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Chamber Marks 20th Anniversary

The idea of founding a Sino-Swiss Chamber of Commerce matured in early 1980 when Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms started to yield the first encouraging results. At the time I was engaged in negotiations for the very first Sino-foreign industrial joint venture involving Schindler elevators. Although at that time, transferring money and new technologies to Chinese enterprises was considered foolish by most Western companies, I was convinced that many other Swiss companies would start planning investments in China. I felt the need for an institution providing a forum for discussion and a competent source of information and advice for these potential investors. My idea was enthusiastically endorsed by some prominent industrialists, bankers and lawyers.

When the Chamber was fully established on September 2nd in 1980, I was entrusted with the presidency, a position I was to hold for the next twelve years. After the first year of existence, the Chamber counted already 150 members and the growth continued throughout the 80s. A setback came in the aftermath of the Tienanmen events in 1989, but confidence returned and the 90s were marked by continued strong growth. My successors Peter Bischofberger and Dr. Marc Ronca presided over an expanding Chamber: Chapters were established in Geneva and Lugano and in the last few years partner organizations were founded in Beijing and Shanghai. At the end of 1999 the Chamber had 500 members in Switzerland and some 200 in China. In 1999 Dr. Manfred Zobl was elected president for the next four years.

Looking at the Chamber today we are proud of having been able to make a positive contribution to the relations between China and Switzerland. Supported by members and authorities in both countries the Chamber has become a strong institution to further enhance these relations in the 21st century.

With best wishes

Dr. Uli Sigg
Founding President of the Chamber
Former Swiss Ambassador to China



The Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I extend to you on behalf of the Swiss Government our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

20 years! In the modern economic environment of ever faster changes and transformations this is indeed a very reputable time already – and I am sure that many more years are to follow.

The Swiss private sector had engaged into relations with Chinese counterparts in the past centuries already – long before the official Switzerland did or the Chamber came into existence, at a time when adventurous entrepreneurs did not shy away from obstacles like geographical remoteness or cultural difference to do successful business with the Empire of the Middle. Today, the economic relations between the two countries have multiplied and diversified and Switzerland is among the top-ten investors in China, the trade volume is well above 2 billion Swiss Francs a year and Swiss companies are time and again among the first to break new ground, as it was for example the case for joint-ventures. Switzerland considers her economic relationship with China as a long-term engagement. In this perspective, the creation of the Chamber was also one important milestone.

What started as a far-sighted private initiative of a small group of interested Swiss entrepreneurs has developed into a very important pillar of the bilateral economic relations between the two countries. The Chamber is a catalyst which promotes and intensifies the cooperation between Swiss and Chinese enterprises and thus fosters the development of bilateral trade, it provides a platform for all interested parties to establish contacts, to exchange knowledge and experiences and it strengthens relations. Furthermore, members of the Chamber have also been important participants in official events between the two countries, such as economic delegations. The work and engagement of all the members, officials and the staff of the Chamber of the past as in the present deserve our respect and gratitude.

Being convinced that the mission of the Chamber will continue to bear many more successes, I reiterate our congratulations and thanks for your contribution in bringing Switzerland and China closer together in mutual respect and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



The Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation
Head of the Federal Department for Economic Affairs



The Ambassador of Switzerland

Twenty years have passed since the birth of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Twenty years mark the end of adolescence. Yet, the Chamber has long ago reached full mature adulthood. With efficiency and devotion, the Chamber has fully played its important role in the development and promotion of economic ties with China. It has also become in a way parent of two children, fostering as it did the Beijing branch and the Shanghai Business Forum.

These achievements would not have been possible without the personal engagement of the founders of the Chamber as well as of the succeeding presidents. A special mention should be made also of the unremitting efforts of Mr. Paul Wyss and Mrs. Susan Horvath.

The foundation of the Chamber came not long after the beginning of the policy of opening and reform initiated in China by Deng Xiaoping. The idea of setting up the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce is proof of the vision and foresight of its founders. But it was also no easy task to keep the Chamber on the right track during these two decades.

The Chamber will have an ever important role to play in the future. The Swiss Embassy in Beijing would like to send their congratulations for this anniversary and their best wishes for the future development of the Chamber.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Dreyer', written in a cursive style.

The Ambassador of Switzerland
Dominique Dreyer

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

中国人民对外友好协会会长齐怀远致瑞中经济协会成立二十周年贺词

《建议稿》

今年是中瑞建交五十周年。瑞士是最早同中国建交的西方国家之一。早在五、六十年代，我国已故周恩来总理在参加日内瓦会议期间访问了瑞士，受到各界人士热情友好的欢迎。瑞士联邦委员会在1950年1月初承认以毛泽东为主席的政府为中国唯一的合法政府，两国间于1950年9月14日正式建交。我国实行改革开放以来，双方在各个领域的交流与合作关系得到进一步发展。1996年，瑞士联邦主席德拉姆斯(JEAN PASCAL DELAMURAZ)对中国进行了正式访问；1999年3月，江泽民主席对瑞士进行国事访问，这是中国国家首脑第一次访问瑞士。

中国人民钦佩勤劳、智慧和勇敢的瑞士人民，你们国家的地下资源并不丰富，但是你们经过艰苦努力，使自己风光秀丽的祖国成为世界上最富有的国家之一。两个星期前，我们应

瑞中协会的邀请访问了贵国。在这里，我们感受到瑞士人民的热情好客，看到瑞士发达的经济、先进的科学技术和人民丰富的文化生活。通过此次访问，我们看到中瑞友好事业受到瑞士各界人士，包括政治、经济、贸易、科技、文化和媒体人士的大力支持，受到瑞士政府和各地方政府的大力支持，我们深深感到中瑞友好合作有着宽阔的前景！

我所任会长的中国人民对外友好协会成立于1954年，它的宗旨是增进中国人民同世界各国人民的了解和友谊，促进相互间政治、经济、贸易、科技、社会、文化、教育等方面的交流与合作，维护世界和平。46年来它与瑞中协会共同为增进中瑞两国人民之间的相互了解和友谊、促进民间友好往来作了许多工作。这里值得一提的是由我会牵线搭桥而结为友好城市的昆明和苏黎世。自1982年结好以来，经过双方的共同努力，特别是在瓦格纳博士的关注下，两市在文化、教育、医学、学术以及城市给排水、城市规划、城市交通和电力等方面所进行的交流合作取得了令人满意的进展。它表明，开展友城工作是增进两国间交往的一个不可缺少的组成部分。昆明和苏黎世堪称中瑞友好城市关系的成功典范，我希望将来有更多的这样的友好城市关系在我们两国出现。

值此瑞中经济协会成立二十周年之际，我谨代表中国人民对外友好协会并以我个人的名义表示诚挚而热烈的祝贺，祝愿贵会在未来的工作中获得更大成就。我会愿与贵会共同努力，为促进中瑞两国经贸友好合作做出更大贡献！

齐怀远 (签名)

中国人民对外友好协会会长
二零零零年六月二十六日
中国北京



The President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Swiss-Chinese diplomatic relations. Switzerland was one of the first western country to initiate diplomatic relations with China. Our previous Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai, visited Switzerland as early as the 50's and 60's and was cordially received wherever he went. In 1950 the Swiss government acknowledged the Chinese government under President Mao Zedong as the sole legitimate government of China and on September 14th, 1950 the two countries began their diplomatic relations. Since the reforms and loosening of China's restrictions there has been a marked increase in communication between the two countries and in many areas the exchange of information and cooperation have increased. In 1996 President of the Swiss Confederation, Jean Pascal Delamuraz, undertook a state visit to China and in 1999 President Jiang Zemin made a state visit to Switzerland. He was the first Chinese Head of State to visit Switzerland.

The Chinese people greatly admire the diligence, intelligence and courage of the Swiss. Despite a lack of raw materials, the Swiss have managed through hard work to turn their beautiful country into one of the richest in the world. Two weeks ago we were invited to Switzerland by the Swiss-Chinese Association. We experienced the Swiss hospitality and discovered a highly-developed economy, modern science and technology and a colourful culture. During our visit we saw that the friendship between Switzerland and China is not only encouraged and supported in the fields of politics, economics, trade, science and technology, culture and the media but also by the government on a parliamentary and local level. We are convinced that the friendship between our two countries shows great potential.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, in which I play a personal role as President, was founded in 1954. Its goal is to encourage understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and other nationalities, the exchange of knowledge and cooperation in all areas and to strive for world peace.

Over the past 46 years the Swiss-Chinese Association has done a lot towards increasing understanding and exchange of knowledge between the two countries. We played an active part as go-between in the partnership Kunming – Zurich. Since the partnership came into being in 1982 Dr. Wagner has achieved a very satisfactory development in cultural, educational, medical, academic, research, city planning, traffic and electricity areas. This proves that such partnerships between cities are necessary to achieve the desired results. It is my wish that more partnerships like Kungming – Zurich will evolve in the future.

I would personally like to congratulate the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce on its 20th Anniversary and also extend the best wishes of the Friendship Organization. We wish you every success for the future and are ready to assist you in every way towards an improved cooperation between our two countries in economy and trade.

Minister Qi Huaiyuan
President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Board of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee:

President:

Dr. Manfred Zobl CEO and President of the Corporate Executive Board, Swiss Life, Zurich

Vice Presidents:

Dr. Hans Boller-Wu Consultant, Au
Hilda Rochat President, 21st Century Exchange S. A., Geneva

Treasurer/Vice President:

Paul Wyss Erlenbach

Secretary:

Franziska Tschudi Executive Vice President, Wicor Holding AG, Rapperswil

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Urs Hecht CEO, Edward Keller Ltd., Hong Kong
 designated Head Asia, Edward Keller Ltd., Zurich
Esther Nägeli Attorney-at-Law, LL. M., Partner, KPMG Fides, Zurich
Dr. Marc Ronca Attorney-at-Law, Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer, Zurich, Geneva, Zug
Dr. Jörg Wolle CEO, SiberHegner Holding Ltd., Zurich

Honorary Members:

Dr. Uli Sigg former Swiss Ambassador to China, Mauensee
Dr. Marc Ronca Past President of Chamber, Zurich

Board:

Maurice Altermatt Head of External Affairs Department,
Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, Biel
Ester Crameri Confiserie Sprüngli AG, Zurich
Markus Eichenberger Manager ExpoLogistics overseas, Natural AG, Basle
Dr. Richard Friedl Vice President, ABB Switzerland, Baden
Bruno W. Furrer CEO, BF Bruno Furrer Consultant, Zurich
Michael W. O. Garrett Executive Vice President, Nestlé S. A., Vevey
Alfred Gremli Managing Director, Credit Suisse Group, Zurich
Peter Huwyler Head International Banking, Member of the Board,
Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zurich
Dr. Beat In-Albon Vice President, Lonza Ltd., Basle
Alexandre F. Jetzer Member of the Corporate Executive Committee,
Novartis International AG, Basle
Dr. Beat Krähenmann Director, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Basle
Pierre L. Ozendo Member of the Executive Board, Swiss Re Group, Zurich
Nicolas Pictet Partner, Pictet & Cie., Geneva
Dr. Erwin Schurtenberger former Swiss Ambassador to China, Minusio
Erwin A. Senn CEO, T-Link Management Ltd.
Worldwide Transportation Engineering, Freienbach
Dr. Kurt E. Stirnemann CEO and Board Delegate of AGIE CHARMILLES Group, Losone
Peter G. Sulzer Executive Director, Wärtsilä NSD Corporation, Zurich
(former New Sulzer Diesel)
Marco Suter Chief Credit Officer, Member of the Group Managing Board,
UBS AG, Zurich
Thomas P. van Berkel President, Nitrex Ltd., Zurich
Dr. Thomas Wellauer Chief Executive Officer, Winterthur Insurance Company, Winterthur

Geneva Chapter

President:

Hilda Rochat President, 21st Century Exchange S. A., Geneva

Vice President:

Maitre Philippe Knufer Lawyer, LL. M., Royal Bank of Canada (Suisse), Geneva
Dr. Daniel V. Christen Vice President, SGS Société Générale de Surveillance S.A., Geneva

Secretary:

Martine Challand Responsible for China Desk, Logical Access S. A., Geneva

Treasurer:**Bernard Büschi**

Chairman, Bernard Büschi & Cie., S. A.

