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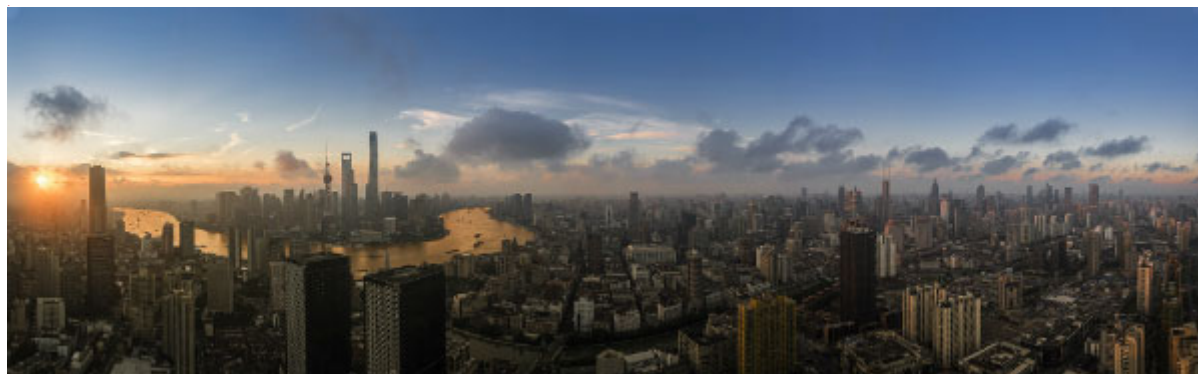


Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
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N° 2  
Winter 2024

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,

2024 has been a year full of significant Sino-Swiss milestones. High-level exchanges intensified. The visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang to Switzerland in January 2024 set the tone for the year. His

meeting with Swiss President Viola Amherd underlined the importance of Switzerland to China. In return, the 5-day China visit of Swiss Economics, Education and Research Minister Guy Parmelin in July 2024 emphasized the importance of China to Switzerland. Both countries agreed to open talks on modernizing the existing bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Switzerland and China.

The visit of the Swiss Federal Assembly's EFTA/EU Delegation in November 2024 was all about free trade too. Given its mandate to promote Switzerland's foreign economic policy, the Delegation is maintaining close relations with states, with which Switzerland is negotiating or modernizing a free trade agreement (mainly but not exclusively in Europe). The Consulate General organized CEO roundtables in Shanghai and Suzhou for Swiss business executives to share their insights with the members of the Swiss Parliament.

Swiss companies continued to invest in new or additional facilities in the Yangtze River Delta (YRD). It has been a pleasure to attend ribbon cutting

and lion eye-dotting ceremonies to celebrate Swiss business milestones. Swiss companies Biosynth, Bystronic, Carlo Gavazzi, LNS, Mikron, Roche Diagnostics and Rossi inaugurated new facilities in and around Shanghai.

The Consulate General's inaugural Swiss Night Reception with 300 guests stood out among many highlights. For the very first time we connected all of our stakeholders under one roof and welcomed key note speaker Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg, Assistant State Secretary for Asia Pacific. Together we multiplied Swissness on historic 12 September, on which 176 years ago, the constitution that shaped modern Switzerland was adopted – a rock-solid foundation for Swiss democracy and the modern Swiss success story. Further public diplomacy activities included the fourth edition of our own “So Swiss!” event in Changzhou in July 2024. Panelists discussed free trade, investment opportunities in Switzerland as well as female business leadership.

The Sino-Swiss Business Reception at the 7<sup>th</sup> China International Import Exhibition (CIIE) in Shanghai attracted a record number of 360 guests with Ambassador Jürg Burri as guest of honor. 78 Swiss companies and brands (more than ever before) showcased their products and services at CIIE 2024. The 36<sup>th</sup> IBLAC Forum (International Business Leaders' Advisory Council for the Mayor of Shanghai) provided an opportunity to exchange views with the Chairmen of Swiss multinational companies Roche, Novartis & Swiss Re.

Recent Sino-Swiss cultural exchanges included the iconic Montreux Jazz Festival China (MJFC) on the shores of Jinji Lake. More than 100 musicians performed at the beautifully located Suzhou Arts and Cultural Center. Further recent highlights included the visit to Shanghai of Swiss Astronaut Claude Nicollier, Lucerne Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, and Swiss Arbitration expert Felix Dasser.

