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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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N° 1
Summer 2023

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

Grüezi Shanghai



Message from Consul General of Switzerland Sacha Bachmann



Dear fellow Swiss citizens,
Dear friends of Switzerland,

We all know about the “China speed”, yet still it takes us by surprise. China reopened faster than most of us anticipated. Zero-Covid gave way to international people-to-people exchanges.

High-level Sino-Swiss visits resumed in March 2023 with Assistant State Secretary of Switzerland for Asia Pacific, Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg as **first official visitor** from Switzerland in Shanghai in three years. A few weeks later, the annual **Swiss Ball** attracted 550 Swiss business community members. Many business executives from headquarters in Switzerland have been travelling to the Yangtze Delta Region (YDR) this year to reconnect with managers in charge of operations in China. It was my pleasure to join CEOs for exchanges and company events. Milestones included anniversaries of operations in China, opening and groundbreaking ceremonies of production sites and flagship stores. Many CEOs shared enlightening insights on their company, industry and strategy.

At our “**So Swiss!**” event in Suzhou on 15 June 2023, we provided food for thought: Experts showcased and discussed Swiss sustainability in construction, healthcare and lifestyle in presence of Mr. Jürg Burri, Swiss Ambassador to China. Further recent highlights included the launch of the **Swi**

ss Education Program at the German School in Shanghai as well as the concert series of the Swiss electropop duo [Sophie de Quay](#).

Increased mutual Sino-Swiss visits led to a sharp increase in visa applications for Switzerland. The Consulate General used to issue about 40'000 visa annually before the pandemic. In June 2023, we reached the monthly pre-pandemic visa volume for the first time, right after having concluded our post-pandemic visa capacity rebuilding. The Swiss Consulate in Shanghai now ranks in the top 5 in terms of issued visa among all Swiss visa sections abroad.

Stay tuned and follow us on Social Media on [Twitter](#), [Weibo](#) and WeChat for updates on our activities, services and events.

I look forward to celebrating the Swiss National Day with many of you in Shanghai on 29 July 2023.

Happy Swiss National Day to all of you!

Sacha Bachmann
Consul General

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Food for thought at So Swiss! in Suzhou

The Consulate General of Switzerland promoted Swiss sustainability in construction, healthcare and lifestyle in presence of Ambassador Jürg Burri at the “So Swiss!” event in Suzhou, a joint endeavor with the Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office and the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU).

Highlights of the event included panel discussions on sustainable architecture and sustainable healthcare. In conversation with Swiss architects Daniel Heusser and Vincent Zhang, experts underlined the importance of providing a citizen-centric approach in urban planning and building design. Swiss companies Novartis, Roche and E.M.S. medical systems emphasized the pivotal role of



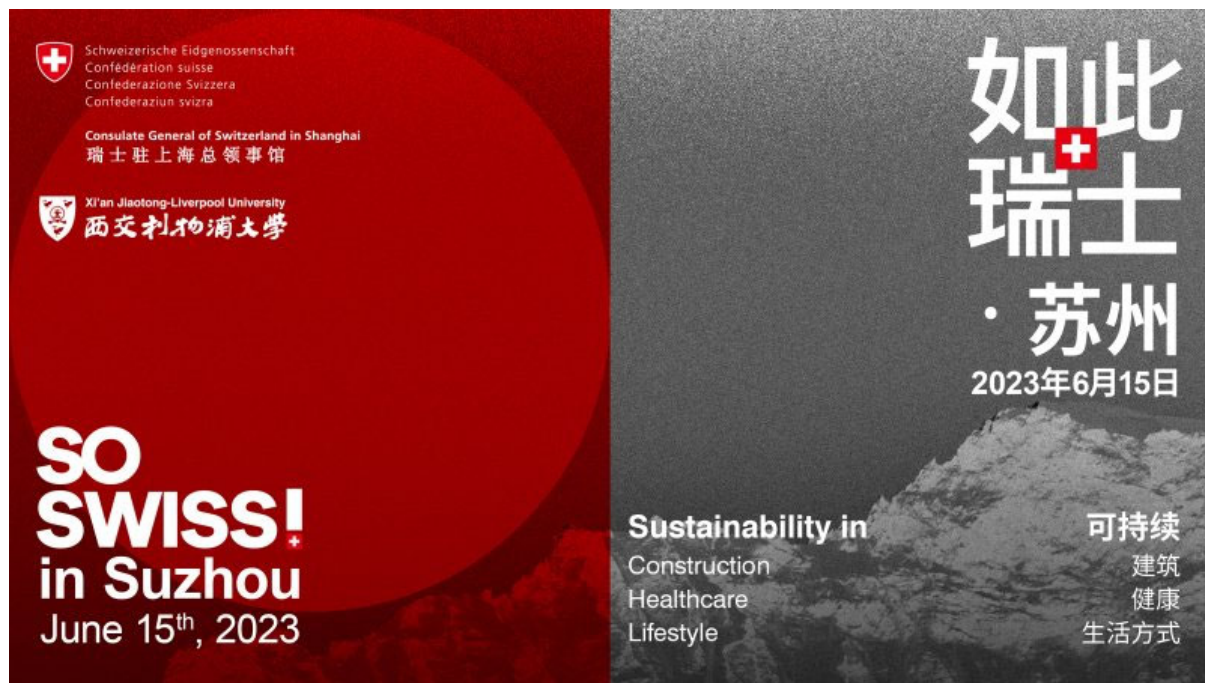
Ambassador Jürg Burri, Consul General Sacha Bachmann, Deputy Secretary General of Suzhou Municipal People's Government Fei Xie and Vice President for Academic Affairs at XJTLU Zhoulin Ruan at the So Swiss! in Suzhou opening ceremony © CG