Board:**Claude Chabanel**
Marcel Ch. Clivaz
Camille Froidevaux
Nicolas Pictet
Jean-Luc Vincent
André Schneider
Herbert Schott
Jean-Nicolas ThalmannMont-sur-Lausanne
President, Swiss Hotel Association, Crans-Montana
Attorney-at-Law, Budin & Partners, Geneva
Partner, Pictet & Cie., Geneva
President, Salon International des Inventions de Genève
Chairman, Sideco S. A., Geneva
Manager, Hôtel Intercontinental, Geneva
Director, O. P. I. (Office de la Promotion Industrielle), Geneva

Lugano Chapter

Chairperson:**Dr. Theobald Tsoe Ziu Brun**

Attorney-at-Law and Notary, BRUN Studio legale e notarile, Lugano

Executive Committee Members:**Erich Bär**
Xujing Chen
Bernhard KellerPlant Manager, Agie Ltd., Losone
Lugano
Executive President, Banco di Lugano, Lugano

Legal Chapter Zurich

Chairperson:**Esther Nägeli**

Attorney-at-Law, LL. M., Partner, KPMG Fides, Zurich

Legal Chapter Geneva

Chairperson:**Maître Philippe Knupfer**

Lawyer, LL. M., Royal Bank of Canada (Suisse), Geneva

Beijing Chapter

President:**Dr. Urs Buchmann**

Managing Director, Country Head China, Credit Suisse First Boston, Beijing

Honorary Member:**Dr. Uli Sigg**

Former Swiss Ambassador to China

Vice Presidents:**Ruby Chang**
Walter LandoltChief Representative, Edward Keller (China) Ltd., Beijing
General Manager, Impact Production & Design, Beijing**Secretary General:****Jürg Lauber**

Head of Economic and Commercial Section, Embassy of Switzerland, Beijing

Treasurer:**Paul Lau**

Beijing Novartis Pharma Ltd.

Members:**Rolf Schaumann**
Cyrill Eltschinger
Markus Altermatt
Steven ZhangPresident and Country Manager, ABB (China) Investment Ltd.
General Manager, I.T. Unicorp (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
Deputy General Manager, Head of Production, Clariant (Tianjin) Ltd.
Chief Representative, Zurich Insurance Company, Beijing

Swiss-Chinese Business Forum Shanghai

President:**Hans U. Dätwyler**

Zhongtian Dätwyler

Honorary Member:**Dr. Rolf Lenz**

Swiss Consul General

Vice President:**Urs Eller**

Geberit Plumbing Technology

Treasurer:**Joern Kristensen**

Winterthur Insurance

Secretary:**Dr. Arpad Major**

CIBA GaoQiao

Members:**Peter A. Marti**
William Keller
Jiangming WangCredit Suisse First Boston
Roche Pharmaceutical Ltd.
Swiss Reinsurance

The Chamber – Serving to Your Benefit



Dear Members, dear Readers!

This special edition of the Bulletin is dedicated to you!

... as are all issues, as all the services and activities rendered by the Chamber and its Chapters to the members. However, thanks to your support, we can serve you to your benefit.

During the years of its existence, the Chamber has always contributed to the development of the Sino-Swiss economic relations and with its diversified range of services it has consistently assisted the many Swiss companies doing business with and investing in China. This achievement was possible due to the continuous support of the persons of the Chamber's network and thanks to the untiring efforts of Chamber officers, who serve on an honorary basis in various functions.

Quality Links for Your Network

The Chamber's governing body is the 30-member Board, elected at the annual general meeting. It determines Chamber policy and comprises high ranking Swiss businessmen, representing international leading Swiss industrial and commercial organisations.

The Chamber is a member of the Union of Swiss Chambers of Commerce Abroad (now "swisscham") and of the Euro-China Business Association.

It also maintains contact with the Swiss Office for Trade Promotion, the Swiss Organisation for Facilitating Investments as well as with Government departments such as the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the Federal Office for Foreign Affairs. And of course, with Government departments of the People's Republic of China and institutions and trade associations in Switzerland and China.

Moving with Your Needs

In 1995 the Chamber has extended its services by setting up Chapters in Geneva and Lugano to suit the require-

ments of the specialized interests of the Romandie and the Ticino. Furthermore, it has founded Legal Chapters in Zurich and Geneva, with the objective of facilitating a greater understanding of legal and tax issues between Switzerland and China.

With the forming of a Chapter in Beijing in late 1995 a new dimension has been opened to the Chamber's services. The Representative Office in Beijing provides a forum for local Swiss and Chinese business people and also assists those members travelling to China. Since fall 1997 the Chamber is also represented by its partner organization in Shanghai, the Swiss-Chinese Business Forum Shanghai.

Thanks to Your Support...

As a non-profit organisation, the Chamber receives no grants or financial aid of any kind. Therefore, to maintain an efficient and member-oriented activity, serving the interest of Swiss and Chinese business, the Chamber depends on the financial support of a strong and growing membership.

In thanking the members and all those in Switzerland and China, making the Chamber a strong association and a great place to be part of, I ask you to join us in celebrating our 20th anniversary.

Let's celebrate!

Susan Horvath
Managing Director

Membership – Put Your Ideas into Action

The Council of the Chamber offers you its full support and welcomes your active assistance in sustaining your Chamber.

For further information or additional Membership application forms, please contact the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Zurich or one of the local Chapter offices near to you.

The annual subscription amounts to:

- CHF 300.– Individual Members and small companies
- CHF 600.– Corporate Members (SME), Institutions and Associations
- CHF 1'000.– Large Corporations

Founding Members of the Chamber (Initial Committee in 1980)

Dr. Uli Sigg
(China-Schindler Elevator Co., Ebikon)

Andreas Z'Graggen
(Chieffeditor "Bilanz", Zurich)

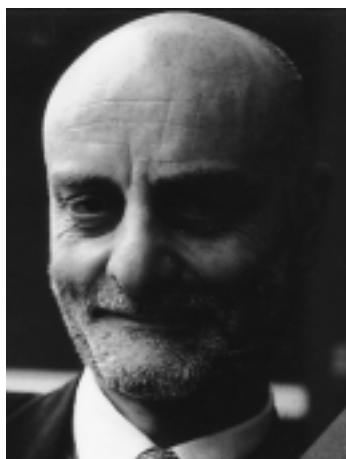
Georges Schumacher
(Gebr. Sulzer AG, Winterthur)

Dr. Eric Dreifuss
(Attorney-at-Law, Zurich)

Dr. Anton H. Bucher
(Zellweger Uster AG, Uster)

Dr. Georg von Segesser
(Attorney-at-Law, Zurich)

Presidents of the Chamber



Dr. Uli Sigg

Peter Bischofberger

*(Vice President
China-Schindler Elevator Co., Ebikon)
Founding Member of the Chamber and
President from 1980-1992
In 1992 elected as Honorary Member of the Board*

*(Vice President and Member of the Group
Management Siber Hegner + Co. AG, Zurich)
President from 1992-1995*



Dr. Marc Ronca

Dr. Manfred Zobl

*(Attorney-at-Law, M.C.L.,
Partner, Schellenberg & Haissly, Zurich)
President from 1995-1999
In 1995 elected as Honorary Member of the Board*

*(CEO and President of the
Corporate Executive Board, Swiss Life, Zurich)
President since 1999*

Active Chamber officer on honorary basis



Paul Wyss since 1992
(Vice President and Member of the Group Management
Siber Hegner + Co. AG, Zurich)
Vice President of the Chamber since 1992

Secretaries General

Anita Bäumli from 1982-1989
Dr. Claudia Meister during 1990
Ester Cramer from 1990-1995
Susan Horvath since 1995

New Members

Since May 1st, 2000:

Zurich office

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Maurice Choquard | Küsnacht |
| Tang Ren Chinesische Schule | Winterthur |
| Ferrier Air Cargo AG | Zurich-Airport |
| Straub Werke AG | Wangs |
| Pédale | Ermensee |
| Thomas Gasser | Grüningen |
| Rigatec AG | Pfäffikon |
| LIU Xiaomei | Oberdorf |
| Imoberdorf AG | Oensingen |

Geneva Chapter

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| George Arendrup | Geneva |
| Antiquités-styles | Porsel |
| WANG Donghua | Geneva |
| H.B. Agrotrade S.A. | Geneva |
| Stelser S.A. | Geneva |

Contribution to the Sino-Swiss Economic Relations

Leading idea

The Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1980, is a Swiss-based non-profit association registered in Zurich. To suit the local requirements and specialized interests, the Chamber has set up various Chapters in Switzerland and China.

The Chamber's purpose is to promote trade and business relations between Switzerland and China and to support Swiss companies and individuals doing business with and investing in China.

Furthermore, it maintains and strengthens contacts with government authorities, economic institutions and trade associations of both countries to contribute to the development of the Sino-Swiss economic relations in the long-run.

Services

The Chamber provides assistance in establishing business contacts in China or Switzerland regarding market-entry. It offers advice, information services and platforms for networking in both countries.

The members of the Chamber benefit of a wide range of services either free of charge or at a reduced rate. Non-members are charged with a fee to cover know-how, outlay on time and secretarial expenses.

Business conduct

The Chamber seeks to maintain efficient, member-oriented services of high quality. It acts professionally and objectively in all matters relevant to the internal and external performance of the Chamber and its Chapters.

Business relations

The Chamber represents members from international leading Swiss industrial and commercial corporations, small and medium sized enterprises (SME) and individual members and furthers their mutual interest in national and international circles enhancing business relations between China and Switzerland in specific and supporting Swiss trade relations in general.

History of the Geneva Chapter

The “Swiss-Chinese Association” which was created in Geneva in May 1985 by Mr. Roland Niklaus, lies at the origin of what has become the Geneva Chapter of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

This Association was created to act as a forum and as a support to the first joint venture based in Geneva with the Shanghai Overseas Trading Corporation Society.

The Swiss-Chinese Association expanded rapidly following the President’s trip to China to meet with several high personalities, and through the organization of various meetings and conferences which helped to develop contacts between the Chinese and the Swiss partners.

Mr. Henri-Philippe Sambuc succeeded Mr. Roland Niklaus in 1989 as the Head of the Association. Through his efforts, the Association moved closer to the “Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce” in Zurich, before eventually closing ranks with it on 17th of May 1995. Since that day, we are officially known as the “Geneva Chapter of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce”.

Ms Hilda RoCHAT is the current President of the Geneva Chapter with the support of a Committee of 12 persons who meet on average four times annually.

The Geneva Chapter includes more than a hundred members and organizes regular meetings, conferences and luncheons with topics on current events concerning China today.

For the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic recognition of the People’s Republic of China by Switzerland, a Com-

mittee has been created to organize an event which will probably be the biggest achievement of the Geneva Chapter since its inception. An exceptional gala evening will be held on Saturday, 16th September 2000 at the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices in Geneva. Approximately 600 guests are expected including senior members of the Council of State from the various Cantons and also high ranking Chinese diplomatic delegates.

The evening is based on the idea of bringing closer Swiss and Chinese people, hence it is called “La Nuit de l’Amitié” (Friendship’s Night). Famous Swiss and Chinese celebrities will make their appearances, such as the Mummenschanz and the “China Art” dance company. The evening will start with an aperitif followed by a show of different Swiss and Chinese artists, and last but not least, a buffet dinner, again with Swiss and Chinese delicacies, whilst being entertained by several performances.

We hope this happening will find the interest of our members and Swiss as well as Chinese friends thus contributing to another fifty years of good relations between our two countries. Additionally, this event will help in the development of the Geneva Chapter and will attract new members, too.

Philippe Knupfer
Vice-President of the Geneva Chapter
Chairperson of the Legal Chapter Geneva



At the General Assembly in 1995 the members approved the merger of the Geneva-based Swiss-Chinese Association with the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Zurich. President of the Association, Hilda RoCHAT, and Marc Ronca, newly elected President of the Chamber, at the founding act of the Geneva Chapter.

“Speak Global, Act Local” – The Lugano Chapter

On December 15, 1995, the Lugano Chapter of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated in the presence of the Federal Councillor Flavio Cotti, H.E. Xin Futan, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Switzerland, Dr. Marc Ronca, Chamber President, Mr. Lou Kaifu, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the P.R.C. in Berne and Mr. Claudio Mazzucchelli, Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Embassy in Beijing.

