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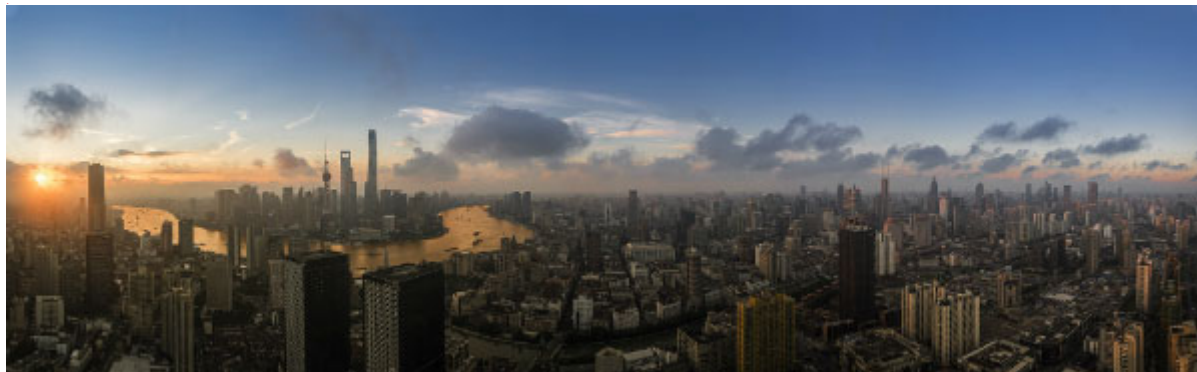


Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

N° 2  
Winter 2023

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

## Grüezi Shanghai



### Message from the Consul General of Switzerland, Sacha Bachmann



Dear fellow Swiss citizens,  
Dear friends of Switzerland,

Supporting Swiss companies in the Yangtze Delta is a key priority for the Consulate General. I have been busy meeting many Swiss business executives as international business exchanges have further intensified.

China remains an important market for Swiss companies. Together with my team, we have witnessed no fewer than ten Swiss factory openings in the Yangtze Delta this year: Ammann Group, Bertschi Group, Clariant, Georg Fischer Piping Systems, Hoerbiger, Phoenix Mecano, Pureon, SID, Sika, and Stäubli. These companies have all invested heavily in new or additional facilities in 2023.

Further business-related activities this year included the third edition of our own "So Swiss!" event. We connected 12 Swiss companies with Anhui businesses and high-level government officials in Hefei. The Sino-Swiss Business Reception at the 6th China International Import Exhibition (CIIE) in Shanghai attracted a record number of 260 guests with Ambassador Jürg Burri as guest of honor. We were also pleased to welcome Switzerland Global Enterprise CEO, Simone Wyss Fedele, to Shanghai on her first visit to China. And the 35th IBLAC Forum (International Business Leaders' Advisory Council for the Mayor of Shanghai) saw the return of the Chairmen of Swiss multinational companies Roche, Novartis and ABB.

Recent Sino-Swiss cultural exchanges included performances of the world-renowned Béjart Ballet Lausanne at the Shanghai Culture Square, as well as the iconic Montreux Jazz Festival China (MJFC) on the shores of Yangcheng Lake in Suzhou. The MJFC featured Swiss artists Bastian Baker, Julia Heart, Jessiquoi, Stevans and The Two Romans among the 140 musicians from 28 countries.

The demand for Schengen visas has further risen and kept our visa section very busy. The Swiss Consulate in Shanghai now ranks among the top four Swiss visa sections abroad in terms of the number of visas issued.

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

I wish you and your families a happy holiday season as well as a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sacha Bachmann  
Consul General

## Public Diplomacy

### So Swiss! in Hefei

The Consulate General promoted Swissness in the region with another “So Swiss!” event in Hefei in October. Swiss innovation and the demand in the Chinese market complemented each other very well. The third edition of the “So Swiss!” event themed “Healthy & Sustainable by Design” successfully initiated many business-to-business as well as business-to-government contacts. Experts and Swiss business representatives discussed sustainability in MedTech innovation, lifestyle and public healthcare development.



Consul General Sacha Bachmann and Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis with Public Diplomacy team © Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

## Economic Section

### The 6th China International Import Expo and Sino-Swiss Business Reception 2023



Swiss Business community gathered at the Sino-Swiss Business Reception © Swiss Centers

The Ambassador of Switzerland to China Jürg Burri joined the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in November. He visited many Swiss company booths with Consul General Sacha Bachmann. Around 50 Swiss companies from various industries showcased their products and services at Shanghai's biggest annual trade fair.