education, support for research, talent cultivation, and digital transformation to develop a sustainable healthcare ecosystem.

“So Swiss!” in Suzhou also featured the Construction Alps exhibition, showcasing award-winning sustainable architecture projects from the Alps. Swiss companies ABB, Holcim, Jansen, Laufen, Leister, SGS and Sika shared their best practices for sustainable construction.

The event rounded off with presentations on sustainable lifestyle. Switzerland Tourism, Wyeth Nutrition and Swiss International Airlines showcased sustainable travel options, efforts towards reducing CO2 emissions, and initiatives related to greenhouse gas reduction and plastic reduction.

Find [here](#) and [here](#) further information about "So Swiss!" in Suzhou.



ECONOMIC SECTION

Swiss firms continue to invest in the Yangtze River Delta



Many business executives from headquarters in Switzerland have been travelling to the Yangtze Delta Region (YDR) since China reopened



Consul General Sacha Bachmann and Ypsomed CEO Simon Michel at the opening ceremony

this year. Swiss companies continue to invest in the YDR and achieved several notable milestones in recent months.

Bertschi Group opened its new state-of-the-art Chemical Logistics Centre in Zhangjiagang near Shanghai in presence of Executive Chairman Hansjörg Bertschi and Consul General Sacha Bachmann. The facility is Bertschi's largest single investment. Bertschi is pioneering global safe and sustainable door-door supply chain solutions for liquid chemicals to China markets, including global ISOtank shipping, storage, heating, drumming, packed warehousing and distribution as a one-stop-shop. The company is the world's 4th biggest ISOtank fleet operator.

Ypsomed, a Swiss global leader in self-injection systems, is building a manufacturing plant in Changzhou, set to open in 2024. CEO Simon Michel attended the groundbreaking ceremony with Consul General Sacha Bachmann. Ypsomed works with 27 out of the 30 global top pharma companies. Every day more than 10 million patients use their devices.

Georg Fischer (GF) Piping Systems opened its new Yangzhou production site in presence of Consul General Sacha Bachmann, GF CEO Andreas Müller and his delegation. GF has expanded rapidly in China in recent years and reached its all-time high profitability in 2022.



Consul General Sacha Bachmann with CEO Andreas Müller and Georg Fischer Piping Systems delegation at the opening ceremony © GF

Clariant invested CHF 80 million to build a new catalyst production site in Jiaxing near Shanghai. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis attended the opening ceremony with CEO Conrad Keijzer and his delegation.

Huber+Suhner celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Changzhou production site with Consul General Sacha Bachmann and CEO Urs Ryffel. The company provides electrical and optical connectivity solutions for transportation, communication and industry.

