

## **Second round of FTA negotiations between Switzerland and China**

The second round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from 5 to 7 July 2011 in Xi'an, China.

The Swiss delegation was headed by Ambassador Christian ETTER, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Federal Department of Economic Affairs. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. ZHU Hong, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

During this second round, exchanges of information on their respective regulatory systems and FTA-practices took place and proposals were discussed at expert level with regard to the following areas: trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin and customs procedures, trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade remedies, intellectual property rights, dispute settlement and institutional provisions. Heads of delegations and experts exchanged views on investment, cooperation on trade and sustainable development, and cooperation on government procurement. Follow-up work was agreed in all areas.

The negotiations were officially launched by Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of the P.R.C., in Davos on 28 January 2011. The first round of negotiations was held on 7-8 April 2011 in Bern. A next round of negotiations is expected to take place in autumn this year.