The Chamber has set up this Chapter to suit the local requirements of the specialized interests of the Ticino. The aim of this Chapter is to provide a forum to its Swiss and Chinese members in which they can discuss and address matters of common interest. The Chapter maintains close relations with the main office in Zurich. Moreover,

the goal of the Chapter is to market the manifold services offered by the main office in Zurich and the offices in Beijing and Shanghai so as to enable Ticino companies to broaden their knowledge about the legal and commercial framework of activities in China. The Chapter also assists Chinese companies who intend to start business in Ticino and acts as a link with the cantonal administration, banks, auditors and accounting firms.

The Chapter’s founding president was Dr. Felix R. Ehrat, Partner with the law firm Bär & Karrer, Zurich and Lugano. His successor became Dr. Kurt E. Stirnermann, CEO and Board Delegate of AGIE Charmilles Group in Losone who presided the Chapter from 1998 until spring 2000. Since then Dr. Theobald Tsoe Ziu Brun acts as new chairman.



Inauguration of the Lugano Chapter in 1995:

f.l.t.r. Claudio Mazzucchelli, Dr. Marc Ronca, Federal Councillor Flavio Cotti, Dr. Felix R. Ehrat, Ambassador Xin Futan and Lou Kaifu.

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The Legal Chapter's 5th Anniversary

As China and Switzerland celebrate the establishment of their diplomatic relations 50 years ago and the Chamber's 20th anniversary, the Legal Chapter looks back to its inauguration 5 years ago. In order to celebrate these well established links to China, the Legal Chapter has organised the 2. Zurich International Forum on Chinese Business Law, this year with very special features. The forum was held on June 6, 2000, and the many representatives from both, the Chinese and Swiss business communities, proved that the relations between China and Switzerland have substantially intensified over the last 50 years. While some years ago China business events mainly addressed joint venture issues, the focus has shifted towards topics such as joint stock companies, public offerings, telecom and the internet, which are all also representing the new market age.

The Legal Chapter's International Forum on Chinese Business Law, which was launched last year together with the LL.M. Programme International Business Law of the University of Zurich, shall continue to provide an international platform for discussing China related business law issues. The Legal Chapter believes that bringing together the Chinese and the Swiss business communities in this way is a very useful means for furthering the understanding between the different business cultures and the different approaches towards the legal system. In the new market area, the legal system could then build upon the best which both systems have to offer. The Legal Chapter will continue to support this development and next year's seminar will hopefully focus on China's legal system after its accession to the WTO.

Five years ago the Legal Chapter enthusiastically announced its inauguration which took place on July 12, 1995 with the aim to become a forum for exchange among Swiss-based lawyers involved in China trade and

investment and to further a productive exchange and flow of information among the members of the Chamber and the Legal Chapter. Over the last five years the Legal Chapter has organised various events, seminars, luncheon speeches and informal gatherings on topics of Chinese law for its own as well as the Chamber's members. It has also become an information desk which can be contacted by the Chamber's members for information requests on legal issues. The Legal Chapter has established a cooperation with the LL.M. Programme International Business Law of the University of Zurich, which supports legal studies in Chinese Business Law and assists Chinese lawyers who wish to attend postgraduate legal studies at Zurich University's Faculty of Law.

"Five" is one of the most important numbers in Chinese symbols. Among other it stands for the five directions on earth (including the centre for the Chinese), the five colours, the five scents and the five tastes. Five relationships were defined in Confucianism, five classical books were written, five dynasties have marked an important period, five moral qualities guide us and five lucky gifts may bless our life. Applying a Western approach on this basis, the Legal Chapter wishes that the number five, which is linked to this year's celebrations, is a lucky one for the continuation of the good relations between China and Switzerland and for the development of the Chinese legal system.



*Esther Nügeli, Attorney-at-Law, LL.M.
Chairperson, Legal Chapter*



Three of the eight speakers at the 2. Zurich International Forum on Chinese Business Law, organised by the Legal Chapter in cooperation with the LL.M. Programme International Business Law of the University of Zurich. (f.l.t.r.) Harro von Senger, Wei Wenbin, Michael J. Moser.

The Beijing Chapter: 1995–2000

The Beijing Chapter of the Swiss–Chinese Chamber of Commerce was incepted in late 1995 by a small group of Swiss entrepreneurs, managers and professionals, who wished to further intensify economic co-operation between the two countries. Under its first President, Sylvie Seidlitz, the institution rapidly grew to an organization comprising about 30 members after a mere 12 months' existence. Originally maintaining its offices in a charming courtyard house in one of the capital's hutongs, the Chapter moved to larger premises at the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing, when its activities continued to expand. During the tenure of its second and third Presidents, Mr. Christian Stauffer and Dr. Peter Ringele, the Chapter further expanded its range of activities and services. As a result of these efforts our institution comprised a total of 79 members, when Dr. Urs Buchmann took over as the fourth President of the Chapter by the beginning of 2000.

The closeness to the Swiss Embassy proves of much help in the continuous development of the Chapter's activities. It notably receives active support from a very

committed team of diplomats, trade officers and administrative employees. The Chapter moreover benefits from the excellent diplomatic ties the PRC and Switzerland have maintained since 1950.

Aiming at providing up-to-date information on key developments in China as well as on areas crucial to Sino–Swiss economic cooperation our institution organizes regular luncheon presentations and workshops. The macro-economic environment, the formation and management of joint ventures, the country's legal system, foreign trade issues as well as the human resources situation have emerged as central topics over the years. Issues such as the country's nearing accession to WTO and the related impact for Swiss services and finance, the educational system, the country's growing IT industry, the expansion of proprietary research capabilities as well as the state of the environment have also attracted rising attention.

The Chapter's members and its board serve on a voluntary and honorary basis. In order to make full size of its still limited resources, we observe a strong division of



The Board members of the Beijing Chapter: (top/down f.l.t.r.) Rolf Schaumann, Steven Zhang, Urs Buchmann, Ruby Chang, Walter Landolt, Markus Altermatt, Juerg Lauber, Paul Lau, Cyrill Eltschinger.



On September 26, 1997, Consul General of Switzerland Dr. Rolf Lenz opened the inaugural general assembly of the Swiss-Chinese Business Forum in Shanghai. After the statutes have been accepted unanimously by the attendees, the SCBF – partner organization of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce – has officially been established.

Rolf Lenz also handed over the board to the newly elected board members: (f.l.t.r.) Andy Gehrig (Secretary), Peter Marti (Treasurer), Willy J. Soland (founding President), Pascal Brenneisen (Vice President) and Walter Haldemann (Member). William Keller and Karl Naef (Members of the Board) are not shown in this picture which was taken at the general assembly in March 1998.

labor within our Board. The approach allows to pursue projects in areas as diverse as the handling of our public affairs, the marketing of our services as well as the handling of projects in the environmental and humanitarian field. We are also about to re-arrange and further update our Website, in itself an important source of information and introduction for and to the Sino-Swiss business community.

Switzerland's size poses limitations as to the presence of our country in the largest emerging market. Accordingly we seek to coordinate efforts and pool resources wherever feasible. Such efforts may occur in form of a Swiss bus circulating on one of Beijing's busiest traffic arteries and featuring ads by a comprehensive range of companies representative of Switzerland's economy. An intense dialogue with the Beijing Chapter's sister organization, the Swiss-Chinese Business Forum in Shanghai and the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland are also part of such a co-ordinated approach.

The year 2000 is special throughout and even more

spectacular in China, where the Millennium change coincides with the year of the Golden Dragon, the most auspicious sign within the country's zodiac. The 50-year-jubilee of Sino-Swiss diplomatic ties as well as the fifth anniversary of the inception of our own organization adds further sparkle.

We trust that so many a golden occasion augur well for our next important step which will be the establishment of a Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce in China. In close co-operation with the Shanghai Business Forum, we decided to formalize our presence and activities in China. This will give us increased importance in our contacts with government entities and regulators as well as with foreign corporate partners, consultants and research bodies.

Dr. Urs Buchmann
President

Jürg Lauber
Secretary General

Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Beijing Chapter

Up-coming events

Beijing:

| Month | Day | Topics |
|-----------|-----|--|
| August | 9 | Business Luncheon Subject: Distribution |
| September | 11 | Business Luncheon Mr. Bernard Piccard on: "Management under Stress" |
| October | 11 | Business Luncheon |
| November | 8 | Business Luncheon |

Shanghai:

| Month | Day | Topics |
|-----------|-----|--|
| September | 11 | Afternoon Work shop export, trade and JV financing |
| October | 10 | JV versus wholly foreign invested enterprises Round Table Discussion with other Chamber |
| November | 14 | Visit of a Shanghai Brewery together with German Chamber |
| December | 5 | Christmas party together with Swiss Club |

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Shanghai and the Provinces of
Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang

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For: Municipality of Shanghai and
Provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu and
Zhejiang

New Members in Beijing since April 2000:

| | |
|---|-----------|
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| China Banknote SICPA Security Ink Co. Ltd. | Beijing |
| Geobruigg Chengdu Co. Ltd. | Chengdu |

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Chinese Economy: Strong Start into 2000

China's economy posted an encouraging 8.1% GDP growth from a year ago during the first quarter, with most major economic indicators pointing to a turnaround from last year's declining trend. The good performance was attributed to massive Government spending on infrastructure and to the strong growth of exports especially to the United States, Japan and Europe.

Industrial output expanded by 10.7%, fixed assets investment advanced 8.5%, exports soared 39.1% to US\$ 51.7 billion, while imports shot up 41% to US\$ 46.5 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of US\$ 5.2 billion. Newly approved foreign-invested enterprises numbered 4.316, up 22.75% on year. Their contracted new investments amounted to US\$ 11.08 billion, up 27.05%, although actually utilized foreign investment fell 2.72% to US\$ 7.14 billion. By the end of April the total of China's approved foreign-invested enterprises exceeded 347.800. Contracted investment reached US\$ 628.7 billion, and actually paid-in investment US\$ 317.6 billion.

Yet, despite these encouraging features Chinese economists remained guarded in their forecasts for the whole year as deflationary pressures continued. Consumer spending remained weak as people remain concerned about rising costs of education, health care and housing, as the government rolls back the welfare state. A fiercely competitive price environment remains for many manufactured goods. The economy still has deep structural

problems; the reform of State-owned enterprises is far from being finished. The issue of unemployment is a major consideration. China's social security system needs to be developed to handle increasing lay-offs.

China needs to improve the effectiveness of its taxation system. Currently, taxes account for only 13.95% of GDP, compared with 31% in the United States and 52% in Europe.

China has decided to create a system of inheritance taxes. According to the Tax Research Institute the most wealthy citizens, who account for 1% to 3% of the country's 1.26 billion, will have to pay inheritance tax. About 20% of Chinese hold about 80% of the country's private savings.

The central government approved the establishment of the Shanghai Diamond Exchange in Pudong. Located in China's highest building, Jinmao Tower, the exchange is expected to go into operation this year.

The China-EU WTO accord and the US House of Representatives' approval of permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China were the highlights in the first half of this year. The two measures make China's entry into WTO almost certain. The country will then enter a period of huge challenges and profound changes.

