The event will showcase Switzerland in all its most innovative, creative and entrepreneurial

side through exhibitions, live demos, lectures, etc... The event will also be a platform to further highlight the work and the projects of Swiss companies in the YRD region. We are also looking forward to exchange with SwissCham, Swissnex in China, and our Chinese partners on the Swiss experience in vocational training.

And finally, now that the new *new normal* is settling in, we look forward to resume our company visits in the YRD.

CULTURE SECTION

Cultural activities under difficult circumstances

During the first semester, even during the lockdown, the Consulate was able to organize some cultural events.

The Consulate and ZiWU Artspace Shanghai jointly presented the exhibition “concrete art & op art: max bill and contemporaries” at the end of March. It reopened to the public after the lockdown until June 19th. The exhibition consisted of 80 artworks, mainly from the famous Swiss artist Max Bill, to enable the audience to discover similarities, influences and developments between the movements and between their artists.



Group picture of hosts and partners of the dialogue between Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen and the Tianyige Library event
© ZHU

An online dialogue between the Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen and the Tianyige Library in Ningbo took place on May 23rd. It was co-organized by the Consulate and the two libraries. The directors on both sides shared their experiences and exchanged their opinions on the topic of the measures to preserve collections. Digitalization and accessibility of ancient books were as well interesting talking points. Istvan Kocsis, Deputy Consul General delivered a greeting speech online. The [video](#) of this dialogue has been viewed over 50'000 times on Chinese social media. The Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen is the third oldest existing library in the world and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.

Mid-September, the Consulate will be contributing to the DAWA (Diverse As We Are) Festival in Shanghai. It is the first international festival of its kind in China that embraces diversity, social inclusion and equal participation. The

Consulate is proud to be a partner of DAWA and to be able to organize Swiss events in the areas of film and dance.

PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI

Let ideas bloom and fertilize



Dorota Gawęda & Eglė Kulbokaitė,
Mouthless Part I, 2020, film still, HD film
and sound. Duration: 45 minutes and 26
seconds

“Let 100 Reading Groups Bloom”, initiated by Pro Helvetia Shanghai and curated by Zian Chen, attempts to understand the intimacy of knowledge and affect through organizing reading groups. From September 2021 on, this project has presented a series of reading and sharing sessions based on a list contributed by the Swiss artist duo Dorota Gawęda and Eglė

Kulbokaitė, aka. Young Girl Reading Group (YGRG), enriched by the conceptual directions of Cahier d'Artistes 2021.

Until June 25th, 2022, an online screening of YGRG's video Mouthless Part I (2020) is taking place at COMPOST, a publishing platform of the ICA at NYU Shanghai. As an introduction, the curator Zian has contributed a [review](#). Watch the screening on [Bilibili.com](#).

SWISS BUSINESS HUB

Swiss Pavilions to be present at various exhibitions

Shanghai revives after a two-month lockdown. As business resumes, preparations have been continued for various events and activities. The Swiss Business Hub (SBH) China together with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) will present Swiss Pavilions at below exhibitions that



are scheduled or rescheduled for the second half of the year:

Swiss National Pavilion at 1st Hainan Expo
2021 © Swiss Embassy

- China International Consumer Products Expo 2022 (Hainan Expo), Haikou, Hainan, 26-30 July
- Marintec China, Shanghai, 7-10 December
- China Beauty Expo, Shanghai, 14-16 December

In addition, S-GE and the SBH China, with great support of Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and Swiss Embassy in Beijing, will organize [the fourth Swiss Education Fair \(SEF\) China 2022](#) on September 10th in Shanghai and 11th in Beijing.

SWISSNEX IN CHINA

Forging New Connections in a Year of Change



Image caption © Swissnex in China

In March, Swissnex in China welcomed its new CEO, [Philippe Roesle](#), who was previously Acting Head of Bilateral Relations at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. In his new role as both CEO of Swissnex in

China and Head of the Science, Technology, Education Office at the Embassy of Switzerland in China, he will continue to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation between Switzerland and China in education, research, and innovation.

A new event series TechTalk was also launched in March with the objective to share fresh insights into the Chinese entrepreneurial ecosystem with Swiss entrepreneurs with global ambitions. Moreover, to celebrate the Francophonie month, a Café des Sciences on the topic of SDGs was co-organized with the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing.