The Schengen visa demand further rose and kept our visa section very busy. With more than 50'000 visa issued, the Swiss Consulate in Shanghai is now the second largest Swiss visa section worldwide in terms of visa volume.

Stay tuned and follow us on Social Media on [Twitter \(X\)](#), 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

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## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

### Swiss Night 2024 – Connecting everything Swiss under one roof



On 12 September 2024, the 176th anniversary of the Swiss Federal Constitution, the inaugural Swiss Night attracted 300 guests in Shanghai. For the first time, the Consulate General successfully brought its stakeholders together under one roof. Swiss business leaders mingled with diplomats and

government officials, creating a vibrant atmosphere. The flagship Swiss Night reception served as an exclusive platform to enhance ties between China and Switzerland. In his opening remarks, Consul General Sacha Bachmann highlighted the successful Swiss business community in Shanghai and its significant contributions to Swiss prosperity and Sino-Swiss relations. Keynote speakers included H.E. Ambassador Heinrich Schellenberg, Assistant State Secretary for Asia Pacific, and Schindler China CEO Daryoush Ziai. Many thanks to the Swiss Night 2024 sponsors for their valuable support:



## ECONOMY

### Swiss EFTA/EU delegation visits Shanghai



The Swiss Federal Assembly's EFTA/EU delegation, led by Committee President Thomas Aeschi, alongside delegates Hans-Peter Portmann and Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter, received a warm welcome from Consul General Sacha Bachmann in Shanghai.

Their visit was marked by an insightful working dinner with Swiss business executives at the Swiss Residence, where they received an overview of the 2024 Swiss Business in China Survey. In Suzhou, the delegation toured Swiss companies, including Roche Diagnostics, Oerlikon Technology & Balzers Coating. The trip also featured an engaging CEO roundtable, with insights from industry leaders like Bühler, Endress+Hauser, Mettler-Toledo, and other prominent Swiss firms.

## CULTURE

### Swiss Consulate General hosts student delegations

In September, a student delegation from Kantonsschule Baden visited the Consulate General and Swissnex in China. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis and Camille Burki, Communication Head of Swissnex, provided insights into Sino-Swiss bilateral relations,





consular tasks, and research and innovation.

On 7 October, the Consulate General welcomed 20 local primary and middle school students. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis engaged with the students, sharing an interactive presentation about Switzerland and all it has to offer.



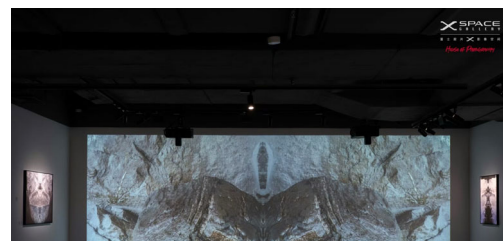
## Showcasing Swiss art in Shanghai: Fischli & Pittet



*Tuesday till Sunday* marks Peter Fischli's first institutional solo exhibition outside Europe. It is presented by the By Art Matters Museum in Hangzhou from now until the end of March 2025. Known for his work with Fischli/Weiss, Fischli now explores daily life through experimental and humorous works

including sculpture, installations, videos, and works on paper. The exhibition opening was marked by greetings from Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis, and Ambassador Burri visited the exhibition.

Renowned Swiss photographer Daniel Pittet exhibited his "Mountain Spirits" series at the X-Space Fuji Films in Shanghai. His photography



offers a visual exploration and reflection on humanity's connection with nature. Through "Mountain Spirit," Pittet introduces a mystical and personal dimension to his photography.



## Pro Helvetia's cultural exchange projects



Night Pieces had a preview edition at PHOTOFAIRS SHANGHAI in April 2023 and expanded to a larger presentation at the Three Shadows Photography Art Centre in Xiamen, from 31 August to 10 November 2024. This group exhibition explores

the theme of "monsters" and the poetics of techno-romanticism in contemporary media art. Six groups of Swiss artists—Apian, Isabell Bullerschen, collectif\_fact, Dorota Gawęda & Eglė Kulbokaitė, Maria Guta & Lauren Huret, and Sandra Knecht—showcased their recent works.

Post Carbon explores the multifaceted nature of carbon through collaborations among artists, designers, entrepreneurs, and scientists from China and Switzerland, integrating perspectives from ecology, material science, and product manufacturing.