CULTURE SECTION

Swiss-French movie "Last Dance" attracts full house



Screening of "Last Dance" at Alliance Française © Consulate of Switzerland in Shanghai

As part of the Francophonie cultural activities, the Consulate General organised screenings of the Swiss-French film *Last Dance* by Delphine Lehericcy at the [Alliance Française Shanghai](#) and at [Tongji University](#). A comedy about ageing and love, the movie screening attracted a full house, testifying to the public's interest in Swiss culture & linguistic

diversity.

Celebrating diversity and inclusion through Swiss culture

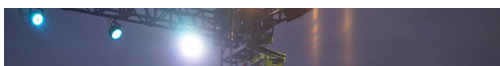
The Consulate hosted two screenings of the Swiss movie [At the Philosopher's School](#) at Petit Chouchou, a local French language club for children. In the movie, five children with mental disabilities experience their first day of school as they navigate life together.

Alongside young members of Petit Chouchou, participants also included children from the Shanghai Sunflower Community Service Center, a local non-profit organization providing education programs and after-school care for migrant children. This cross-section of diverse cultures allowed children to engage with one another and understand differences.



Screening of "At Philosophers' School" at Petit Chouchou © Consulate of Switzerland in Shanghai

Sophie de Quay delights Chinese audiences





Sophie de Quay duo, performing at SISU University in Songjiang © Consulate of Switzerland in Shanghai

The **Sophie de Quay** duo connected well with Chinese audiences at three concerts in Shanghai.

The Swiss musicians were the **first Swiss artists** to perform in China in three years.

Strengthening Swiss identity abroad: language and cultural immersion in Shanghai

The newly-launched **Swiss Education project** at the German School is an exciting new choice for Swiss families in Shanghai. This initiative offers courses centered around Swiss culture, folklore, and celebrations in primary school and lessons on Swiss history, geography, economy, and governing bodies in the secondary school. Additionally, events and activities open to the larger Swiss community in Shanghai complement the program.



Swiss teacher Lisa Stöcklin with her class
© German School Shanghai



Consul Ralph Steinegger (second from the right) and Andres Batista (third from the left) with colleagues from the German School Shanghai © German School Shanghai

The Swiss Education project was launched in March with the attendance of Consul Ralph Steinegger and Andres Batista, President of the Swiss School Association. Funded via the federal law for the development of Swiss schools abroad by the Swiss Confederation, the project offers an educational component that aligns with Swiss culture and traditions to support expatriate families in staying connected to their homeland. For

more details regarding the curriculum contact [Lisa Stöcklin](#), lead teacher of the program. If you are interested in joining the Swiss School Association or engage in its events, please contact [Andres Batista](#), President.

PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI

Swiss dance company present interactive show in Shanghai

In June, the Joshua Monten Dance Company presented *The Pursuit of Happiness*– the first international company to perform at the Shanghai International Dance Centre in 2023. The show was highly interactive, with audiences seated on stage as well as a post-show Q&A where the performers shared their reflections on the search for happiness.



SWISS BUSINESS HUB

Swiss Pavilion at the 27th China Beauty Expo in Shanghai



Swiss Pavillion at the China Beauty Expo
© Swiss Business Hub

In May, Swiss Business Hub China, in cooperation with Switzerland Global Enterprise, operated and managed the [Swiss Pavilion](#) at the 27th China Beauty Expo in Shanghai with great success. The pavilion exhibited various product categories comprising skin care, oral care and household cleaning, featuring 10 premium Swiss brands: Callys, Dr Wild, Durgol, La Pulovce,

L'ALPAGE Cosmetics SA, SatisFeet, SwissEve, SwissGetal, TAL, and Weleda.

Sacha Bachmann, Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai, and Joel

Saurina, Head of the Swiss Business Hub China, attended the Swiss Pavilion and exchanged views with representatives of the Swiss entrepreneurs and associations. Switzerland Global Enterprise (Swiss Business Hub China) was honored to receive the “Global Cosmetic Industry Contribution Award” this year, a further recognition that the spirit of Swiss craftsmanship is also evident in the development and production of beauty products.

SWISSNEX IN CHINA

Come explore China's latest innovation trends with Swissnex!

As our world becomes more interconnected while technologies advance at an unprecedented pace, organizations hope to stay ahead of the curve by delving into the latest innovation trends. In this context, Swissnex is uniquely positioned to serve as a platform for innovation exploration in China through its multidisciplinary projects and initiatives.