Summary by Paul Wyss

First Quarter Swiss-Chinese Trade in 2000 (in 1000 CHF)

| Main Items | Imports | | +/- of total | | Exports | | +/- of total | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | in % | in % | 1999 | 2000 | in % | in % |
| Landwirtschaftliche Produkte | 18 864 | 23 285 | 23.4 | 4.2 | 374 | 402 | 7.7 | 0.1 |
| Mineralische Stoffe | 148 | 182 | 22.9 | 0.0 | 7 | - | ... | - |
| Energieträger | 2 | 111 | ... | 0.0 | 492 | 71 | -85.5 | 0.0 |
| Chemische Produkte (ohne Pharma) | 40 745 | 56 459 | 38.6 | 10.2 | 32 044 | 59 477 | 85.6 | 19.7 |
| Pharmazeutische Erzeugnisse | 646 | 754 | 16.7 | 0.1 | 13 139 | 29 386 | 123.7 | 9.7 |
| Kunststoffe, Kautschuk | 10 116 | 10 827 | 7.0 | 1.9 | 2 439 | 7 133 | 192.5 | 2.4 |
| Felle, Leder, Lederwaren | 24 593 | 30 953 | 25.9 | 5.6 | 122 | 437 | 257.2 | 0.1 |
| Holz, Kork, Flechtwaren | 4 405 | 4 414 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 925 | 2 922 | 215.9 | 1.0 |
| Papier und Papierwaren | 1 717 | 1 532 | -10.8 | 0.3 | 3 175 | 1 247 | -60.7 | 0.4 |
| Textilien und Bekleidung | 134 245 | 165 358 | 23.2 | 29.8 | 2 601 | 5 936 | 128.2 | 2.0 |
| Schuhe, Schirme, Daunen usw. | 25 235 | 34 026 | 34.8 | 6.1 | 0 | 138 | ... | 0.0 |
| Waren aus Steinen, Keramik, Glas | 3 529 | 4 669 | 32.3 | 0.8 | 454 | 567 | 24.9 | 0.2 |
| Edelmetalle, Bijouterie, Münzen | 2 592 | 4 500 | 73.6 | 0.8 | 12 748 | 1 184 | -90.7 | 0.4 |
| Metalle und Metallwaren | 13 668 | 21 583 | 57.9 | 3.9 | 5 093 | 6 102 | 19.8 | 2.0 |
| Maschinen | 63 692 | 94 499 | 48.4 | 17.0 | 115 846 | 154 982 | 33.8 | 51.4 |
| Fahrzeuge, Flugzeuge usw. | 3 109 | 5 894 | 89.6 | 1.1 | 956 | 2 746 | 187.2 | 0.9 |
| Instrumente, Apparate usw. | 9 058 | 11 352 | 25.3 | 2.0 | 8 049 | 14 464 | 79.7 | 4.8 |
| Uhren | 17 594 | 37 150 | 111.2 | 6.7 | 10 566 | 11 854 | 12.2 | 3.9 |
| Waffen und Munition | 17 | 10 | -39.9 | 0.0 | - | 15 | ... | 0.0 |
| Möbel, Bettzeug usw. | 11 994 | 14 388 | 20.0 | 2.6 | 365 | 189 | -48.2 | 0.1 |
| Spielzeug, Sportgeräte usw. | 32 113 | 33 682 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 605 | 2 296 | 279.7 | 0.8 |
| Total | 418 082 | 555 629 | 32.9 | 100.0 | 209 998 | 301 548 | 43.6 | 100.0 |

Source: Oberzolldirektion

China's Short and Medium Term Economic Outlook

By Dr. Deepak Bhattasali
Chief Economist Unit, THE WORLD BANK, China
Program, Resident Mission in China

Presentation held at the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of
Commerce, Beijing, April 2000

The External Environment

Let us start with the external economic environment. My main point here is that it is significantly better than any time over the past three years, and the challenges China will face on this front are not very great.

At the World Bank, we have revised our growth estimates for the world economy upwards, to 3.5% in 2000 and 3.1% for 2001. This is mainly due to faster growth in North America and Europe, further supported by booming trade conditions (7–8% growth each year). We also envisage an increase in capital flows to developing countries from \$161 billion in 1999, to \$185 billion in 2000 and \$230 billion in 2001. Finally, we are projecting an increase in FDI from \$183 billion in 1999, to \$200 billion this year and \$215 billion in 2001.

For the East Asia Region, the EA-5 (Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) are expected to grow by 5.8% this year, and 5.4% in 2001, compared to 6% in 1999. This stems chiefly from a slowdown in Korea from about 10% last year to about 7% this year and 6% in 2001. Hong Kong's growth rate is projected to double to 4%, while both Singapore and Taiwan are expected to grow a little faster than last year. Finally, we are projecting Japan to grow at a little over one percent in both 2000 and 2001.

These are just numbers. What it means for China is that the external environment poses no threat, unless it is from international agreements that affect its future trading possibilities. Thus, although China seems to have reached the limits of what it can do to stimulate exports through subsidies and reduced domestic profitability, both of which enabled it to increase market share during 1997–1999, and there is little pressure for exchange rate adjustment, the contribution of exports to growth can be expected to be as strong this year as last.

The Domestic Environment

But, will that be enough. This is the point at which I would like to shift the focus to the domestic economy, where the main short term challenges exist.

The primary concern of policymakers today is to put a floor on the expansion of unemployment. This is certainly not an easy issue with which to deal. The natural increase in the workforce is about one million workers each year. Agriculture sheds nearly five million workers each year, of whom many find their way to cities in search of work. China also has to cope with very visible layoffs from collective and state enterprises, some policy-induced, others reflecting several structural adjust-

ments that have been underway in the economy. All in all, China needs to produce eight-to-nine million urban jobs a year, but with GDP growth rates that have averaged about 8% per year, it has only created five to six-and-a-half million jobs annually.

The primary instrument the Government has for the time being is the macroeconomic stimulus program. The long term sustainability of such a program is important, however, although there is little doubt that careful management of the aggregate resource envelope has meant that it still has large degrees of freedom. But, and little noticed by most analysts, in one respect it is becoming increasingly constrained.

This is the area generally termed by us economists as “the engines of growth”. The emerging constraints can be viewed in three different ways:

- The demand constraint – aggregate savings of 40% mean a low consumption rate of 60%. Given some elements of the current and prospective situation, especially the way individual responsibility for social services and insurance is being expanded and the continuing depression of rural incomes, consumer demand for goods is not set for a major leap forward. There is a lot of pent up demand for better services, both personal and business, but this is chiefly urban based and a function of WTO accession.
- The productivity constraint – almost 70% of past growth has come from the expansion of labor and capital inputs, but neither of these is in short supply today or in the near future. Productivity increases could, perhaps, yield higher growth from the same labor and capital inputs, but this will only come when the current structural adjustments are substantially completed. Moreover, although we remain optimists about the scope for productivity increases, its past contribution to Chinese growth is comparable to that of the leading developed countries, so we need to be conservative about future contributions.
- The sectoral constraints – some industries are not competitive internationally, or have shaved profit margins to such an extent that their ability to expand has been curtailed sharply, others need substantial re-tooling even to meet shifting patterns of domestic demand, and still others face severe bottlenecks in the form of policy, financial and logistical difficulties.

The Future

What this means is that a race is on – between the ability of the Government to sustain the macro-stimulus program and the ability of the economy to complete enough structural change to be able to regenerate self-sustaining growth.

What should we look for in order to understand the likely outcome of this race? Let me offer a few sugges-

tions. But, again, let me caution you that these views are stated from the arrogant vantage point of shallow knowledge. Also, they come from someone whose main business is not short term risk analysis, but long haul, steady state development economics.

- Reforms in social insurance and, by extension, the ability to hasten adjustment among SOEs, local government finances, and banks.
- Creation of a housing market, which is expected to be a major outlet for household savings, and an important stimulus for consumer demand and new construction.
- Western region development, which is expected to be the other stimulus for aggregate demand, both consumption and investment.

- Acceleration of legal and regulatory reform, in order to promote domestic and foreign private investment, including those required to increase the WTO-compatibility of China's present system.

Profound changes are underway in each of these areas, and they offer the potential to reactivate growth in output and employment. In many ways, these are make or break policy and institutional development choke points. China's success in these areas over the next three years will determine, more or less, its ability to realize its undoubted potential as a leading economic performer.

Dr. Deepak Batthasali

Recent Foreign Investments / Joint Ventures

USA

CATERPILLAR launched a new venture, Caterpillar Paving Products Xuzhou in Jiangsu Province. It is Caterpillar's sixth venture in China. It will concentrate on production of vibrating compactors, mostly for export throughout Asia.

NEWYORK LIFE INSURANCE CO opened a representative office in Chengdu, their fourth besides Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The company signed a US\$ 250 million letter of intent for investments in the Chengdu area.

PRATT & WITNEY, specialist for airplane motors, have been organizing management seminars for executives of China Aviation Authorities and various Chinese airlines in cooperation with CAAC.

BELL LABS, the research and development arm of Lucent Technologies, opened a research facility in Beijing which will focus on communications software, computer science and applied mathematics. Bell Labs runs another development lab in Shanghai.

TRICON GLOBAL RESTAURANTS INC. which already runs 380 Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut Restaurants in 90 Chinese cities, will add new outlets in Hainan, Henan and Shanxi province.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU and the Ministry of Finance signed a contract under a World Bank Financial and Technical Assistance Project. Deloitte will provide advice and assistance to the Ministry in reforming China's accounting system.

MCDONALD'S has launched a joint venture with Hualian Group, Shanghai Hualian McDonald's Co Ltd,

to further expand its business in Shanghai. The new venture will lead to the opening of some 20 new restaurants in the city in the next few years. There are currently 25 McDonald's restaurants in Shanghai.

STARBUCKS, US coffee giant, opened its first outlet in Shanghai and plans to have ten stores in the city within a year. The company already has nine outlets in Beijing and plans to open about 50 stores in other Chinese cities over the next five years.

COCA-COLA (35%) and China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corp. (65%) will establish the first Chinese-majority owned bottling joint venture involving Coca-Cola's operations in China. The new company will be named COFCO Coca-Cola Beverages Ltd and will be based in Hong Kong.

WAL-MART opened its seventh store of 20,000 square meters in Dalian. Wal-Mart's partner in the venture is Dalian Friendship Group Corporation, a key local State-owned commercial corporation.

CANADA

ALTACHEM PHARMA and Jiangwan Industrial and Commercial Co established a joint venture in Shanghai. The new company is to manufacture and market pharmaceutical products developed by both companies.

HYDRONOV CO, a world leader in lettuce production, and Beijing Shunxin Agricultural Holding, started a joint venture on green vegetable production. The Chinese partner holds 52% of the US\$ 3.6 million investment, and Hydronov the remaining 48%.

JAPAN

KOSE CORPORATION will open 10 outlets in Beijing to sell its own brand-range of skin-care products, perfume and other cosmetics. Most outlets will be located within existing department stores.

GERMANY

HENKEL and Changchun Automotive Sealant Plant established Changchun Henkel Surface Technologies Co Ltd. The joint venture will mainly produce PVC coating, adhesives for the automobile industry and paint-protection product. Henkel has already surface technology joint ventures in Guangzhou, Shanghai and Wuhan.

SAP, leading software solutions provider, inaugurated its new research and development centre in Beijing. A memorandum was signed by SAP and Qinghua University to co-develop solutions that cater to the requirements of Chinese enterprises. It is planned to set up five branch centres within the next 2 years.

UZIN UTZ in Ulm, specialist in construction chemicals, formed a joint venture with Shanghai Shenzhen Enterprise Development Co for the production of floor adhesives. The joint venture will be located in Shanghai.

AVENTIS CROP SCIENCE LTD and Hangzhou General Pesticide Plant formed a joint venture which will concentrate on pesticides against pests affecting rice crops. Aventis will hold 75% of the 50 million Euro investment, the Chinese partner the remaining 25%.

BASF made an agreement with its Chinese joint venture partner to acquire all shares and to rename the wholly owned company to BASF Colorants & Chemicals Co. Ltd.

GEMEX TRADING, member of **METRO** group, and Sparkice, leading Chinese business-to-business portal, entered a strategic partnership centering around Metro's B2B activities.

(continued on next page)

GREAT BRITAIN

ROLLS-ROYCE and **AVIC** concluded a five year cooperation agreement in the field of airplane engines. For that purpose a joint Engineering Team was established.

JOHNSON MATTHEY will build its ninth autocatalyst facility in Shanghai, with production due to begin early in 2001. All new cars have to meet emission standards requiring the installation of autocatalysts.

BASS, Britain's second largest brewer, is pulling out of a joint venture in Jilin with a Chinese partner who will take over Bass's 55% stake.

FRANCE

ALCATEL, manufacturer of cables, mobile phones and switches, will open its Asian headquarters and a major research centre in Shanghai. Alcatel has invested US\$ 420 million in China through 17 joint ventures and five wholly-owned ventures, employing 5000 people.

YVES SAINT LAURENT'S perfume Opium has been removed from shop shelves across China after a ban imposed in December 1999 because the name sent an improper message to young people. The decision was made by the State Commercial and Industrial Bureau.

RSM SALUSTRO REYDEL, France's seventh largest auditing and accounting firm, entered a 50:50 joint venture named RSM Salustro Zongrui CPA with Zhong Rui Hza Certified Public Accountants. Seven accounting joint ventures have already taken root in China.

ALSTOM and Shanghai Electrical Company set up a joint venture to produce 28 rail cars for Shanghai's first light rail system. Value: US\$ 200 million.

