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## **Amb. Fadah Hsieh witnessed the signing of MOUs between Taiwan and Swiss textile research institutes**

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To strengthen the technological cooperation with Swiss textile research institutes on the development of functional textile products, Dr. Chi-Chung Bai, President of Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI), led a delegation of 15 Taiwanese textile manufacturers to visit Switzerland on July 17, 2011 and signed two technical MOUs with the Swiss Textile Federation (STF) and Swiss Federal Laboratories of Materials Science and Technology (Eidgenössische Materialprüfungs- und Forschungsanstalt, EMPA) during their visit in Zurich. Amb. Hsieh, Representative of Délégation culturelle et économique de Taipei, was invited to witness the signing of the MOUs.

Amb. Hsieh said at the signing ceremony that all Taiwanese and Swiss parties involved in promoting the signing of the MOUs are either the most prominent textile research institutes or the most active market promoters for textile products in Taiwan and Switzerland. Through the signing of the two MOUs, Amb. Hsieh stressed, the partnership between Taiwan and Swiss industries will be further strengthened and help to deepen the already very close trade, investment and R&D relationship between the two countries. Amb. Hsieh also said that both Taiwan and Switzerland play important roles as operational hubs in each of their own region. This is particularly true for Taiwan since the relationship between Taiwan and mainland China has been improving after the signing of 15 agreements, including an FTA-like agreement – the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA). Amb. Hsieh pointed out that the partnership between Taiwan and Switzerland will form a “Smart Tie”. With the increasing competition from other emerging economies, the “Smart Tie” between Taiwan and Switzerland will add value on their industries and enhance their joint response to such challenges.