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

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## Grüezi Shanghai



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



Dear fellow Swiss citizens,  
Dear friends of Switzerland,

Many memorable high-profile visits and events turned 2025 into the action-packed 75th Sino-Swiss diplomatic anniversary year we had hoped for.

Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis engaged with the Swiss business community in Shanghai and visited Schindler Group – the first Western company to form a joint venture in China. Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng visited Shanghai's sister city Basel and joined the World Economic Forum in Davos. Government leaders from Neuchâtel and Vaud led economic missions across the Yangtze River Delta and beyond. Members of the Swiss Federal Parliament explored the business landscape in and around Shanghai in their role as board members of Swiss companies and organizations. It has been a great privilege to be part of the lively exchanges and significant activities.

Within this official diplomatic anniversary year, Swiss watchmaking brands celebrated their historic milestones: Vacheron Constantin has been in business for 270 years (and 180 years in China) and Audemars Piguet celebrated its 150th anniversary in Shanghai. Swiss medtech company Ypsomed opened its first production site in China in Changzhou. The Board of

Directors and Top Management of Fracht Group (celebrating its 70th anniversary) and Siegfried gathered in Shanghai. Rollomatic opened a solution center and Cotecna inaugurated new offices in Shanghai. FESCO Adecco won a top award in Shanghai's Huangpu District.

Vibrant cultural highlights brought life into the 2025 Sino-Swiss Year of Culture and Tourism. The unique Collection de l'Art Brut is currently on show at the iconic Power Station of Art in Shanghai. In Nanjing and Shanghai, the "Swiss Design Classics" Exhibition showcased the 400-year history of Swiss Design from humble beginnings to global recognition. At the 2025 Shanghai International Film Festival, the German-Swiss co-production "You Believe in Angels, Mr. Drowak?" won the Best Cinematography award. Further highlights included Swiss photographer Henry Leutwyler's exhibition "Portraits en Silence" at the Parts Unknown Gallery in Suzhou as well as Swiss artist Deborah-Joyce Holman's solo painting exhibition "Set" at the TANK Shanghai. Finally, a group of students from the University of Geneva travelled to Shaoxing, Zhejiang province to explore Chinese calligraphy.

I look forward to an equally rich variety of highlights in the second half of the 75th Sino-Swiss diplomatic anniversary year.

I wish you and your families a lovely summer and a happy Swiss National Day next month!

Sacha Bachmann  
Consul General

## Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis's Visit to China

Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs, visited China on April 24 and 25. His visit marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and China, and his itinerary included stops in Beijing and Shanghai.



In Beijing he met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, where they discussed Sino-Swiss relations and their 75-year history, as well as ways to modernise the free trade agreement (FTA). They also exchanged views on global economic challenges and geopolitical developments in Ukraine, the

Middle East and East Asia. Finally, the two ministers reiterated how vital it is to respect the UN Charter and international law, stressing that strengthening multilateral cooperation is essential when tackling today's geopolitical challenges. The Federal Councillor also visited the Swiss Pavilion at the China International Machine Tool Show in Beijing.



On April 25, upon arriving in Shanghai, Mr. Cassis visited the Schindler Group in Jiading, a pioneer of Swiss-Chinese economic cooperation, and joined the Swiss Business Community Reception hosted by the Consulate General.

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## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

### Swiss Design Classics Exhibition – Shanghai Stop

The touring exhibition, 'Swiss Design Classics', which forms a key part of the Swiss Embassy's public diplomacy campaign 2024-2025 marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Switzerland, opened at the



Fosun Foundation in Shanghai at the end of May and ran until June 29. Curated by Christian Herren, it was jointly hosted by the Embassy of Switzerland in China, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and the Fosun Foundation. The exhibition showcased the 400-year history of

Swiss design in chronological order. It featured 75 iconic furniture pieces that illustrate the evolution of Swiss craftsmanship.

## ECONOMY

### Neuchâtel and Vaud Delegation in the YRD

In March, Consul General Sacha Bachmann hosted a dinner reception in Shanghai for the official government, business, and science delegation led by Neuchâtel State Councillor Alain Ribaux. As part of the economic mission aimed at strengthening policy, industry, research and commercial ties between Neuchâtel and China, the delegation also travelled to Changzhou, where they were joined by Ambassador Jürg Burri and Changzhou Mayor Zhou Wei, as well as Consul General Sacha Bachmann.