In May, the 33rd edition of Café des Sciences was co-organized with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu in order to explore strategies for the protection of mountains and forests. In June, Swissnex in China's partnership with the [Swiss Digital Initiative](#) brought together academia, civil society and business representatives for a high-level dialogue on defining digital trust.

Swissnex's webinar series continues to explore a wide range of trending and emerging topics, from lifelong learning to sustainability. Join us for [Café des Sciences lecture](#), which provides Swiss scientists, startups and artists a public platform to present their projects; [Art x Science Dialogues](#), which looks into new interdisciplinary initiatives and trends; [nexFrontier](#) series, which introduces the most cutting-edge research advancements and the [Tech Talk](#) series, which aims to facilitate exchanges and foster collaborations among startup and industry experts 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 for our [monthly newsletter](#) and our bi-monthly [Science-Switzerland newsletter](#)!

SWISSCHAM SHANGHAI

SWISS BALL – SPACE ODYSSEY, on September 24th, 2022

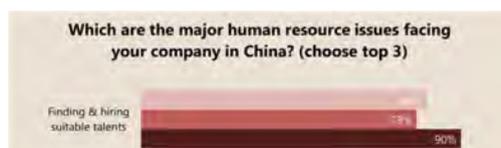
Join us for the biggest event of the Swiss community in China and treat yourself and your friends to a great night with dance, entertainment, performances, fine food and lucky draws.

For more information and registration, visit the [link](#).

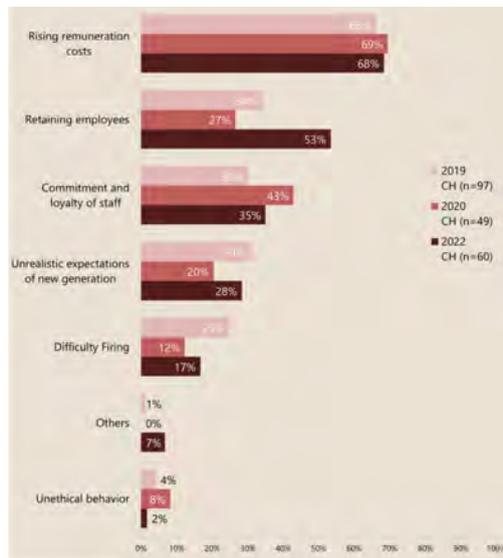


SWISS CENTERS IN CHINA

Swiss Business in China 2022 survey



The Swiss Centers together with partners launched the Swiss



Swiss Business in China 2022 © Swiss Centers

Business in China 2022 survey earlier this year and thanks to many of you who replied we have a lot of interesting results. On the left is one chart, out of about 40 that the Survey team will include in the final report. Some of these initial results may already be of help to you for your communication with Headquarters, in particular how difficult it has become to find the right people and the different speed between China and Switzerland! All of the initial charts can be found [here](#).

An update of a few selected questions has been sent out recently, in order to make up for possible changes due to the recent developments in China but also Europe. Send the survey team an e-mail, if you'd like to receive a full copy of the final report (angie.chen@swisscenters.org)

Main survey team: University of St. Gallen; China Integrated; Swiss Centers China

Partners: Embassy of Switzerland in China; Swisscham China; Swissnex in China; Switzerland Global Enterprise; economiesuisse; Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce

SWISS CLUB SHANGHAI

National Day Event, July 30th, 2022

The Swiss Club Shanghai is delighted to invite you to the traditional National Day event on July 30th, 2022 at Millennium Hong Qiao Hotel Shanghai.

Please send your registration (and/or inquiry to become a member) to:
events@swissclubshanghai.org

SCHWEIZER NATIONALFEIERTAG
FETE NATIONALE SUISSE
FESTA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA
FESTA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA

Saturday
30th July 2022
Starting as from 5PM
18:00 – 20:00 Dinner

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

Millennium Hong Qiao Hotel Shanghai (Garden Pavilion)
2588 Yan An Xi Road, Shanghai

- Live Band
- Kids entertainment
- Air-conditioned Garden Pavilion

until July 25th 2022.