InCube project © Swissnex in China

In March, we connected our community with scientists and filmmakers around the world at the [China Screening of the Global Science Film Festival](#). Our [Metanight](#) event, co-organized with Swiss startup Sensoryx, provided a platform for innovators and forward-thinkers to exchange opportunities relating to the metaverse in art, education, and industry.

In April, an academia-industry [roundtable](#) was held in Shenzhen to examine the impact of AI & Industry 4.0 on design, sharing the latest sustainable practices. To raise awareness of energy transition and carbon-neutral solutions, we brought the Swiss [virtual board game SARNETZ](#) to China, as an innovative pedagogical tool. In addition, our [2023 Energy & Environment Launchpad](#) powered by Innosuisse will provide Swiss startups with an overview of opportunities and challenges in China's Renewable Energy and Environment Technology markets.

In May, Swissnex curated the first [Sino-Swiss Workshop on Research Integrity](#) with its partners to encourage bilateral dialogue and build an improved common understanding of research integrity. A [White Paper](#) was published with the aims to provide Sino-Swiss ERI collaborations with a stronger and more sustainable contextual framework.

We organized this year's [Swiss Alumni China](#) in People's Park at the beginning of June, where nine university chapters introduced their latest updates. This event gave the alumni the opportunity to re-connect and strengthen the ties amongst them. Check out our recap video [here](#).

Looking ahead, Swissnex has several exciting projects in the pipeline. Working with Bühler, we will bring the ETH Entrepreneur Club's [InCube Challenge](#) to China, convening young innovators from around the world together in a single glass cube to tackle challenges in the field of foodtech. Our public audiences can also look forward to two interdisciplinary expositions: Triggered by Motion, which confronts the pressing question of biodiversity conservation, and Cosmos Archaeology, which will leave you mesmerized by the unsolved mysteries of our galaxy.

Stay tuned for more exciting news and projects: visit the [website](#), follow Swissnex on [LinkedIn](#), WeChat (swissnex) and [Weibo](#), or sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#).

SWISSCHAM SHANGHAI

Ambassador Burri & Business leaders share insights at Business & Diplomacy Briefing



Business & Diplomacy Briefing with Ambassador Jürg Burri (third from right) and panelists Jenny Gu (second from right) and Andy Wälti (third from left).

Ambassador Jürg Burri, Jenny Gu (CEO of Richemont China), Andy Wälti (Vice President & Head of Region China & APAC at Clariant) shared insights related to economic post-COVID recovery and growth on June 13. Find [here](#) more information about the event.

Optimizing Cash Management and Treasury in China

SwissCham Shanghai joined forces with its Financial & Tax Committee



to present "Cash Management and Treasury in China" event on June 16. Members of SwissCham welcomed distinguished experts from China's Central Bank (PBoC), HSBC, and PwC as keynote speakers, who shared helpful tips and strategies regarding optimizing cash flow and treasury operations within Chinese markets. Find [here](#) for the full review of the event.



Cash Management and Treasury in China event speakers with Finance & Tax Committee Members © SwissCham Shanghai

SwissCham Shanghai forms new industry committees

SwissCham Shanghai has recently formed seven industry-focused committees for specific sectors including legal, finance/tax, HR, tech/innovation, advanced engineering/manufacturing, lifestyle/hospitality, and life sciences. These new committees provide SwissCham Shanghai's members specialized spaces where to access targeted resources and connections. This restructuring aims to enhance the overall communications between SwissCham with its member organizations.

[Legal Committee](#)

[Finance & Tax Committee](#)

[HR Committee](#)

[Technology & Innovation Committee](#)

[Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing Committee](#)

[Lifestyle & Hospitality Committee](#)

[Lifescience Committee](#)

To find out more about SwissCham Shanghai, please contact Member Relations Manager Haley Lu by email haley.lu@sha.swisscham.org or visit the website www.swisscham.org/shanghai.