HOLLAND

NUMICO, Dutch food group, purchased all outstanding shares in Wuxi Chia-Tai Pharmaceutical, now renamed as Nutricia Pharmaceutical Company Wuxi. The company will make clinical nutrition products.

CORUS ALUMINIUM EXTRUSIONS (61%) and Tianjin Non Ferrous Metal Group (39%) established a joint venture in Tianjin to produce and sell aluminium in China.

DSM FIBRE INTERMEDIATES and Guangdong Xinhui Meida Nylon established a joint venture to produce 45.000 tons of nylon-6 polymer annually.

FINLAND

NOKIA announced plans for an industrial park in a suburb of Beijing jointly with Capital Corp, a state-owned Chinese company. The park, to be completed in 2004, is expected to attract US\$ 1.2 billion in investments from foreign and local telecom companies.

SWEDEN

ERICSSON will invest with the Heilongjiang Mobile Communications Co to jointly establish the Heilongjiang Ericsson Science & Technology Co, Ericsson's ninth joint venture in China. The new company will mainly provide engineering and technical services as well as software R&D.

SWITZERLAND

NESTLE completed the first phase of the extension of Nestle Sources Shanghai Ltd. giving the plant an annual capacity of 100 million bottles of water. Total consumption of bottled water in China is currently 3 billion bottles/year, the number is growing at 12% annually.

ANDRE & CIE LTD, global trader in agricultural products, acquired 10% of the shares of Cofco Tianding International Co Ltd, one of five Sino-foreign trading joint ventures approved by the State Council. Cofco Tianding is mainly engaged in agricultural products, paper and pulps.

MOEVENPICK withdrew from Moevenpick hotel at Beijing airport. The hotel's new name is Sinoswiss Airport Hotel. It is owned by Beijing State Capital Hotel Co and managed by a Swiss citizen.

SWISS LIFE's China fund made its first investment of about US\$ 5.5 million in a Chinese high-tech company, Lianda Dongfang Technology Group. Its core businesses are computer hardware and software, system integration and communication network services.

SWISS RE acquired a 9.9% minority stake in China Insurance International Holdings Co. Ltd. for US\$ 15 million. Swiss Re has representative offices in Hongkong, Beijing and Shanghai and concentrates on reinsurance in the life and non-life insurance sector.

AUSTRIA

RAIFFEISEN ZENTRALBANK is the first Austrian bank to be granted a licence for establishing a branch in China. It will be opened in Beijing and will cater for Austrian as well as Eastern European customers.

NIPPON CERAMIC is to move the bulk of its Japanese production to a new facility in Kunshan, Jiangsu province. The unit will make devices such as transformers and ultrasound sensors. Operation in Japan will concentrate on research and development.

KAWAMURA CYCLE is setting up a joint venture in Guangdong province to make wheelchairs, aluminium-frame beds and crutches. Most of the planned monthly production of 20.000–30.000 units will be exported to Japan.

Summary by Paul Wyss

China and the WTO

The recent EU trade deal and the favourable US vote on PNTR (Permanent Normal Trade Relations) pave the way for China's admission to WTO. Only Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Switzerland have yet to complete negotiations. Once they are completed, all the agreements will be submitted to WTO and consolidated into a single tariff schedule consisting of the best deals China offered in the bilateral trade. These are then available to all the 134 members. An accession protocol is also required that explains China's trade regulations and how they will become WTO-compliant. Only after completion of the final accession protocol will Beijing officially join the world trade body. Thirty days after that, the long-awaited opening to foreign goods and companies will begin. This process is likely to take longer than normally because the other members will want to clarify the Chinese muddle of laws and regulations and non-tariff barriers.

Some major points:

In the TRADE area, Chinese tariffs will decrease from an average of about 25% for industrial goods to around 9%, for example automobiles from 80%–100% to 25%, information technology from 13% to 0%, chemicals from 11.8% to about 7%, pharmaceuticals from 9.6% to about 4%, cosmetics from 30% to 0%, the 60 most important agricultural products from 26.7% to about 10%. In addition China will eliminate various trade barriers. All quotas will be eliminated by 2005.

DISTRIBUTION, including the areas of wholesaling, retailing, transportation, maintenance and after-sales services will be opened. For the first time foreign firms will be able to own or manage distribution networks, wholesaling outlets and warehouses, rather than being limited to distributing own products made in China as in the past.

China has agreed to ensure that state enterprises will make purchases based exclusively on commercial considerations, which will enable foreign companies to compete for PROCUREMENT contracts on non-discriminatory terms.

Numerous barriers to FOREIGN INVESTMENT will come down. In the services area, sectors so far off limits to foreigners, such as telecommunications, will be liberalised, immediately or after transition periods. This will enable foreign investors to open wholly-owned subsidiaries or hold majority stakes in joint ventures in professional services, transport, tourism.

In FINANCIAL services, foreign-invested companies will be able to provide wide ranges of services to Chinese firms and individuals. European financial service companies are among the world leaders and can make a significant contribution. Life insurers will be allowed 50% ownership of joint ventures, and non-life insurers. 51% European insurers and fund management companies can play a key role in the reform of the social security system.

Last but not least there will be increased transparency in the Chinese LEGAL FRAMEWORK which will make it easier to do business in China.

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On the other hand, there are also some concessions on the side of China's trade partners. In the case of the EU, remaining quotas on certain Chinese products will be phased out, notably for textiles, tableware, shoes.

WTO accession will be a powerful boost for China's ECONOMIC REFORMS. Accession will give the reform-oriented leadership more tools for pushing reforms. Fiercer international competition will speed up the process of reforming the state-owned sector of the economy. This will be painful in the short term in some areas, but create dynamic, competitive industries.

China's exports are set to grow. At first, growth will be concentrated in manufactured goods of relatively low value, such as clothing, shoes and toys. In the medium term, however, China can be expected to become a lead-

ing exporter in higher-value goods such as electronics and cars.

Foreign investment in China will increase steadily. Sectors where FDI has so far been difficult or prohibited, such as telecommunications, financial services, distribution, wholesaling and logistics, could attract significant amounts of capital.

It is impossible to gauge accurately the economic benefits to China at this stage, but various forecasts have been made by Western experts: a doubling of exports by 2005; an extra percentage point of economic growth for the next decade; a doubling of foreign direct investment in the next five years.

Press summary by P. Wyss

Challenges and Opportunities in China's West

Since China adopted reforms two decades ago, the east has witnessed a remarkable economic take-off. By 1998, per capita income in the east tripled that in the west. Industrial growth was much faster in the coastal areas than in the landlocked west. Some 65% of the country's industrial output come from the west, but a mere 10.2% from the east. The increasing imbalance of economic development has pressed the central government to start an unprecedented revive-the-west campaign.

China's western region includes 11 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the direct control of the central government. The region covers 5.4 million square kilometres, 57% of the country's land area, and has a population of 285 million people, 23% of the national total. More than half the country's verified natural resources are in the region. Despite its size, the region is not fertile, and water resources are scarce, making it difficult to farm. Severe erosion is threatening the environment which has been hit frequently by natural disasters.

The National People's Congress held in March this year decided to move full steam ahead with plans to open up and develop the country's interior. Preferential policies will be used to lure foreign and domestic investments to the area. Following is an overview of the planned policies and measures:

- Premier Zhu Rongji stressed that a positive fiscal policy will lay the foundations for the large-scale development of the western region during the Five-Year Plan 2001-2005. A larger proportion of the proceeds from newly-issued treasury bonds will be spent on projects in the west.
- A Central Western Development Leading Group was set up under the State Development Planning Commission to implement the master plan. Agriculture including water conservation and irrigation, infrastructure for industry, education and information transmission will be perfected. Rational urban plan-

ning will create a network of closely linked cities. The manufacturing industry, which now heavily depends on natural resources, will be transformed into a technology intensive one.

- As from this year, Western investors in state-encouraged fields can benefit from additional concessionary tax rates when they invest in the central and western areas. This extends the period during which they enjoy lower tax rates by three years. Local governments have been given greater authority to encourage a flow of direct foreign investment into the areas.
- As an example of the importance the government attaches to the interior's opening Premier Zhu Rongji mentioned the building of a 4,200 kilometres natural gas pipeline from Xingjiang to Shanghai with an investment of about US\$ 15 billion. Passing through eight provinces, it will benefit industry along the route. Mr. Zhu suggested that Western investment would be welcome to participate in the project.
- Other projects announced by the central government include railways, 17,000 km of new highways, 20 new airports, power plants, a light rail network in Chongqing, key water control projects, support for colleges and universities in the Western regions.
- The West provides fertile ground for tourism. There are famous mountains, unique topographic features, ancient ruins and rich folk customs of ethnic minorities.
- The World Bank will provide financial and advisory help in assisting the Chinese Government. About US\$ 1 billion of its lending package will flow into the western areas.
- Domestic banks, headed by China Construction Bank, will issue "Western Development Bonds".

Foreign companies are beginning to make significant commitments to the government's "go west" initiative. Since beginning of this year, 53 new foreign-invested enterprises registered representative offices and joint ventures in Chongqing. Also in Chongqing, ABB and BP Amoco have two of their biggest joint ventures. Shell and Enron are participating in developing the huge natural gas resources. In Chengdu, Kodak opened a chain store and New York Life Insurance Co. a representative office. Coca Cola plans to open plants in Xinjiang, Qinghai and Ningxia. Austrade, the Australian Trade Commission, is opening offices in Chengdu and Kunming to explore opportunities for Australian companies.

Press summary by P. Wyss

Self-financed Education in Switzerland for Chinese Students

Private language and hotel management boarding schools have a long and excellent tradition in Switzerland. Today there are more than 250 private schools in Switzerland, catering to some 100,000 pupils from over 100 nations. Naturally, Chinese students are also attracted by such possibilities. It is the hope of Swiss authorities that every Chinese student will fully benefit from and enjoy their Swiss experience.

Chinese students, like students from any other nationality, are welcome in Switzerland. The large number of Swiss schools offering a private education but at relatively high fees can make the decision difficult. The student's education in Switzerland must therefore be prepared carefully in order to avoid disappointment. Unfortunately, in recent months, many non-licensed and non-qualified student agencies in China have been promoting schools abroad with the only goal of collecting high fees from the students. Often promises were not kept and some students came back to China with a feeling of being cheated.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai have therefore taken the initiative to provide students with more accurate information. A brochure called "Private Education in Switzerland" as well as Websites have been prepared for the benefit of Chinese students.

The brochure and the Website provide the student with information on how to choose the most suitable school, follow the proper visa procedure, and how to manage an agent regarding expectations in Switzerland. The brochure and Website will also provide contacts for direct access to the schools, therefore providing the opportunity to obtain first-hand information about the school's fees, enrolment conditions and any other question of interest. The student is also encouraged to deal only with school agents who are properly licensed to operate in China in order to avoid unpleasant surprises afterwards.

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- Informationen zur Reise- und Messteilnahme – Vorbereitung für Neu-Einsteiger in China
- Mandate für Abklärungen und Projekte im Anlagenbau und für Industrieberatung in China

In order to obtain free information, students with access to Internet are encouraged to connect to: www.swisstudy.org or www.swisschool.com.cn

Alternatively, a free brochure can be obtained directly from the Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing or the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai.

The brochure can also be mailed to any interested student. To obtain this brochure, please forward an envelope of size A4 with the student's address as well as the postage of CNY 10 to any Swiss diplomatic or consular office in China. The brochure will be mailed within a few business days.

