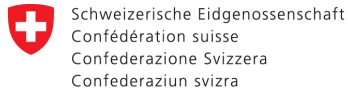


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Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai
瑞士驻上海总领事馆

N° 1
Summer 2024

Grüezi Shanghai



Message from the Consul General of Switzerland Sacha Bachmann



Dear fellow Swiss citizens,
Dear friends of Switzerland,

Highest level Sino-Swiss government meetings have intensified this year. Chinese Premier Li Qiang visited Switzerland in January. Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis visited Beijing in

February. The 5-day China visit of Swiss Economics, Education and Research Minister Guy Parmelin in July further underlined the high importance both Switzerland and China attach to their bilateral relations.

It was a great honor to welcome Federal Councillor Parmelin to Shanghai on 3 July. He exchanged views with Shanghai-based business executives on the opportunities and challenges of doing business in China – shortly after having signed memorandum of understanding in Beijing to launch negotiations to modernize the Sino-Swiss bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that entered into force in 2014.

Free Trade was also discussed at our recent “So Swiss!” event in Changzhou, during which one panelist poignantly mentioned: “Free Trade is working and a brave signal in a world of disruption.” Swiss companies save USD 220 million annually on customs duties thanks to the Sino-Swiss FTA, which has a very high utilization rate of 71% for Swiss exports to China. A modernized FTA will further increase competitiveness for Switzerland and China.

Business-related activities in the Year of the Dragon so far included the inauguration of new facilities of Swiss companies Mikron and Bystronic as well as the 150th anniversary celebration of Geberit. More than 40 Swiss machine manufacturers showcased Swiss innovation at the China CNC Machine Tool Fair (CCMT) in Shanghai. The Swiss evening @CCMT with Swissmem Chairman Martin Hirzel & CEO Stefan Brupbacher and 200 guests was another highlight of our absorbing event calendar – just as the Swiss Pavilion with a dozen Swiss companies at the world's leading Plastics & Rubber Trade Fair "Chinaplas".

Further high-level government meetings took place when Lucerne Governor Fabian Peter met with the Shanghai Mayor and the Jiangsu Governor before exchanging views with Swiss business executives at the Swiss residence in Shanghai. In the same action-packed month of April, we welcomed a delegation from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) headed by Boris Zürcher, Head of the Labour Directorate.

Recent Sino-Swiss cultural exchanges in Shanghai included performances of the Ticino-based female rock band The Black Heidis, the solo exhibition "Octopus Mountain" of Swiss artist Rebekka Steiger at the Tank Museum as well as film screenings during and after the month of the Francophonie.

The next highlight is celebrating the Swiss National Day with hopefully as many of you as possible in Shanghai on 27 July 2024.

Happy Swiss National Day to all of you!

Sacha Bachmann
Consul General

Visit of Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin to Shanghai

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, head of the Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, recently led a business and science mission to China from July 1 to 5. The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation in these areas and further develop the bilateral free trade agreement that

marked its tenth anniversary this year. Federal Councillor Parmelin's itinerary included Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. In Shanghai, he joined the Swiss Business and Science Community Reception on July 3 to



exchange views on the opportunities and challenges of doing business in China. Federal Councillor Parmelin and his delegation were also briefed about the results of the most recent “Swiss Business in China” survey.

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PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

“So Swiss!” in the Dragon City Changzhou



On July 11, Ambassador Jürg Burri and Changzhou Mayor Sheng Lei inaugurated the fourth edition of "So Swiss!", this time in Changzhou. Organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, the event brought together panelists to discuss investment opportunities in

Switzerland, the Sino-Swiss Free Trade Agreement, and female business leadership. One panelist remarked, “Switzerland is a dreamland of innovation.” Another panelist poignantly mentioned: “Free Trade is working and a brave signal in a world of disruption.”

ECONOMY

Lucerne in Shanghai

Consul General Sacha Bachmann, a native of Lucerne, was honored to host a Swiss business community dinner in honor of Lucerne Governor Fabian Peter and Ivan Buck, CEO of Lucerne Business. During his trip to Shanghai, Governor Peter also met with Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng and Jiangsu Governor Xu Kunlin.



Swiss business milestones in the Yangtze River Delta



Bystronic, a leader in sheet metal processing, inaugurated new facilities in Shanghai, while **Geberit Group** celebrated its 150th anniversary. **Franke Coffee Systems** tapped into China's coffee boom with a new showroom and the launch of its Mytico line. **Mikron**, a

provider of assembly solutions for the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors, celebrated 15 years in China with the opening of its new Automation & Machining facility.

CULTURE

The Black Heidis' concerts in Shanghai

Representing Switzerland's diversity and multilingualism, the Swiss indie rock band The Black Heidis embarked on a captivating tour across China in March as part of the Diversity + Me campaign. The trio is from the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino and now based in



Switzerland's German and French-speaking areas. They concluded their successful journey with two memorable performances in Shanghai, showcasing their unique blend of indie rock, groove, and psychedelia sung in French, Italian, and English.

Le Mois de la Francophonie 2024



In March, the Consulate General celebrated Le Mois de la Francophonie with a screening of the Swiss film "La Vie Acrobat". The Consulate General also had the pleasure of hosting five authors from French-speaking Switzerland who held an engaging workshop on collective writing for the students of

Tongji University in Shanghai.