In June, Consul General Bachmann hosted another dinner reception in Shanghai to welcome a delegation from the Canton of Vaud. Led by Vaud State Councillor Isabelle Moret, the delegation's visit marks the 15th anniversary of the Vaud–Jiangsu partnership. The former

President of the Swiss National Council supports the internationalisation of Vaud enterprises, promotes the canton's innovation ecosystem and reconnects with Chinese government leaders. Accompanied by Swiss

Ambassador Jürg Burri and Consul General Sacha Bachmann, the delegation travelled to Nanjing, where State Councillor Isabelle Moret met with Jiangsu Vice Governor Fang Wei and Nanjing Vice Mayor Xu Feng.

## CULTURE

### Exhibition in Hangzhou Supported by Pro Helvetia



From May 16 to July 16, the group exhibition 'Night Pieces: A Foreign Body Within,' supported by Arts Council Pro Helvetia Shanghai and curated by Chen Min, took place at Hangzhou's OōEli Art Park. Inspired by the 18th-century Dark Romantic classic 'The Sandman' by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the exhibition featured recent works by six Swiss and four Chinese artists and artist groups, and was exploring the poetics of techno-romanticism in contemporary media art production. Following its preview at the PHOTOFAIRS Shanghai in April 2023, Night Pieces held its inaugural exhibition at the Three Shadows Xiamen Photography Art Centre in Xiamen in 2024. At the invitation of the institute Imagokinetics, Night Pieces continued to whisper under the midnight sun at OōEli. A series of public programmes and events accompanied the exhibition, offering visitors brief moments of wonder and inspiration.

**Swiss artists:** Apian, Isabell Bullerschen, collectif\_fact, Dorota Gawęda & Eglė Kulbokaitė, Maria Guta & Lauren Huret, Sandra Knecht

## BUSINESS

### Swiss Business Hub - Activities in the Second Quarter of the Year

In April, the HFW Bern student delegation visited the Yangtze River Delta region with the support of the Swiss Business Hub China. As part



of their itinerary, the delegation visited the Swiss Consulate in Shanghai and received insightful information about the consulate's mission, Sino-Swiss innovation collaboration, the business activities of Swiss SMEs' in the YRD region, as well as China's unique social media landscape. The delegation also visited Rieter and Mettler Toledo in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, where they were warmly received by the top management teams. The delegation was impressed by the Swiss business presence in the region and appreciated the inspiring exchange with the companies.



From May 12 to 14, the Swiss Business Hub China in cooperation with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) once again organized the Swiss Pavilion at the 29th China Beauty Expo in Shanghai, continuing the successful legacy established in 2021, 2023, and

2024. Seven exhibitors represented ten premium Swiss brands (Alpine White, ananné, elementrē dermo-cosmetics, evoé Skincare, La Pulovce, Montreux Skincare, SatisFeet, Suncademy, SwissGetal and XTRN), captivating visitors with their innovative, high-quality skincare, personal care and dental hygiene products.

## SCIENCE & EDUCATION

### **Swissnex in China Takes on the Fight Against Climate Change**

In April, Swissnex in China launched the Climate Ring Shanghai during Shanghai Climate Week 2025. Set in a real boxing ring, this innovative stage hosted nine events, bringing together over 40 speakers and 300 participants to address climate

change. The boxing ring symbolized the fight against climate change and the creativity and collective action needed to fight for our planet. Over the week, Climate Ring amplified diverse voices through curated discussions and workshops featuring climate psychologists, legal scholars, urban planners, engineers, architects, and artists from Switzerland and China, creating a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue centered on urgent action.



## INSTITUTIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

## SwissCham Event Recap – Sino-Swiss Business Forum



Supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, Swissnex in China, and the Swiss Business Hub, SwissCham Shanghai hosted the Sino-Swiss Business Forum 2025 on May 15 at the MGM West Bund Hotel in Shanghai, commemorating 75 years of Swiss–Chinese diplomatic

relations, reinforcing the long-standing bilateral partnership through innovation, quality, and tradition.

The event brought together over 350 participants, including executives from more than 100 Swiss and Chinese companies, policymakers, industry experts, and diplomats. A dynamic program featuring fireside chats, panel discussions, and interactive exhibitions addressed pressing topics such as localization strategies, Swiss branding in China, resilient manufacturing, AI in finance, consumer trends, and industrial transformation.