Seven Swiss artists and cultural practitioners participated in this online exchange: Anne-Laure Franchette, Fragmentin, Janis Polar, Knowbotiq, Marie Griesmar, Maya Minder, Ursula Biemann & Mo Diener. Over 5000 people engaged with the live and on-site forums. The "Green Carbon" edition, co-hosted with BY ART MATTERS in Hangzhou on 21 and 22 September 2024, focused on plants and microorganisms.



## SCIENCE & EDUCATION

### Exploring tech and ethics with Swissnex in China



Swissnex in China had a busy second half of the year, featuring academic events, arts and science discussions, and conferences on innovation. In September, Swissnex in China hosted a five-day program, “Tech & Ethics: Shaping Digital Integrity”, bringing together Swiss and Chinese experts to tackle

ethical and governance challenges in AI. The program included a workshop at the Swiss Embassy in Beijing, visits to leading AI companies, and discussions with institutions like the Berggruen Institute. You can read [here](#) the program report.

In October, Swissnex in China hosted the Sci-Fi Creative Night, featuring stories by creative writing students inspired by the Cosmos Archaeology exhibition. They also held an Alumni Reception with the University of Zurich's Global Affairs team to strengthen connections



within the Swiss alumni community. In November, Swissnex in China continued its Future Hospitals series with two events. In Shanghai the focus was on transformative hospital technologies, in collaboration with the Swiss Business Hub and Swiss Centers. The event in Hong Kong, co-organized together with the Swiss Consulate in Hong Kong, connected Swiss innovation with the local health tech sector, and featured the Swiss startup Flowbone, which participated in the Startup Camp powered by Innosuisse and organized by Swissnex. Stay tuned for exciting upcoming initiatives from Swissnex in China!

Visit the website for more information: <https://swissnex.org/china/>

### Exploring Cosmos with the Swiss Education Association

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The Swiss educational program at the Deutsche Schule Shanghai, sponsored by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture FOC and supported by the [Swiss Education Association Shanghai](#), started the school year successfully. Twenty students across two campuses are diving into

five hours of Swiss culture each week. In November, the Association organized a visit to the Shanghai Planetarium and Swissnex's Cosmos Archeology exhibit. This public event attracted over thirty participants, providing an enriching cultural experience for the the Shanghai Swiss community and beyond.

## BUSINESS

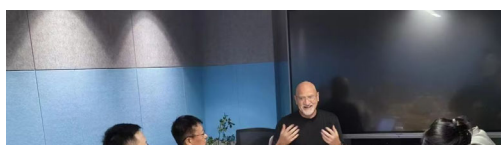
### Medtech dialogues with Swiss Business Hub



Nicolas Panzer, Senior Manager Life Sciences at Switzerland Global Enterprise, embarked on an insightful visit to Shanghai in early November. During his trip, he met with Swiss Medtech companies active in the Chinese market, engaged in deep discussions with the China Association of In-Vitro

Diagnostics (CAIVD), and gained a thorough understanding of the Chinese IVD industry. Nicolas was guest speaker and panelist at several prestigious events, including the International Medtech Forum during CIIE, Future Hospitals Vol. 2, and the Sino-Swiss Medtech Industry Exchange Forum. His interactions with key Medtech industry players sparked insightful conversations about the potential for cooperation and innovation between China and Switzerland.

### Join SwissCham C-Level Breakfast series



SwissCham launched in July the SwissCham C-Level Breakfast Series, in partnership with Pain





Chaud. The event series has become a vital monthly platform for Swiss businesses in China, inviting C-level executives to discuss critical business challenges and exchange best practices. Past sessions covered geopolitical risks, market

entry strategies, adapting to China's evolving landscape, and performance analysis of Swiss companies in China.

This series fosters thought leadership and collaboration, helping businesses navigate the complexities of the global economy and achieve long-term success in China.

Join the next SwissCham C-Level Breakfast event to discuss localization strategies with Christian Kober, SVP Asia at Hoffmann Quality Tools.