SWISS CENTERS IN CHINA

Confidence in China returns: results of the 2023 Swiss Business in China Survey show optimism for future



Decision makers of Swiss enterprises in China have regained their confidence after the end of zero-Covid policies in the second largest economy of the world. This is what emerged from the "Swiss Business in China Survey 2023": the recent survey shows that 62% of respondents expect higher or substantially higher profits in China in 2023 compared to the year

before. "During the pre-pandemic years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, 48% of companies expected higher profits when compared to the previous year. However, the proportion of Swiss firms expecting lower profits increased to 13% in the 2023 survey while the three pre-pandemic years average was 7%," states Nicolas Musy, Delegate of the Board of the Swiss Centers Group, a non-profit organization that lowers the Asian market entry hurdles for Swiss enterprises. "More importantly, the confidence now is higher than even in the recent pre-pandemic years. We have developed the confidence index first in 2014. And we have to go back to that year to reach a higher result than the post zero-COVID confidence level of 2023."

Read [here](#) the complete press release and download the full survey [here](#).

SWISS CLUB SHANGHAI

Mark your calendar: Swiss National Day celebration coming up on July 29

The [Swiss Club Shanghai](#) is delighted to invite all members, Swiss citizens, and friends of Switzerland to the Swiss National Day Celebration on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Primus Hotel in Hongqiao.

The event will take place in the hotel's Executive Lounge, which features a spacious outdoor terrace perfect for festivities. Guests will savour delectable dishes prepared by Swiss chef Rolf Wieser, including

**SCHWEIZER NATIONALFEIERTAG
FETE NATIONALE SUISSE
FESTA NATIONALE SVIZZERA
FESTA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA**

**Saturday
29th July 2023
Registration:
17:00 – 18:00**

**The Primus Hotel Shanghai Hongqiao
@Primus Executive Lounge and Terrace (3rd fl.)
100 Lane 1588, Zhuguang Rd
Xujing Town, Qingpu, Shanghai
上海市青浦区徐泾镇诸光路
1588弄100号**

**18:00 – 20:00 Dinner
17:00 – 22:00 Free flow**

The price includes Swiss wine, beer, sparkling wine, soft drinks, coffee. Buffet with Swiss specialties, BBQ and Raclette station.

- Music and Kids entertainment
- Great prizes to win at the lucky draw

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

classics such as Zürich

Geschnetzeltes, Röstli, open-air

barbecue, raclette, and ice cream buffet. These culinary treats will be complemented by free flow of Swiss wine, beer, sparkling wine, soft drinks, and coffee. To keep young guests entertained, the hotel provides a play area where kids can play under supervision while also enjoying fun games and other activities. As always, there will be a lucky draw held during the event featuring incredible prize giveaways.

The Swiss Club looks forward to seeing you all the Primus Hotel on July 29 to celebrate the Swiss National Day together, in a great location, in a relaxed atmosphere, and with delicious food and beverages.

Please send your registration (and/or inquiry to become a member) to:
(events@swissclubshanghai.org) until July 26th 2023

SWITZERLAND TOURISM

Get ready for Switzerland's summer adventure



© Switzerland Tourism

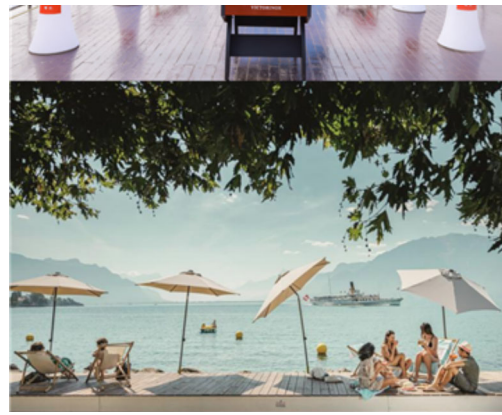
After experiencing a strong rebound in tourism following COVID-19 in 2022, the Swiss inbound tourism industry had an impressive start to 2023. During the first quarter of the year, Switzerland recorded a total of 9,471,721 overnight stays, a growth of 1.8% compared to the previous record year of 2019. Visitors from Southeast Asia, Brazil, Switzerland

itself, the US, and countries from the Gulf region contributed most towards this upswing. Lifting of restrictions from Mainland China led to substantial spike in airline bookings jumping 837% higher than same period last year as well as 29.6% quickened turnaround amongst passengers arriving from Greater China. Although certain constraints persist in terms of accommodating guests, Switzerland Tourism remains optimistic that visitor numbers from China will continue to grow steadily during the forthcoming months.