The Sino-Swiss Business Reception at the CIIE attracted a record number of 260 guests including business delegations from Switzerland. This traditional Swiss networking event was co-hosted by the Consulate General and Swiss Centers, with a keynote speech from Ambassador Jürg Burri.

### Swiss innovation thrives in the Yangtze River Delta

China remains an important market for Swiss companies. The Consul General and his team witnessed no fewer than ten Swiss factory openings in the Yangtze Delta this year, further cementing their commitment to the Chinese market.

The **Ammann Group** opened its new asphalt-mixing plant facility in Zhangjiagang near Shanghai. The family-owned business, now in its sixth generation, is "sustainably manufacturing sustainable plants" according to CEO Hans-Christian Schneider.

**Hoerbiger**, a manufacturer of key components for pneumatic and hydraulic systems for vehicles and machine tools, opened its new manufacturing site in Changzhou.

**Phoenix Mecano** opened a new industrial park in Jiaxing featuring a research and development center and highly automated manufacturing facilities, which will deliver products to the global market. Its drive technology is widely used in smart furniture.

**Pureon** entered the Chinese market and opened a manufacturing plant in Zhangjiagang to provide polishing solutions for high-tech materials.

**SID SA**, a manufacturer of waste pre-treatment equipment, expanded its presence in China with a new factory in Changzhou near Shanghai.

**Sika**, a specialty chemicals company, celebrated its 30th Chinese anniversary and the opening of its new APAC R&D Center in Suzhou.

**Stäubli** inaugurated a new facility in Hangzhou. Its new Yin Hai building will serve as a manufacturing base for Stäubli's key industries: textile, robotics, fluid, and electrical connectors.

The Consulate General wishes all the Swiss companies in China continued success in the future.

## Culture Section

### Béjart Ballet back on stage in Shanghai



Consul General Sacha Bachmann meets  
Béjart Ballet artistic director Gil Roman ©  
Consulate General of Switzerland in  
Shanghai

After a three-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the 22nd China Shanghai International Arts Festival returned with a bang. The world-renowned Béjart Ballet Lausanne performed *Tous les hommes presque toujours s'imaginent* and *7 danses grecques* at the Shanghai Culture Square. Consul General Sacha Bachmann had the pleasure to watch the performance and meet the troupe's artistic director Gil Roman.

### Local school students discover Switzerland

20 students from local primary and middle schools visited the Consulate General to learn about Switzerland in October. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis greeted the students and engaged in a lively Q&A

session. Each child received a Happy Lilly DIY kit and painted a traditional Swiss wooden cow. The visit showcased Switzerland's rich culture beyond chocolate and watches.



Group picture of students with Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis © Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

## Celebrating Switzerland's multilingualism at the Settimana della Lingua Italiana 2023



Audience at the film screening of "Becoming Giulia" in occasion of the Settimana della Lingua Italiana 2023 © Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

In honor of World Italian Language Week's 23rd anniversary, the Consulate hosted a film screening of the Swiss documentary *Becoming Giulia*. The film tells the story of Giulia Tonelli, prima ballerina of the Zurich Opera House, as she returns to work following her maternity leave. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis welcomed the audience in Italian and spoke about Switzerland's multilingualism and cultural diversity. Among the guests were three wheelchair dancers from

Jiading District's Dancing Group of Disabled People, who participated in the Diverse As We Are - International Festival of Inclusive Culture in Shanghai (DAWA) program last year.

## Montreux Jazz Festival China on the shores of Lake Yangcheng in Suzhou

The iconic Montreux Jazz Festival China (MJFC) on the shores of





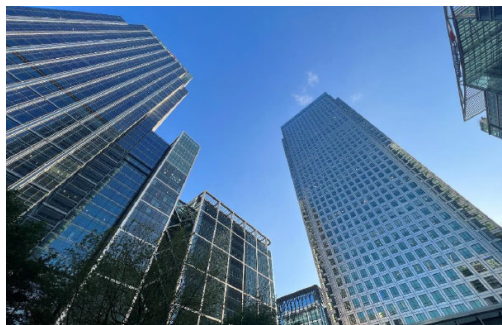
Yangcheng Lake in Suzhou featured Swiss artists Bastian Baker, Julia Heart, Jessiquoi, Stevans and The Two Romans among the 140 musicians from 28 countries.