An exclusive roundtable dialogue was also held between Swiss multinationals, representatives from the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Commerce (MOFCOM), and the Swiss government, offering a platform for exchanging insights on market access, regulatory challenges, and the current business climate in China.

## Swiss Centers Strengthen Sino-Swiss Economic Ties Through Key Initiatives

In April, Swiss Centers, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, successfully hosted the 8th Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement (SSFTA) Roundtable in Shanghai.

The event brought together Shanghai Custom, WaiGaoQiao Group, trade experts, and business leaders to discuss the evolving economic partnership between Switzerland and China. Swiss Centers' General Manager, Yulia Jin, highlighted the significance of the SSFTA since its signing in 2013 and provided updates on the ongoing 2024 upgrade negotiations, which aim to further liberalize trade and investment between the two nations. The Roundtable served as a strategic platform for



Swiss and Chinese enterprises to address trade barriers, explore new market opportunities, and exchange best practices through expert-led discussions and case studies.



dialogue.

In March, Swiss Centers received a high-level delegation from Canton of Neuchâtel, fostering exchanges in innovation and industry with leading Chinese firms. These efforts underscore Swiss Centers' commitment to advancing bilateral economic cooperation and policy

## Swiss Education Association – Important Milestone Achieved with Renewed Agreement



Early this year the Swiss Education Association Shanghai (SEAS) celebrated an important milestone. It renewed its agreement for a Swiss education program with the Deutsche Schule Shanghai for another three years until the end of the school year 2029. To commemorate the occasion, a

plaque was dedicated at the entrance of both campuses noting the support of the Confederation and highlighting a thriving cooperation. The program remains a strong success for both parties. Recently up to thirty students participated in the classes taught by our two Swiss teachers. Many of the children are not Swiss but are attracted by the activities organized by the instructors.

In addition, and in a continuous effort to reach out across the Swiss Shanghai community, SEAS just recently organized a special curated tour of the Swiss Design Classics Exhibition at the Fosun Foundation open to all. SEAS will continue to offer more activities to strengthen our cultural heritage away from Switzerland and always welcomes new members.

## Switzerland Tourism Promotes Travel Destinations through Cross-Industry Collaboration



On May 30, Switzerland Tourism held a press conference in Shanghai, attended by representatives from various Swiss organizations, along with more than 30 journalists and travel bloggers from across China's media landscape. Daniela Chiani, Director of Switzerland Tourism Greater

China, highlighted that Switzerland recorded a new high of 42.8 million overnight stays in 2024. Of these 1.12 million were overnights from mainland China.

In addition to traditional advertising efforts, Switzerland Tourism unveiled several multi-dimensional market collaborations by partnering with brands and

organizations across various industries. These initiatives are designed to open a new chapter in tourism promotion in the Chinese market, showcasing Switzerland's rich and diverse travel experiences in a unique way.

Switzerland Tourism is also supporting the Swiss Design Classics exhibition tour, as well as the exhibition by Pipilotti Rist at UCCA in Beijing, which will run from July 19 to October 19, 2025.

## A Word from the Council of the Swiss Abroad



My heartfelt thanks to the Swiss citizens in China who elected me to continue to be their Delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. Together with my fellow colleagues from all around the world, we will work at strengthening the representation of the citizens living abroad in Swiss politics, raise awareness for our issues and hopefully achieve improvements.

If you have issues concerning your life as a Swiss Abroad which you would like to bring to the attention in the political process in Switzerland, please contact me by e-mail [d.heusser@virtuarch.net](mailto:d.heusser@virtuarch.net) or connect with me on LinkedIn under [www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-heusser-84812291](https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-heusser-84812291).

## PERSONNEL CHANGES



**Gregor Fritzsche** arrived in Shanghai at the beginning of June, succeeding Istvan Kocsis as Deputy Consul General. Gregor previously worked in Vienna, Manila, Istanbul, Tripoli, Vancouver, Harare, Damascus and Moscow.



**Istvan Kocsis** has been Deputy Consul General in Shanghai from June 2021 to May 2025, where he led the Public Diplomacy Team. He took up his new position as Consul General in Stuttgart at the beginning of June. We



congratulate Istvan on his appointment and wish him every success in his new role.

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