



## Press release Embassy of Switzerland in China

### **Opening of the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park**

***China and Switzerland cooperated to establish an ecological industrial Park which will be built with Swiss Cleantech Know-how and will host industrial companies from all over the world in addition to Swiss and Chinese companies. Only two years after the cooperation work started, a first imposing compound has already been inaugurated.***

Switzerland stands out due to its important number of innovative companies. At the same time, the need for sustainable technology is increasing among emerging markets such as China. Since this specific expertise still features big potential for further developments, many export possibilities arise for Swiss companies. In this context, the Swiss Federal Counsellor Johann Schneider-Ammann and the Chinese Minister of Economy CHEN Deming signed on the 9th of July, 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding in order to commonly support the creation of a Sino-Swiss Ecological Industrial Park.

The Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park (SSZEIP) will be built according to ecological standards and will host companies from all around the world. The park, which stretches out on a total of 20 km<sup>2</sup>, covers four different thematic fields: Innovation and Research & Development; Cleantech; energy efficient construction and Leisure and Tourism.

#### *Close collaboration of Chinese and Swiss companies*

As a result to their specific Know-how in fields such as energy efficiency, water purification or renewable energies, Swiss companies were the ideal partner for the planning and construction of such a park. As the official exports platform for Swiss cleantech companies, the association Cleantech Switzerland acts as a facilitator between Zhenjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone (ZETDZ) and Swiss cleantech companies. Swiss companies have been substantially involved in the planning and construction work of the park. Several companies - including four Swiss companies - have already signed a declaration of intent (memorandum of understanding) in order to build up a new economic site in the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park. Moreover, the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park is supported by Chinese, Swiss and international institutions as for example UNIDO, Top10, IISD or the Union of Independent Watch Manufacturers (AHCI). In the course of the opening ceremony, those organizations feature several side-events, workshops or a Swiss watch exhibition, whereby the collaboration of China and Switzerland is further strengthened.

#### *Top-class speakers at opening ceremony*

More than 300 representatives of Swiss and Chinese government, business and media took part in today's official opening of the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park. Some high-level Chinese and Swiss representatives participants highlighted the importance of the bilateral project, amongst them FU Ziyang - Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province and State Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch.

The celebrations for the opening of the park will last for 4 days in total and will involve an exhibition about cleantech and innovation in Switzerland and China, as well as a cultural performance from both countries.

Additional information concerning the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industrial Park can be found under the following link: [www.sszeip.com](http://www.sszeip.com)