In Brief

- China's population increased by 11 million in 1999. Births were 19.09 mio and deaths 8.1 mio. Total population now stands at 1.3 billion. More than two thirds of the population live in rural areas.
- Chinese seafood has gained full access to the European Union without being inspected. This means exporters will no longer suffer delays in customs clearance and additional storage and inspection costs.
- China has found its largest offshore oilfield with reserves of 600m tons in north China's Bohai Sea. It is believed to be the second largest oilfield after the Daqing field which was discovered in 1959 in north-east China.
- The Civil Aviation Administration of China recently ordered the more than two dozen airlines to stop their fierce price war and to share revenues on about 100 routes. Chinese airlines have been facing slower growth in domestic air travel and are struggling to fill the great number of aircraft ordered in the early 1990s.
- Private firms gave jobs to 1.336 million workers laid off by state-owned enterprises in the first 11 months of 1999. China has 1.49 mio private firms employing around 19 mio people.
- Beijing will move more than 700 state-owned factories out of the city centre over the next five years to reduce air pollution in the centre.
- Senior Chinese officials assume that 5 million state industrial workers will lose their jobs this year, increasing the government's welfare burden. The World Bank estimates that up to 35% of 140 million workers in the state-owned and collective sectors may be surplus.
- China has given the go-ahead for imports of liquefied natural gas. This will require the building of a new terminal and pipeline in Guangdong. The decision at the highest level suggests that China is keen to achieve a drop in pollution levels, gas being much cleaner than coal.
- A recent survey among 120.000 Chinese smokers revealed that only 40% were aware of the risk of lung cancer from smoking.
- The fifth population census will take place on November 1. The census will provide key information for drafting China's population policy and its social and economic development plan.
- More than 900.000 cars are likely to be bought by private individuals in China's urban areas this year, according to a survey conducted in the country's 14 major cities.
- Xian has drawn up plans to start building its first subway line in 2002. The 19.4 km line will stop near ten wholesale markets and shopping centres. The subway will be able to handle 510.000 people a day by 2009.
- Hangzhou's major tourist attraction, the West Lake, will soon become clearer. The city government will spend some US\$ 24 million on dredging silt from the lake. When the project is completed by the end of this year, the average depth will increase from the current 1.65 metres to 2.15 metres.
- A recent survey conducted in eight major Chinese cities indicated that more than 50% of urban residents are against owning a pet. Only about 30% said they used to own a pet, or would like to in the future. Dogs were ranked as the most popular pet with 54.4%, followed by cats with 39.65%.
- A luxury ship with first class facilities will officially start trips between China's southern province of Hainan and Vietnam in October. The route will be operated by Hainan and Star Cruises, Hong Kong, three times a week. The trip will take 36 hours, with stops at Haikou, Sanya, Ha Long and Haiphong.
- Shanghai plans to build 11 subway routes totaling 384 km and ten light rail routes covering 186 km at a total cost of some US\$ 36 billion. Between 15 and 20 km of track will be built per year with an investment of about US\$ 1.2 billion.
- Chinese authorities gave the country an unprecedented seven-day Labour Day vacation to try to stimulate economic growth through domestic consumption. A survey indicated that more than 10 million Chinese travelled over the break which began on May 1.
- With KLM's recent shifting of all its Shanghai flight operations to Pudong International Airport, 11 international and domestic airlines have moved to that facility. Recently arriving and departing flights have reached 90 a day, surpassing Hongqiao, Shanghai's old airport.
- With 50 million mobile phone users in China, for the first time in the first quarter of this year, the country's mobile phone volume rose above the fixed phone services, according to the Ministry of Information Industry.
- In order to encourage growth in the Pudong New Area on the Huangpu river's east side, Shanghai's authorities cancelled the toll for drivers crossing the river. Previously cars passing the two tunnels and five bridges were required to pay a toll of about US\$ 1.81 for cars and US\$ 1.08 for buses.

Summary by Paul Wyss

Switzerland and China – a Historical Perspective

In view of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Swiss-Chinese diplomatic relations and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce – both events coming up in September in the Year of the Dragon – we are proud and grateful to present to our readers a feature exclusively written for this special issue of our Bulletin.

We thank the author, Konrad Specker, for his outstanding contribution and the Federal Office for Foreign Affairs for its support.

Readers will find most valuable and interesting information and will learn from the roots about the develop-

ment of the relations between Switzerland and China. We highly recommend to the readers to take their time for the reading, since we are convinced that most of them are not familiar with this perspective; a perspective which is vital for the mutual understanding and the successful shaping of the future in the new millennium. And besides, it's also a fascinating journey.

For the sake of clarity and authenticity, the article is printed in German (an English summary is included). For further information turn to the note about the author.

Susan Horvath

Aspekte der Beziehungen zwischen der Schweiz und China – eine historische Perspektive

von Konrad Specker

Einleitung

Le mérite de M. Petitpierre c'est d'avoir conduit le Conseil fédéral, et ça n'était pas si naturel, à oser s'écarter de l'habitude de lenteur et du comportement précautionneux qui était jusqu'alors la règle.....Ainsi la Suisse marquait sa volonté d'agir de son propre mouvement, de prendre des décisions autonomes plutôt que de se réfugier ou de s'abriter, comme très souvent, dans le cortège des autres nations, et c'est ainsi qu'elle fut, en 1950, avec le Danemark et la Suède, l'un des seuls Etats de l'hémisphère occidental à reconnaître la République populaire de Chine et à établir avec elles des relations diplomatiques. (...)

About the author

Konrad Specker, born 1957 in Thun, Switzerland, studied history and graduated with a dissertation in the field of 19th century colonial history at the University of Zurich. From 1985 to 1990 he worked as delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Pakistan and India. Since 1991 he is working at the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation as programme officer for South-East and East Asian countries. He is involved in cooperation programmes with China since 1994.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation nor of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Ce qui est certain, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est qu'ici nous allons suivre avec un intérêt exceptionnel, attentif et amical l'évolution de cet Etat qui réunit près d'un milliard d'hommes. Une évolution que nous souhaitons d'autant plus heureuse que, sans aucun doute, elle influencera nécessairement et d'une manière décisive l'évolution du monde.

(Auszug aus der Rede von Alt-Bundesrat Pierre Graber zum 30. Jahrestag der diplomatischen Anerkennung der Volksrepublik China durch die Schweiz, 1980.)

Alt-Bundesrat Pierre Graber hatte in dieser Rede die besondere Bedeutung der frühen diplomatischen Anerkennung der Volksrepublik China durch die Schweiz, die Eigenständigkeit und Originalität des chinesischen Entwicklungsweges, das Interesse am Dialog und Austausch mit China sowie die globale Bedeutung Chinas hervorgehoben. All diese Aspekte sind heute noch immer von grosser Aktualität und Pierre Grabers Rede wirkt auch 50 Jahre nach der diplomatischen Anerkennung noch immer inspirierend.

Die vorliegende Studie versteht sich als ein Arbeitspapier und versucht, Aspekte der Beziehungen zwischen der Schweiz und China in einen geschichtlichen Zusammenhang und in den Rahmen grösserer Entwicklungstrends in China zu stellen. Ohne Anspruch auf Vollständigkeit beleuchtet die Studie einzelne Elemente dieser Beziehungen und versucht, Ereignisse und Anliegen der Beziehungen in ihrem breiteren Kontext zu erörtern.

Als Grundlage für die Studie dienten die Lektüre von Literatur und Akten sowie persönliche Erfahrungen. Die Studie ist in drei Abschnitte unterteilt:



Meeting in Beijing, on the 9th of May 1973 between Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and Max Petitpierre, former President of the Confederation and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

On the 14th of September in 1950 Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and at that time President of the Confederation, Max Petitpierre, decided the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland.

- In einem ersten Abschnitt wird die Entwicklung seit dem Auftauchen der ersten Schweizer in China im 17. Jahrhundert bis zur Gründung der Volksrepublik 1949 erläutert. Die Beschreibungen in diesem Abschnitt haben zum Teil anekdotischen Charakter.
- In einem zweiten Abschnitt wird die Entwicklung der Beziehungen zur Volksrepublik China beleuchtet. Besonderes Gewicht wird der diplomatischen Anerkennung der Volksrepublik gewidmet. In diesem Abschnitt wird auch eine Gesamtwürdigung der diplomatischen Beziehungen gewagt.
- In einem abschliessenden Abschnitt werden die wichtigsten Aussagen der Studie zusammengefasst und einige Elemente für einen Ausblick erwähnt.

I. Historische Entwicklung bis zur Gründung der Volksrepublik

Die ersten Schweizer in China

Das Land Ho-la-weit-tscha-ya (Helvetia) ist dem Reiche Sche-li-ma-ni-ya (Germania) untertan. Seine Bewohner sind gross und stark und ihrer Tapferkeit wegen überall berühmt. Das Land besitzt öffentliche Lehranstalten, in

denen Unterricht in der Handhabung der Waffen erteilt wird. Wenige von denen, die darin vollkommen geübt sind, bleiben zu Hause; die meisten wandern in fremde Gegenden aus, deren Fürsten sie als Diener oder Schwerträger gebrauchen.

Diese Beschreibung über die Schweiz stammt aus einem chinesischen zwölfbändigen Werk über fremde Völker aus dem 18. Jahrhundert, das von Kaiser Kien-Long in Auftrag gegeben wurde. Er zeigt, dass der Ruf der Eidgenossen als Söldner in fremden Diensten bis nach China gelangte. Es waren dann auch Söldner, die zu den ersten Schweizern in China gehörten.

Die ersten Schweizer in China sind aus dem 17. Jahrhundert bekannt. Es waren Söldner in fremden Heeresdiensten und jesuitische Missionare.

Albrecht Herport, aus einem vornehmen Bernergeschlecht, stand im Dienste der Holländisch-Ostindischen Kompanie. Er kämpfte 1661-62 auf der Seite der Holländer in Formosa (Taiwan) gegen die kaiserlichen Truppen. Holland verlor dabei die Insel Formosa, aber Herport überlebte die äusserst verlustreichen Schlachten. Ein anderer in holländischen Diensten stehender Schweizer war der Schiffsarzt Johann Jakob

Bossart. Bossart geriet 1696, anlässlich eines der vielen opferreichen Vorstösse der Holländer zur Rückgewinnung von Formosa, in chinesische Gefangenschaft, wo er schwere Entbehrungen und Leiden ertrug. Bossart wurde aus dem Gefängnis geholt, als der Kaiserhof öffentlich nach einem mit Zahnausreissen vertrauten Mann suchen liess, um Kaiser Kangxi von schrecklichen Zahnschmerzen zu befreien. Als Dank für die erfolgreiche Zahnoperation wurde Bossart vom Kaiser 1699 begnadigt und auf freien Fuss gesetzt.

Die europäischen Jesuiten-Missionare fassten anfangs des 17. Jahrhunderts in China Fuss und konnten sich dank ihrer Gelehrsamkeit eine gute Stellung und kaiserlichen Schutz sichern. Unter diesen Jesuiten befanden sich auch Schweizer. Der Schweizer Jesuit Johannes Schreck kam 1619 nach China, wo er sich durch die Übersetzung von wissenschaftlichen Bücher ins Chinesische hervortat. Ein weiterer, namens Jakob Rho (?) wurde 1628 Hofastronom. Einer der bekanntesten Schweizer Jesuiten in China war Franz Ludwig Stadlin aus Zug. Er begründete eine kaiserliche Werkstatt für Uhren, Automaten und astronomische Instrumente. Er leistete einen entscheidenden Beitrag an die Förderung der Uhren-Handwerkskunst. In der kaiserlichen Hofuhrenwerkstatt wurden nicht nur die von den Jesuiten eingeführten Uhren repariert und gewartet, sondern auch nachgeahmt. Er lebte bis zu seinem Tode während 33 Jahren in Peking, wo heute noch sein Grab mit folgender chinesischer Grabinschrift existiert:

Master Lin was called Jige (Franciscus).....In the 46th year of the Kangxi reign (1707) he came to China and went to the capital in order to serve in the Imperial palace. He died on the 18th day of the 3rd month of the 5th year of the Qianlong reign (14.4.1740) and was granted by the Emperor 200 taels of silver and ten large bolts of silk from the Imperial Treasury (for his funeral).

Anfänge und Entwicklung der Wirtschaftsbeziehungen

Mit der Expansion des europäischen Überseehandels seit Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts setzte ein neues Kapitel in den Beziehungen zwischen Europa und China ein. Der Drang nach dem chinesischen Markt spitzte sich zu. Kanton wurde zum Handelszentrum und zum ersten Kristallisationspunkt für europäische Handelsniederlassungen in China. Diese Entwicklung war auch für die aufkommenden Handelsbeziehungen der Schweiz zu China von grosser Bedeutung.

Uhren und Automaten spielten von allem Anfang an eine zentrale Rolle in den schweizerischen Handelsbeziehungen mit China. Die Uhrenindustrie in Genf und Neuenburg erhielt durch die Flucht der Protestanten aus Frankreich nach der Aufhebung des Ediktes von Nantes (1685) einen grossen Aufschwung. Die protestantische Einwanderung gab auch dem Genfer Bankgeschäft einen grossen Aufschwung. Genfer Bankiers unterhielten enge Beziehungen zu den englischen und holländischen Ostindienkompanien und beteiligten sich an der Finanzierung von deren Operationen. Es waren dann auch diese beiden Handelsgesellschaften, die als erste

Schweizer Uhren in grösseren Mengen nach China brachten.