© MJFC

## CONSULAR AFFAIRS

### Webinar: banking issues for the Swiss abroad



© FDFA

On December 13, the Consular Directorate of the FDFA, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and the Soliswiss Cooperative will hold a webinar on banking issues for Swiss nationals living abroad. The webinar will focus on the challenges faced by Swiss nationals to maintain banking

relationships with Swiss banks while living abroad, and will offer practical solutions to these difficulties. If you can't attend the webinar, it will be made available on the [OSA](#) and [Soliswiss](#) websites after December 13. For any questions, please email [webinar@eda.admin.ch](mailto:webinar@eda.admin.ch).

### China joins the Hague Apostille Convention

The Chinese government officially joined the Hague Apostille Convention on November 7, 2023, a move that will make the authentication of documents for use in another member state significantly easier.

With immediate effect, public documents within the scope of the Convention no longer require legalization by Chinese authorities or Swiss representations in China but require an apostille instead. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in China is the competent authority for issuing apostilles for public documents issued in Mainland China. Entrusted by the Ministry, the Foreign Affairs Offices of relevant local governments in China can issue apostilles for public documents issued within their respective administrative areas. Please check the leaflet [on our website](#) with the contacts of all Foreign Affairs Offices which

are entitled to issue apostilles. For the specific procedures and requirements of applying for apostilles, please visit the [website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in China](#).

Similarly, public documents within the scope of the Convention issued by the authorities of Switzerland, a member of the Hague Apostille Convention since January 10, 1973, must be apostilled before use in Mainland China.

Therefore, the step of a legalization by both the Swiss authorities and the Swiss representations in China is no longer necessary. The completion of an apostille issued by relevant Swiss authorities does not guarantee the acceptance of the public document in China. It is recommended to check the requirements of format, content, time limit, translation, etc. with the relevant party in China before any further procedure.

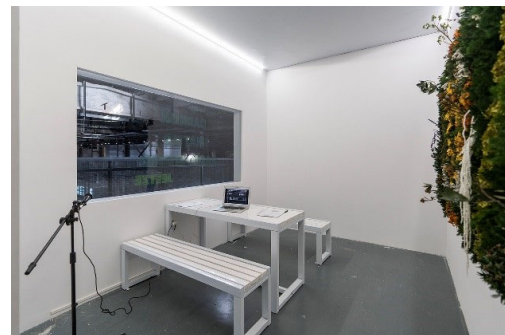
## PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI

### knowbotiq's research trip & exhibition

- Group exhibition at the Ming Contemporary Art Museum (McaM): November 3, 2023-February 24, 2024
- Research trip at CAC: December 2-23, 2023
- Showcase at CAC: December 9, 2023-February 25, 2024

knowbotiq (Yvonne Wilhelm, Christian Huebler) is a Swiss duo with a professorship at the

University of the Arts Zurich. Their installation *Darkish Matter Radio Studio* is on display as part of the group exhibition *Postscript of Silence* at McaM Shanghai. Originally located in the village of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, this radio station is now covered with local medicinal plants from Shanghai that serve acoustic and mental purposes. During their research trip at Chronus Art Center (CAC), knowbotiq will expand their "trans-local" method to explore the topic of local carbon policy and carbon imaginations and flows. Accompanying their trip is a showcase of three multi-media installation pieces at the exhibition *Gold and Mercury You can find it when you face the sun, close your eyes*.



knowbotiq, *Darkish Matter Radio Studio*  
Jeetze (DMRS Jeetze), installation view at  
*Postscript of Silence*, © McaM Shanghai

## SWISS BUSINESS HUB

### Swiss Pavilion launched for the first time at Marintec China 2023



Swiss Pavillion at Marintec 2023 © SBH

Marintec is the most authoritative B2B platform for the international maritime industry. For the first time, Swiss Business Hub China, in cooperation with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE), organized and managed the Swiss Pavilion at the fair from 5-8 December.

The pavilion featured nine exhibitors presenting a range of innovative solutions including sealant adhesives, hydraulic valves, engine components, a compressor systems, piping systems, filters, flow measurement technology, high-pressure apparatus, surface technology, and energy storage solutions. Many of them are hidden champions in their specific sector, contributing to the sustainable future of the maritime industry.