Members	CNY 400	Member Kids 6-12 years	CNY 150
Non-Members	CNY 550	Non-Member Kids 6-12 years	CNY 200
Walk-in	CNY 600	Kids below 6 years	CNY 0

Dress code: Casual - No refund

Please send your registration (and/or inquiry to become a member) to:
(events@swissclubshanghai.org) until July 25th 2022

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Consular services during the Shanghai lockdown (April/May 2022)

The lockdown in Shanghai was a difficult experience, which affected all of us. Some members of our community faced particular hardship, especially those who were transferred to makeshift hospitals or were separated from their families.

During the entire lockdown, the Consulate General remained operational with most of the staff working from home. The newly introduced WeChat channel proved to be very useful during the lockdown, as it allowed rapid exchange of information. Our approach was to intervene directly with the authorities whenever Swiss citizens were in need of assistance. This allowed us to provide specific support to those who faced particularly challenging situations. We are thankful for the positive feedback that we received from many members of our community, this made our work very rewarding.

We have now resumed our regular [work schedule](#). As usual, emergencies outside of office hours can be reported to the 24/7 [FDFA Helpline \(+41 800 24-7-365 / +41 58 465 33 33\)](#).

Marriage for all enters into force on 01.07.2022

In accordance with the clear result of last year's popular vote, same-sex couples will have the right to marry or convert their registered partnership into a marriage from 01.07.2022 onwards.

Swiss abroad can apply for the conversion of their registered partnership at the Consulate General. We will forward the necessary paperwork to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland.

Newly engaged couples can apply for the marriage preparation procedure at the Consulate General, before travelling to Switzerland for the ceremony.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this process:

shanghai@eda.admin.ch.

You will find detailed information on the website of the [Federal Office of Justice](#) (in German, French and Italian only).

GOODBYE FOR DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

Goodbye Martin and Daniela!

Goodbye to our colleague Martin Baier who actually has already taken office in his new posting in Abuja, Nigeria! We had to sadly say goodbye to him and his wife virtually, given the lockdown in Shanghai. Although our farewell couldn't take place offline, we will remember dearly the nice memories we shared together.



Martin Baier during Kids Day
© Consulate Shanghai

After four years in Beijing and now three years in Shanghai, our dear colleague Daniela will also leave soon to her new posting in Paris. We wish her and her family (cat included) all the best for her new adventure back in Europe. Buon viaggio Daniela!



Daniela Ziliotto-Cengia and colleagues at
Team Building event
© Consulate Shanghai

WELCOME TO THE NEW COLLEAGUES

Mr. Sacha Bachmann, Consul General



© Sacha
Bachmann

Mr. Sacha Bachmann is honored to serve as Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai. Born and raised in Lucerne he joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1997. Until recently he has held the position of Head of Citizen Services in Berne overseeing consular affairs in 90 Swiss consular representations around the globe. Prior to that Mr. Bachmann was posted to Jakarta, Hong Kong, Chicago and Marseille. Moving to yet another vibrant waterfront city he is looking forward to promoting Swiss interests and foster relations in the Yangtze River Delta economic powerhouse. Mr. Bachmann is keen on meeting the Swiss community as well as further exploring Chinese culture and traditions.

Ms. Liliane Küffer, Consular Attaché



© Liliane Küffer

Ms. Liliane Küffer joined the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998. Two years later she moved as an Embassy Attachée to Brussels, followed by Tashkent and New Delhi and then moved back to Switzerland in 2013. After spending a year of training in Consular Affairs in Berlin and Algiers in 2016, she moved then to Nairobi in the Operations Management Division as Deputy Chief of Finance, Personnel and Administration. She is now looking forward to working again in the Consular Affairs section of the Consulate General and to get in touch with the Swiss community in Shanghai. Having never lived in this part Asia before, Ms. Küffer is very excited to discover Shanghai and China.

CONTACT

Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, 22F, Build. A, Far East International Plaza, 319 Xianxia Road, Shanghai

+86 21 6270 0519 | shanghai.newsletter@eda.admin.ch

You are currently subscribed to the Grüezi Shanghai Newsletter of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

[Edit profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Copyright © 2016 FDFA. All rights reserved.