Der Genfer Uhrenhändler Charles de Constant de Rebecque reiste im letzten Viertel des 18. Jahrhunderts mehrmals nach China. Von 1789 bis 1794 verblieb er sogar in Kanton, konnte sich jedoch neben den konzessionierten europäischen Handelsniederlassungen, die ihre Privilegien mit Eifersucht hüteten, nicht durchsetzen. Lange konnten sich die Schweizer Uhren gegen die Konkurrenz der englischen Uhren nicht behaupten. Erst mit der Imitation englischer Uhren durch Genfer Uhrenhersteller und der Kombination nachgeahmter englischer Uhrengehäuse mit billigeren Neuenburger Uhrwerken gelang den Genfer Uhrenhändlern der Durchbruch für den Export von Schweizer Uhren nach China.

Genfer und Neuenburger Luxusuhren und Automaten, die sich im kaiserlichen Palast in Peking grosser Beliebtheit erfreuten, gelangten im 18. Jahrhundert ausschliesslich über englische Handelshäuser in den Kaiserpalast. Hauptlieferant war das Neuenburger Haus Jaquet-Droz. Zu den Lieferanten zählten aber auch die Genfer Häuser Maillardet und Leschot sowie Frisard in Biel. Einige dieser Uhren und Automaten sind heute noch im Museum des Kaiserpalastes erhalten.

Zu den Pionieren des schweizerischen Ostasienhandels gehörte auch Charles-Henry Petitpierre aus dem Val-de-Travers. Er gehörte sozusagen zum Reisegepäck der Lord Macartney Mission von 1793, mit der die Engländer die Beziehungen zum Qing-Hof zu regeln und die Öffnung mehrerer chinesischer Häfen zu erzielen versuchten. Petitpierres Aufgabe in der englischen Mission war es, die Uhren und Automaten sowie die astronomischen und physikalischen Instrumente, die von der Gesandtschaft als Geschenk für den Kaiser mitgenommen wurden, auf dem Platz zu installieren und in Gang zu bringen. Petitpierre kehrte aber nicht mit der Gesandtschaft zurück. Er versuchte, sich von Macao aus der englischen Handelskonkurrenz zu entziehen und im Schutze der Portugiesen und Holländer direkte Handelsgeschäfte mit China zu tätigen. Dieser Versuch aber scheiterte. Später setzte sich Petitpierre nach Manila und Batavia ab, von wo aus er vielseitigen Handel mit Genfer und Neuenburger Uhren und Automaten trieb.

Die Anfänge des schweizerischen Handels mit China zeigen, dass sich dieser nur im Gefüge des sich heranzubildenden kolonialen Handelssystems entwickeln konnte. Die verschiedenen Versuche zur Etablierung eigenständiger direkter Handelsbeziehungen blieben unbedeutend. Es gab kein Vorbeikommen an den englischen Handelshäusern, die im Schutz der englischen Ostindien-Kompanie standen. Anfangs des 19. Jahrhunderts schränkten die europäische Kontinentalperre und

On the right: The dragon and its pocket-watch in cloisonné enamels, a unique timepiece by Bovet created in the noblest tradition of the hand-crafted pocket-watches commissioned last century by the Emperor of China and eminent dignitaries of the "celestial empire".

die europäischen Kriegswirren dann aber dem schweizerischen Uhrenhandel auch diesen indirekten Zugang nach China sehr stark ein. Gleichzeitig baute England seine wirtschaftliche Dominanz aus. Die einzige Chance für den Schweizer Handel mit China im sich entfaltenden 19. Jahrhundert bestand darin, die Geschäfte innerhalb des englisch dominierten Handelssystems zu entwickeln. Der Versuch dazu gelang und die Schweizer Handelsinteressen profitierten dabei voll von der China-Politik der Grossmächte und den ungleichen Verträgen, die diese China aufzwangen.

Der erste erfolgreiche Versuch zur Etablierung anhaltender Handelsbeziehungen zu China wurde von den Gebrüdern Bovet aus Fleurier (Val-de-Travers) unternommen, die, von wirtschaftlicher Not bedrängt, nach England auswanderten. Einer der drei Brüder wurde als Uhrenmacher in der Niederlassung einer englischen Handelsfirma in Kanton angestellt. Dieser ermutigte bald seine beiden in London zurückgebliebenen Brüder, eine englische Handelsfirma zu gründen, Uhren nach seinen, dem chinesischen Geschmack entsprechenden, Zeichnungen in Fleurier herstellen zu lassen und diese unter dem Schutz der englischen Ostindien-Kompanie nach China zu exportieren. Damit wurde die "montre chinoise" geschaffen, die der Uhrenfabrikation im Val-de-Travers zu einer neuen und andauernden Blüte verhalf. Das Haus Bovet Frères Fleurier - London - Kanton entwickelte sich zu einer der bekanntesten Uhrenexportfirmen jener Zeit. Nach der Abschaffung des Monopols der englischen Ostindien-Kompanie 1832 wurde das Londoner Haus aufgelöst. Künftig wurden die Geschäfte



Portrait of a Chinese lady: Enamel-painted pocket watch made by Bovet for the Chinese market, about 1860.

direkt zwischen Fleurier und Kanton abgewickelt und weiter ausgebaut. Während des Opiumkrieges verblieben die Vertreter von Bovet Frères als einzige Europäer in Kanton. Ihrer Präsenz war es weitgehend zu verdanken, dass die fünf Häfen, die im Nankinger Friedensvertrag von 1842 den Engländern, Franzosen und Amerikanern zugänglich wurden, auch der Schweiz geöffnet wurden. Andere Firmen folgten dem Erfolg der Gebrüder Bovet. Erfolgreich war die Firma Vaucher Frères mit Niederlassungen in Shanghai, Hongkong und Tientsin. Damit begann die Gründung von Schweizer Firmen in China, was in der Folge rasch zunahm.

Die wirtschaftlichen Beziehungen mit China im 19. Jahrhundert beschränkten sich im Wesentlichen auf Uhren und auf den Textilbereich. Mehrere schweizerische Händler und Kaufleute waren in ausländischen Firmen tätig. So etwa der Basler Adolf Kraye, der 1860-68 als Seideninspektor der englischen Firma Bowes Hanbury & Co. in Shanghai arbeitete. Ideale Anstellungsbedingungen hielten ihn davon ab, sich selbstständig zu machen. Ein anderer Schweizer, Ulrich Spalinger, kam 1897 als Seideninspektor im Dienst der englischen Firma Jardine Matheson & Co. nach Kanton, wo er sich 1906 selbstständig machte. Die Firma U. Spalinger & Co. betätigte sich erfolgreich im Import-/Exportgeschäft. Ulrich Spalinger lebte in der britisch-französischen Konzession. Von 1922 bis zu seiner durch die Kriegswirren verursachten Abreise 1939 amtierte er auch als schweizerischer Honorarkonsul in Kanton.

Zu den seit dem 19. Jahrhundert in China tätig werden den Schweizer Firmen gehörte auch die Winterthurer Welthandelsfirma Volkart, die sich seit ihrer Gründung 1851 im Baumwollhandel eine international führende Stellung aufbaute. Seit 1878 kümmerte sich ein Agent in Shanghai um die Interessen der Firma in China. Die Agentur wurde 1901 zur Volkart Brothers Agency und 1904 zu einer selbstständigen Filiale umgewandelt. Die Filiale wurde allerdings vier Jahre später wegen ungenügender Resultate geschlossen. Nachdem ein Versuch zur Wiedereröffnung in der Mitte des Ersten Weltkrieges mangels qualifiziertem Personal gescheitert war, wurde die Volkart Brothers Agency 1921 in Shanghai wieder eröffnet. Um sich den chinesischen Bedingungen anzupassen, wurde 1924 eine selbstständige Firma gegründet, die Fohka Swiss-Chinese Trading Co. Ltd., mit 40% chinesischer Kapitalbeteiligung. Die Firma musste aber 1927 wegen grosser Verluste liquidiert werden. Die Volkart-Geschäfte in China wurden dann vollumfänglich von der Filiale in Shanghai betreut, bis diese schliesslich 1954 geschlossen wurde. Die Aktivitäten von Volkart in Shanghai standen seit dem späten 19. Jahrhundert im Zusammenhang mit dem wachsenden indischen Baumwollexporten nach Ostasien. In der Zwischenkriegszeit kam das Baumwollgeschäft von Volkart in China zu einer neuen Blüte, nachdem die Firma 1930 einen Vertrag zur Alleinvertretung der American Cotton Cooperative Association in China erhalten hatte. Und als im Verlaufe der dreissiger Jahre die Textilfabriken in Shanghai sich vermehrt mit chinesischer Baumwolle beliefern liessen, eröffnete Volkart auch Baumwoll-Einkaufsagenturen im Landesinnern. Eine Zweigniederlassung wurde in Tientsin unterhalten.



The Siber Hegner Shanghai office team with guests from Switzerland. Photograph taken in December 1934.

So wuchs seit dem späten 19. Jahrhundert die Schweizer Kolonie in Shanghai heran. In den 1870er Jahren lebten maximal zehn Schweizer in Shanghai, um die Jahrhundertwende waren es 35, danach stieg deren Anzahl kontinuierlich auf über 200 bis 1936 an. Schweizer Firmen- und Handelsvertreter liessen sich auch in anderen Städten wie Tientsin, Hankow, Harbin und Kanton nieder.

Bei den Shanghai-Schweizern handelte es sich um eine heterogene Gruppe von Firmen- und Handelshäuservertretern ohne inneren Zusammenhalt. Die Shanghai-Schweizer stellten sich seit der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts unter französischen, später auch unter deutschen konsularischen und gerichtlichen Schutz. Erst mit dem 1918 unterzeichneten Sino-Schweizerischen Freundschaftsvertrag entstand eine einheitliche Regelung für schweizerischen konsularischen Schutz in China. Dieser Vertrag gewährte den Schweizern in China Extraterritorialität, womit diese der chinesischen Rechtsprechung entzogen waren. Die Extraterritorialität war aber nicht de-jure, weil sie chinesischerseits nie ratifiziert wurde. De-facto aber funktionierte die schweizerische Konsulargerichtsbarkeit bis 1946 unangefochten. Bis 1946 war somit die Schweizer Präsenz in China in die von den westlichen Grossmächten im 19. Jahrhundert etablierte koloniale Privilegienstruktur eingebunden.

1943 verzeichnete das schweizerische Handelsregister für China 67 Eintragungen. In China selber waren 1948 18 Schweizer Firmen registriert. Dazu kamen 16 Firmen in vollem Schweizer Besitz mit chinesischer Rechtsfähigkeit. Am stärksten vertreten waren Handelshäuser (Volkart, Trachsel China Ltd., Siber Hegner & Co, Charles Rudolph & Co) und Exportindustrien (Ciba, Hoffmann-La Roche, Nestlé, Sulzer, u.a.). Andere Firmen ohne eigene Niederlassungen liessen ihre Interessen durch die in Shanghai ansässigen Firmen vertreten. Die Schweizer Wirtschaft in Shanghai bot auch dem Rückversicherungsgeschäft einen interessanten Markt. Im Bankgeschäft hingegen war die Schweiz kaum präsent.

Bis zum Zweiten Weltkrieg wies die Güterzusammensetzung des schweizerisch-chinesischen Handels typisch koloniale Züge auf: Die Schweiz exportierte hauptsächlich Uhren, Textilien, Werkzeuge, Maschinen, pharmazeutische und chemische Produkte und bezog von China im wesentlichen Seide, Textilien und Nahrungsmittel.

Während des Zweiten Weltkrieges schlossen sich 32 Schweizer Firmen in China, zum Schutz ihrer Interessen gegenüber der japanischen Besatzungsmacht, in der "Swiss Merchant Association" zusammen. Daraus erwuchs nach dem Krieg die Vereinigung Schweizerischer Handelskammern in Shanghai, die an die Stelle der 1946

geschlossenen Agentur der Schweizerischen Zentrale für Handelsförderung trat.