On December 5, Consul General Sacha Bachmann and Head of Swiss Business Hub China Joël Saurina visited the Swiss Pavilion and had in-depth discussions with the Swiss exhibitors.

### CEO of Switzerland Global Enterprise, Simone Wyss Fedele, visits China

Simone Wyss Fedele, CEO of Switzerland Global Enterprise, embarked on her first business trip to China on October 24, focusing on strengthening Sino-Swiss trade and investment ties. In Shanghai, she engaged with the Swiss business community, visited Swiss companies, and was impressed by the dynamism of Swiss business in the region. In Beijing, she engaged



Group picture with Simone Wyss Fedele, Consul General Sacha Bachmann, Head of



further with Sino-Swiss businesses. Throughout her visit, Ms. Wyss Fedele aimed to strengthen partnerships and ties between China and Switzerland by connecting with key business stakeholders in Shanghai and Beijing.

Swiss Business Hub Joël Saurina and representatives of Swiss businesses © Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

## Swissnex in China



Swissnex in China 15th Anniversary © Swissnex in China

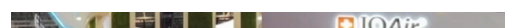
For the past 15 years, Swissnex has facilitated collaboration and partnerships between Switzerland and China in education, research, and innovation. The team has supported Swiss startups in exploring and expanding in the Chinese market, hosting six startups at Tech G Shanghai this fall.

Swiss corporates like Debiopharm, PostFinance and Swiss Railways have also received support to navigate China's complex innovation landscape through curated scouting tours. Swissnex actively encourages academic exchange, recently collaborating with ETH Entrepreneur Club's InCube Challenge and Bühler to promote entrepreneurial talent mobility across borders. Numerous interdisciplinary Swiss projects have been introduced to the Chinese public as well, with upcoming collaborations with UZH and EPFL, which will delve into biodiversity conservation and the mysteries of the cosmos.

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

**From the CIIE to the Future: a glimpse into the success of the 6th CIIE and what's next for Swiss businesses in China**



The 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai successfully concluded in November. Thanks to an exceptional collaboration with Novartis, SwissCham was able to host its Swiss Corner within the Novartis CIIE pavillion.

As part of the exhibition, SwissCham conducted a captivating series of interviews to promote companies within the Swiss business community in China. Find the full series of interviews on SwissCham's Wechat account (ID: SwissChamShanghai).



Executive Director Vittoria Pesenti interviewing guests at CIIE © SwissCham Shanghai

Looking ahead, SwissCham will be hosting the Sino-Swiss FTA Roundtable Series at key industrial clusters within the Yangzi River Delta region in 2024. In addition, the next Swiss Ball will commemorate the Chamber's 30th anniversary. More details to follow on both events.

## Swiss Centers in China

### Swiss Centers booth shines at the China International Import Expo



Swiss Centers' booth at CIIE © Swiss Centers

In November, Swiss Centers held a booth at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) with 27 Swiss brands, from chocolate to skincare to Swiss wines. As the first post-pandemic fair, it was great to see exhibitors travel from Switzerland. The fair was very successful: visitor numbers returned to pre-pandemic levels, exhibitors made crucial contacts with potential Chinese

clients and distributors, and media exposure was exceptional.

Ambassador Jürg Burri and Consul General Sacha Bachmann visited the booth, tasted products, and inquired about companies' fair and China market

experiences. On the evening of November 7, Swiss Centers and the Consulate General hosted the Sino-Swiss Business Reception, where Ambassador Burri gave a keynote to 260 Shanghai business representatives.

## Exciting insights about innovation in China in Swiss Centers' "Fact-finding mission: (Re)discovery of China"

A delegation of 14 executives from Swiss private and public organizations recently visited companies in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Shenzhen. In Shanghai, they toured the CIIE and visited Schindler China, AI pioneer DeepBlue, Tigermed clinical research, and AliCloud in Hangzhou. In Shenzhen, known as China's innovation hub, they visited drone maker DJI, EV automaker BYD, and telecom giant Huawei.



Swiss Centers delegation at the CIIE ©  
Swiss Centers

These visits enabled participants to experience China's rapid technological development first-hand and have candid conversations with executives about successes and challenges. Through a week of invaluable discussions and fascinating insights, the participants gained greater understanding of China's innovative capabilities.