Switzerland Tourism launched “We need summer in the city - We need Switzerland” campaign on June 8, 2023, in Shanghai. A refreshing dip in the lake, river or fountain, relaxing



walks in picturesque cities, etc.. In Switzerland, tourists can have it all! Enjoy a summer vacation with a *Swisstainable* twist and the various offers available for tour itineraries and the Swiss travel pass campaign in cooperation with Trip.com / E-vision of promotional materials in its mini program. Find [here](#) more information about the campaign.



"We need summer in the city - We need Switzerland" campaign images © Switzerland Tourism

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Infrastructure upgrades at the Consulate General in Shanghai

We highly recommend that you check the validity of your passports not only but especially in this travel peak season. The Consulate now features a newly installed biometric data capture device: a self-service style kiosk machine and a countertop model suitable for passport, ID card & visa processing. If you need a new Swiss passport and/or ID, please submit your application on the following website: www.schweizerpass.ch / www.passeportsuisse.ch. We are happy to support you if you require any assistance.

"Aging Abroad" webinar: estate planning for Swiss Abroad



The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) SwissCommunity, the FDFA, Soliswiss and other experts jointly held a webinar on estate planning on June 13, 2023. The webinar provided Swiss nationals who have emigrated or are planning to emigrate an overview of the relevant topics and issues and to

© FDFA

support them in tackling estate
planning responsibly and at an early

stage, including application and procedure of inheritance law applies and
AHV-related matters.

Watch the recording of the webinar in [German](#) or [French](#).

Visa appointments

After years of restricted international travelling, the demand for Schengen visas has dramatically increased since the beginning of 2023. Most Schengen representations are not yet in the position to supply sufficient visa appointment slots this year despite efforts to increase capacities.

The Consulate General of Switzerland has acted swiftly and increased its personnel resources to pre-pandemic level. We release new appointment slots several times per week, which makes it usually possible to find an appointment within the next 2 to 3 weeks, travellers are advised to regularly check the online appointment calendar.

Should it in exceptional cases not be possible to secure an appointment slot in time, relatives of Swiss citizens or business travellers going to Switzerland may directly contact the visa section (shanghai.visa@eda.admin.ch) and request a special appointment slot by providing proof of a connection to Switzerland (e.g. invitation letter from a Swiss company, Swiss family booklet). No special appointments can be granted if the purpose of travelling is tourism.

As always, spouses of Swiss citizens do not need an appointment and can apply free of charge and directly at the Consulate General. If you do not know the required documents for the visa file anymore, please send us an email to: shanghai.visa@eda.admin.ch.

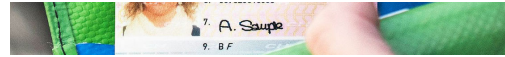
Beware of travel agencies that offer visa appointments for a fee. These agencies do not have privileged access and cannot guarantee appointments; their offers are often fraudulent. Instead, proceed as described above to book your appointment.

Swiss driving license

The blue driving license in paper



format will lose its validity on November 1, 2024. Persons residing in Switzerland can exchange the paper format license into a credit card format license until October 31, 2024. Its holders are requested to contact the issuing cantonal road traffic office.



© FDFA

The new Swiss driving license is available since April 15, 2023 and is mainly for persons residing in Switzerland. Further information can be found on the following websites: [Federal Roads Office FEDRO](#) / [Vereinigung der Strassenverkehrsämter asa](#).

Swiss citizens living abroad need to deregister with the previous cantonal traffic office when moving out of Switzerland and the Swiss driving license needs to be converted into a local driving license. Please follow the local law and exchange your Swiss driving license within the deadline. If the Chinese authorities require a translation of your driving license, the Swiss Consulate can translate your old Swiss license into English.

If you want to drive during your next trip to Switzerland, any recognised valid national or international driving license will be sufficient. The motor vehicle categories must be documented explicitly, accurate and in a Swiss national, Latin or English language.

NEW ARRIVALS



From left to right: Duy Quang Nguyen, Chen Pan, Michèle Burger, Jia Pan (Julia), Joel Chea

The Consulate of Switzerland in Shanghai is pleased to announce that several highly qualified professionals have recently joined its staff. With diverse skills and experiences, these colleagues will enhance the quality of services provided to Swiss citizens living in the Yangtze Delta Region and international visitors alike.

Warm welcome to Duy Quang Nguyen, Michèle Burger, Jia Pan (Julia) and Joel Chea who join the Visa section and to Chen Pan who joins the Economic section.

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