Die Schweizer Wirtschaftsvertreter in Shanghai haben sowohl während des Zweiten Weltkrieges, unter japanischer Besatzung als auch in den Bürgerkriegsjahren und trotz Misswirtschaft sowie Korruption seitens der Kuomintang an ihrer Präsenz in China und an der Hoffnung auf einen sich regenerierenden Chinamarkt festgehalten. Rückblickend kann aber der zwischen 1945 und 1950 in Schweizerischen Handelskreisen herrschende Optimismus, angesichts des tatsächlich Erreichten, nur als überschwänglich bezeichnet werden. Insgesamt erwies sich das Chinageschäft, verglichen zum Gesamthandelsvolumen, als recht marginal. Der Anteil der Schweiz am Gesamt-Chinahandel war unbedeutend: 1946 bezog China lediglich 1,8% seiner Einfuhren aus der Schweiz und nur 0,5% von Chinas Exporten gingen in die Schweiz.

Zusammenfassend lässt sich aus einer historischen Betrachtung die Schlussfolgerung ableiten, dass:

- sich die wirtschaftlichen Beziehungen der Schweiz mit China seit dem späten 18. Jahrhundert im Rahmen des sich herausbildenden kolonialistischen Handelssystems und der imperialistischen Chinapolitik der Grossmächte entwickelt haben.

Der Schutz der Englischen Ostindien-Kompanie und englischer Handelshäuser, ebenso wie die ungleichen Verträge und später die Extraterritorialität waren für die Entwicklung der schweizerischen Handels- und Wirtschaftsinteressen in China bestimmend. Dementsprechend war die wirtschaftliche Präsenz der Schweiz am Vorabend des Zweiten Weltkrieges in die imperialistischen Strukturen eingebunden und ohne diese im gegebenen Ausmass nicht denkbar. Die Schweiz sollte daher auch nicht von den Folgen des durch den westlichen Imperialismus hervorgerufenen chinesischen Demütigungsgefühls und des nach dem Krieg wiedererstarkenden chinesischen Selbstbewusstseins verschont bleiben.

Die Aufgabe der Extraterritorialitätsrechte war eine der Hauptherausforderungen an die Schweiz nach dem Krieg. Die Schweiz gehörte zu den letzten Ländern, die diese Privilegien aufgaben.

Die Schweizerische Wirtschaftspräsenz in China war auch Teil jener Strukturen, die sich die sozialistische Revolution zu überwinden zum Ziel gesetzt hatte. Dies führte zu den Verstaatlichungen im ersten Jahr der Volksrepublik, von denen auch die schweizerischen Wirtschaftsinteressen wesentlich betroffen waren.

Präsenz von Schweizer Missionsgesellschaften in China

Zu den Schweizern, die sich seit dem 19. Jahrhundert in China niederliessen, gehörten nebst den Wirtschaftsvertretern auch Missionare. Die Evangelische Basler Missionsgesellschaft liess sich vornehmlich in Südchina nieder. Bis zur Jahrhundertwende hatte die Basler Mission in China ein verzweigtes Netz von 11 Stationen

aufgebaut. Die Basler Mission war die wichtigste schweizerische Missionsgesellschaft in China. Sie betrieb Primar- und Mittelschulen sowie Priesterseminare. Vertreter der Basler Mission haben auch namhafte Beiträge an die Chinakunde geleistet.

Nebst der Basler Mission liessen sich auch die Schweizerische Ostasienmission, die Bethlehem-Mission und andere kleinere schweizerische Missionsgesellschaften in China nieder.

Die Missionen haben zweifellos bedeutende kulturelle und humanitäre Arbeit geleistet. Etliche Missionare sympathisierten auch mit den Zielen der chinesischen Nationalisten. Dies kann aber nicht darüber hinwegtäuschen, dass die Missionen als Teil des ausländischen Imperialismus wahrgenommen und bekämpft wurden. Das Auftreten der Missionen in China war eng mit dem Eindringen der imperialistischen Mächte verbunden. Die Missionen stützten sich auf die Rechte und Privilegien der ungleichen Verträge ab und standen unter ausländischem militärischen Schutz. Diese engen Beziehungen zu den ausländischen Kolonialmächten machte die christlichen Missionen zur Zielscheibe des gegen ausländische Dominanz gerichteten Boxeraufstandes von 1900. Die Basler Mission wurde von der Boxer-Rebellion schwer getroffen.

Die Missionen litten schwer unter den Folgen des chinesisch-japanischen Krieges 1938–45 und des Bürgerkrieges zwischen Kuomintang und Kommunisten. Missionare wurden der Kollaboration mit den Japanern und der Kuomintang angeklagt und zu langen Haftstrafen verurteilt. Missionsstationen wurden geschlossen und nach dem Ende des Bürgerkrieges wurden die nicht angeklagten Missionare des Landes verwiesen.

Anfänge und Entwicklung des kulturellen Austausches

Im 19. Jahrhundert entwickelte sich ein wachsendes Interesse im Westen an China, an dem sich auch Schweizer aktiv beteiligten. Träger dieser wachsenden Chinakunde waren Missionare, Chinareisende und Sinologen. Schweizer bereisten China zu Studienzwecken in verschiedenen Bereichen. Speziell nennenswert ist der Winterthurer Hartmann Heinrich Sultzberger, der sich u. a. mit der Opiumfrage beschäftigte. Er wurde persönlicher Berater eines chinesischen Diplomaten, auf dessen Wunsch Sultzberger erfolglos versuchte, den damaligen Bundespräsidenten zu einer Vermittlungsaktion im chinesisch-japanischen Krieg von 1894/95 zu gewinnen.

Lange Zeit konnte sich die Sinologie an den schweizerischen Hochschulen nicht etablieren. Schweizer Sinologen aber übersetzten chinesische Werke und leisteten auch namhafte Beiträge an ausländischen Hochschulen und Akademien. Edouard Chavannes (1885–1918) war Mitbegründer der modernen Sinologie in Frankreich. Eduard Huber (1879–1914), Sinologe und Indochina-Forscher, arbeitete an der Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient in Hanoi. Letzterer hat das chinesische Werk, aus dem die eingangs zitierte Beschreibung der Schweiz stammt, bekannt gemacht.

Im Zuge der Konfrontation Chinas mit der militärischen und technischen Überlegenheit des Westens nahm in China seit dem späteren 19. Jahrhundert auch das chinesische Interesse für westliche Technik, Kultur und Politik zu. Zahlreiche westliche Werke wurden ins Chinesische übersetzt, u. a. auch Werke des Schweizer Staatsrechtlers Johann Kaspar Bluntschi, von Jean Jacques Rousseau und Heinrich Pestalozzi sowie des Historikers Jakob Burckhardt.

In der Zwischenkriegszeit entwickelte sich der kulturelle Austausch zwischen der Schweiz und China weiter. Zwar blieb die Anzahl chinesischer Studenten, im Unterschied zu Frankreich und England, an schweizerischen Hochschulen sehr gering. Zwischen 1914 und 1939 wurden aber 22 Dissertationen von chinesischen Studenten in der Schweiz veröffentlicht.

Auf chinesische Initiative wurde 1933 in Genf eine der drei Bibliothèques Sino-Internationales eingerichtet (die anderen beiden waren in Shanghai und New York). Sie umfasste 1936 rund 300'000 Bände chinesischer Werke, sinologische Arbeiten und europäische Bücher. Mit der Bibliothek wurde beabsichtigt, dem Westen Zugang zu Literatur, Kunst und Wissenschaft Chinas zu verschaffen und chinesische Studenten in der Schweiz mit europäischer Literatur bekannt zu machen. In den frühen fünfziger Jahren wurde die Bibliothek wegen Finanzmangels ins Ausland verkauft. Die Bibliothèque Sino-Internationale darf als ein Zeichen des erstarkten chinesischen Selbstbewusstseins und einer aktiven Bemühung zur Bekanntmachung der chinesischen Kultur im Ausland verstanden werden.

Der Wille zur Überwindung der imperialistischen Demütigung und zum Ausbruch aus einer Situation der Schwäche sowie das wachsende Selbstbewusstsein haben in China auch zu einem verstärkten Interesse an westlichen Institutionen und westlichem Wissen geführt. Der Vater und Führer der chinesischen republikanischen Bewegung und der in China noch heute gross angesehene Staatsmann Sun Yatsen, hatte sich auch mit dem schweizerischen Staatswesen auseinandergesetzt.

In den zwanziger und dreissiger Jahren nahm auch das wissenschaftliche Interesse an China weiter zu. Schweizer Wissenschaftler waren an chinesischen Hochschulen tätig und führten bedeutende archäologische und geographisch-geologische Expeditionen durch.

Während sich die Beziehungen der Schweiz zu China in wirtschaftlicher und missionarischer Hinsicht im Rahmen der kolonialen Strukturen der westlichen Grossmächte entwickelten, zeigt die Geschichte der kulturellen und wissenschaftlichen Beziehungen seit dem späteren 19. Jahrhundert ein Bild wachsenden gegenseitigen Interesses.

Das durch den kulturell-wissenschaftlichen Austausch in der Zwischenkriegszeit sich herausbildende positive China-Bild erhielt durch eine ausgeprägte Sympathiewelle für die chinesischen Leiden unter japanischer Besatzung im Zweiten Weltkrieg einen eigentlichen Höhepunkt. Dies sollte sich nach der Gründung der

Volksrepublik unter dem Eindruck des Kalten Krieges radikal ändern.

Entwicklung der diplomatischen Beziehungen

In Bern machte man sich erstmals 1858 Gedanken über die Frage einer ständigen Vertretung in China. In den folgenden Dekaden kam das Thema periodisch wieder auf. Die allgemein noch schwach entwickelte diplomatische und konsularische Präsenz der Schweiz im Ausland, die spärliche Informationsgrundlage des Bundesrates über China sowie widersprüchliche Signale von den Shanghai-Schweizern und aus Handelskreisen verursachten in dieser Frage jedoch Unentschiedenheit. Schliesslich wurde bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg bevorzugt, die Schweizer in China unter ausländischem konsularischem Schutz (inklusive Gerichtsbarkeit) – hauptsächlich Frankreichs und Deutschlands – zu belassen.

Eine erste offizielle Verbindung zwischen den beiden Ländern entstand 1911 mit der Etablierung einer Handelsagentur in Shanghai. Dabei handelte es sich aber um eine rein kommerzielle Vertretung. Die Handelsagentur aber blieb ohne Erfolg und sie wurde 1914 wieder geschlossen.

Mit der Revolution von 1911 und der Beseitigung des Kaisertums setzte ein neues Kapitel der Beziehungen zwischen China und dem Westen ein. Die Anerkennung der Republik China war eine politisch heikle Frage, denn die westlichen Mächte wollten sicherstellen, dass die neue Republik die früheren Verträge und die damit verbundenen Privilegien respektiert. Unter Rücksichtnahme auf die Schutzmächte Frankreich und Deutschland schreckte die Schweiz dann auch vor einer eigenständigen Anerkennungspolitik zurück, obwohl man von einer frühen Anerkennung Vorteile für den Chinahandel erwartete. 1913 anerkannte die Schweiz, im Gefolge von Frankreich und Deutschland, die neu gegründete Chinesische Republik.

Zu den ersten direkten diplomatischen Kontakten kam es anschliessend anlässlich des Besuches des chinesischen Aussenministers Cheng Hsian in Bern. Obwohl dieser einen nachhaltigen positiven Eindruck hinterliess, folgten der Anerkennung keine weiteren Schritte. Weder wurden diplomatische Beziehungen aufgenommen noch wurde ein Konsulat eingerichtet. Dieser Zustand führte im Ersten Weltkrieg für die in China lebenden Schweizer zu schwierigen Situationen. Die Wahrnehmung ihrer Interessen durch die westlichen Schutzmächte wurde den Prärogativen der Krieg führenden Nationen untergeordnet. So wurden zum Beispiel Schweizer Firmen, deren Vertreter unter deutschem konsularischen Schutz standen, von den Vertretern der Alliierten Mächte als feindlich eingestuft.

Erst als 1918 der Sino-Schweizerische Freundschaftsvertrag unterzeichnet wurde, erhielten die Schweizer in China einen direkten Schutz. Dieser Vertrag beinhaltete Bestimmungen über die gegenseitigen diplomatischen und konsularischen Vertretungen. Er regelte auch die Bedingungen der Konsulargerichtsbarkeit, womit Schweizer in China der chinesischen Rechtsprechung entzogen waren.