**Event:** SwissCham C-Level

**Breakfast:** "Localization Beyond Products: Organization & Sales Channels"

**Date:** 9 January, 2025, 8:00 - 10:00

**Location:** The Weave, 4th Floor, Building 1, No. 277 Wuxing Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai

Click [here](#) to register or contact [shanghai.members@swisscham.org](mailto:shanghai.members@swisscham.org)

## Swiss Centers set records at CIIE 2024



As in previous years, Swiss Centers were present in the food area of the China International Import Expo 2024. Their 270m<sup>2</sup> booth, featuring 24 Swiss companies, set records in participation and impact, attracting numerous visitors and media attention for brands like Kamby,

Frey, Swiss Meat, Swiss Wine Promotion, Medela, SIGG, Salbei, B'Onaturis, and others. For the first time, Swiss Centers also organized a cluster booth in the "Innovation and Incubation" section, showcasing innovative products and technology from 14 Swiss MedTech companies.

A highlight of Swiss participation at CIIE was the annual Sino-Swiss Business Reception, co-organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and Swiss Centers. This year, about 360 distinguished guests attended. Swiss Centers thank all exhibitors, sponsors, and partners for their support and look forward to continued cooperation at CIIE 2025!



## SWISS COMMUNITY

### Fun and fondue with Swiss Club Shanghai



The Swiss Club's Year-end Jass tournament took place in November this year at Abbey Road with exciting games and a cozy fondue dinner. Over 20 Jass players and friends, including Brandy Dog enthusiasts, turned the evening into a fantastic celebration, with about 50 people in attendance.

The Swiss Club thanks the Consulate General and the Abbey Road team for their warm welcome and kind support, and Abifor, Admeliora, Kejia, and the Würth Group for their sponsorships. The rankings for the 2024 Year-end Jass Tournament are as follows: #1 Jonas Eberle, #2 Martin Rütli, and #3 Gloria Schmidt. Congratulations to the winners!

The 2025 games start in January! Join the Swiss Club on the last Monday of each month at Abbey Road.

For more information: [jassmaster@swissclubshanghai.org](mailto:jassmaster@swissclubshanghai.org).

### Winter Roadshow with Switzerland Tourism



Switzerland Tourism kicked off the



Winter Road Show on November 3 in Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou. Led by Daniela Chiani, the Director of Switzerland Tourism Greater China, the delegation included Swiss International Airlines,

Swiss Travel System, Davos Klosters, Matterhorn Region, Jungfrau Railway, Titlis Cables, Schilthorn Cableway, LAXX and Corvatsch Diavolezza St. Moritz, and other strategic partners. They shared the latest winter updates with trade, media and the ski community. Daniela Chiani highlighted that from January to August 2024, tourists from the Greater China have spent 768,051 nights in Switzerland, ranking top in the Asia Pacific region and sixth largest overseas market for Switzerland. Winter tourism remains a key focus, with Chinese tourists increasingly drawn to snow and ice destinations. These trends are great news for Switzerland!

## CONSULAR NEWS

### Advocating for Swiss expats: OSA China delegate's efforts



Delegates of the Swiss Abroad representing Asian countries gathered at the Congress in Lucerne, July 2024.

Daniel Heusser, the China delegate of the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad**, highlighted key issues for Swiss citizens living abroad in 2024, including obstacles to political participation, difficulties in maintaining bank accounts at reasonable costs, and concerns related to health insurance and social welfare. At the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lucerne in July

2024, it was evident that early-stage improvements are necessary through commissions, workgroups, and parliamentarians to address these needs.

There remains the need to further advocate for the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad. In 2025 and the coming years, Daniel Heusser plans to join various workgroups to further advance these causes. For any questions or more information, please contact Daniel Heusser at: [d.heusser@virtuarch.net](mailto:d.heusser@virtuarch.net).

## Subscribe to the SwissCommunity newsletter



As part of our mission to inform Swiss communities worldwide and strengthen ties between Switzerland and its expatriates, we invite you to subscribe to the SwissCommunity

newsletter.

### Why subscribe?

The SwissCommunity newsletter, sent about ten times a year, covers topics directly affecting Swiss people abroad, including:

- News on AHV, health insurance, military service, e-voting, and webinars
- Practical tips for living abroad or returning to Switzerland
- Insights into Swiss communities and activities on the online community platform and the “Living in” project
- Information on camps and activities for young Swiss people abroad to stay connected to Switzerland
- Resources and content for your own communications

Subscribe on the SwissCommunity website: [www.swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org)

### 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](mailto:shanghai.newsletter@eda.admin.ch)

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