### Swiss Club Shanghai



© Swiss Club

Swiss Club Shanghai, established in 1998, is a social and cultural organization providing a platform for the Swiss community and their international friends in the Yangtze Delta Area. Swiss Club hosts various social events, including the Swiss National Day Celebration, among others.

### Upcoming events in 2024:

- March 31: Easter Brunch
- May 17: Swiss Club Shanghai AGM
- June/July: European Football Championship 2024 Public Viewings
- July 27: Swiss National Day Party
- September 14: Welcome Back Event
- December 1: Samichlaus (Santa) Event

Swiss Club Shanghai also organizes a Jass evening on the last Monday of each month, where friends can play, laugh, and have a joyful time in a relaxed atmosphere. To join a game, get in touch by [email](#) or by WeChat (15618425725). To learn more about Swiss Club and how to become a member, visit the Swiss Club [website](#).

## Become a representative of the Swiss Abroad

The Swiss expatriate community in mainland China is entitled to one delegate in the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA). Swiss citizens living in mainland China with proficiency in either German or French have the opportunity to fill this vacant position.



© Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

The applicant must be willing to maintain contacts with the Swiss community in China and be able to travel to Switzerland twice a year. While the delegate will receive a modest meeting attendance fee from the CSA, travel costs must be covered independently. [See full list of responsibilities and qualifications](#). Interested candidates are invited to submit their application by email, including a motivation letter, to the [Swiss Club Beijing](#) or [Swiss Club Shanghai](#) by March 31, 2024. The election of the future delegate will take place at the Annual General Meetings of the Swiss Clubs in early spring. Any Swiss citizen is welcome to join the AGMs and vote, even if they are not members of the Swiss Club.

*The [Organization of the Swiss Abroad](#) has represented the overall interests of Swiss nationals abroad in Switzerland since 1916 and is recognized by the authorities as the mouthpiece of the Swiss living all around the world. The Council of the Swiss Abroad meets twice per year. At their conferences, the delegates discuss current political topics concerning the Swiss abroad. They make resolutions which are then submitted to the competent authorities. The CSA comprises 140 members.*



## Swiss School Association



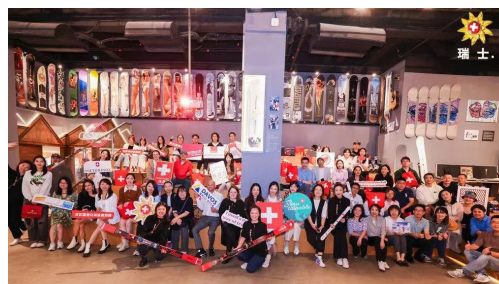
Geneva's traditional chocolate marmite in occasion of l'Escalade © Andrès Batista

The Swiss School Association continued building the Swiss education program at the Deutsche Schule Shanghai this fall. A Swiss section opened in the school library, seeded with books and games about Switzerland. In December, students will celebrate Geneva's *Escalade* tradition, commemorating the 17th century victory over the invasion attempt by the Duke of Savoy. Students will learn about this tradition and smash chocolate marmites filled with almond-paste candy specially brought from Geneva. This activity introduces a series of events highlighting specific cantons' unique history and

heritage. Upcoming canton-themed events will deepen students' understanding of Switzerland's diversity. By integrating Swiss education with local cantonal traditions, the Swiss School Association continues to seek and develop stronger cultural connections.

## Switzerland Tourism

From January to August 2023, Mainland China visitors enjoyed 495,292 nights in Switzerland, with a significant 372,246-night spike during the summer – a remarkable 41% rebound from 2019 figures. As the snow season approaches, Switzerland Tourism anticipates the return of Chinese snow enthusiasts, fueled by the "I need a perfect snow holiday, I need Switzerland" campaign, specially tailored for the Chinese



© Switzerland Tourism

market.



© Switzerland Tourism

Switzerland offers excellent snow conditions, advanced infrastructure, and a variety of winter sports and cultural experiences. With the enhanced RIDE & SLIDE 2.0 service, visitors are assured a smooth and unforgettable winter journey, complete with enticing discounts and exclusive packages.

Highlighting the season's allure,

promotional videos featuring Swiss alpine skier Marco Odermatt, provide a glimpse into the world of Swiss winter sports. In collaboration with Trip.com, Switzerland Tourism continues its winter promotion initiative. For more information into the Swiss winter wonderland or to plan the next summer escape, visit the [website](#) of Switzerland Tourism.

## CONTACT

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