Swiss artist Rebekka Steiger's exhibition at TANK Shanghai

Swiss artist Rebekka Steiger presented her first solo institutional exhibition "Octopus Mountain" at TANK Shanghai. Deputy Consul General Istvan Kocsis opened the exhibit on March 1. The exhibition, highlighting six years of Steiger's artistic evolution, concluded last June.



Swiss artist Deborah-Joyce Holman in exhibition at TANK Shanghai



TANK Shanghai is pleased to present the artworks of Swiss artist Deborah-Joyce Holman. The exhibition, entitled "Close-up/ Quiet as It's Kept," will be showcased from July 20 to October 8. The Consulate General invites you to explore the creations of this multidisciplinary

artist, who is based between London, UK, and Basel, Switzerland.

A Bunch of Noise festival and tours

In April, six Swiss music groups participated in A Bunch of Noise experimental music festival, organized by Mei Zhiyong and supported by Pro Helvetia. This large-scale experimental music festival aims to become a significant platform for avant-garde sounds across Asia. The combined festival and tours allowed Swiss noise musicians to engage with a growing community of experimental music listeners and participate in cross-border sound dialogues.



Joshua Monten Dance Company back in Shanghai



Joshua Monten Dance Company staged "Pursuit of Happiness" in Shanghai, marking the return of overseas troupes post-pandemic. From May to June, they returned to Shanghai (YOUNG Theatre) and Hangzhou (OōEli) with interactive performances and workshops,

including Game Theory and Romeo, Romeo, Romeo. Game Theory explores movement in games, focusing on freedom, rules, ritual, and adrenaline. Romeo, Romeo, Romeo interprets dancing as a mating ritual, questioning gender norms. This project was supported by Pro Helvetia.

BUSINESS

Swiss excellence at Shanghai trade fairs

There was a strong Swiss presence at this year's China CNC Machine Tool Fair in Shanghai, the first to take place following a six-year break. Switzerland's pavilion was the fourth largest at the exhibition, featuring more than 40 Swiss machine manufacturers and brands showcasing their innovations. The

pavilion was organized by the association for Switzerland's technology industry, Swissmem, which also arranged a Swiss networking evening welcoming more than 230 guests. Switzerland also made its mark at other prominent trade fairs, including Chinaplas and China Beauty Expo.



Insights into Swiss business: Swiss-Chinese Life Sciences Salon Forum



On June 18, the Swiss Business Hub in Shanghai, in collaboration with ATLATL and China Merchants



Bank, hosted the "Swiss-Chinese Life Sciences Salon. The event aimed to offer Chinese investors comprehensive insights into the Swiss business and investment landscape, covering tax, legal, and locational aspects. Key partners, including the Greater Zurich Area,

Greater Geneva and Bern Area, Kanton of Schaffhausen, and PwC Switzerland, shared their expertise with the audience. Notable guests, including Wuxi AppTec, Roche Accelerator, and Kellerhals Carrard, also shared their valuable experiences.

SCIENCE & EDUCATION

Sharing knowledge, shaping the future: Swissnex initiatives in China

In April, Swissnex launched "Swissnex for the Planet", a global initiative focusing on planetary diplomacy. The initiative explores how to balance human and nonhuman interests, seeking equilibrium with the Earth system. Swissnex in China decided to explore planetary thinking through the prism of Wuxing, a fundamental concept ingrained in Chinese culture. Wuxing emphasizes the balance and organization of nature through five elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water.



The Planetary Thinking campaign kicked off with the "Sino-Swiss Explorations of Environmental Coexistence" event, alongside the official Swiss Science Delegation led by Jacques Ducrest, the Head of the International Relations Division at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. This event featured five Chinese thinkers, each dedicated to a Wuxing element.

Stay tuned for upcoming events and campaigns centered around planetary thinking! Learn more about planetary thinking [here](#) and on Swissnex [website](#), and follow them on [LinkedIn](#), WeChat (swissnex), or sign up to their [monthly newsletter](#).



In June, Swissnex in collaboration with SwissCham China and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou, hosted the [Vocational and Professional Education and Training \(VPET\) Roadshow](#) in Dongguan. The event aimed to connect Swiss companies offering skill-based training with local institutions and manufacturing companies. Swiss companies showcased their ongoing VPET projects and engaged in discussions about skill-based training challenges. The event successfully established connections between local schools and governments, helping to identify training gaps. The duality of the VPET system was recognized as a valuable tool for re-skilling and up-skilling the local workforce.

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INSTITUTIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

Forging future path: opening of Swiss Centers in Changzhou & Medtech delegation during CIIE

On June 12, Swiss Centers co-organized the "2024 Switzerland-Changzhou Intelligent Manufacturing Innovation Day" at Château de Neuchâtel, where Changzhou and Neuchâtel signed a framework agreement to enhance exchanges and cooperation.



A month later, on July 12, Swiss Center Changzhou was inaugurated by Ambassador Jürg Burri and Consul General Sacha Bachmann, marking the establishment of a new hub for Swiss businesses in Changzhou and the Yangtze Delta region, equipped with a showroom, co-working space, meeting facilities, and business support.



Swiss Centers will host a joint booth at the upcoming 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), inviting Swiss companies to participate. Additionally, from November 3-9, they will lead a Swiss delegation to explore China's

vibrant medtech and healthcare sectors, which includes attending the CIIE, the Medtech Innovation Forum, meeting industry representatives, and touring Changzhou's medtech factories. This venture offers networking and collaboration opportunities for delegates.

Building bridges for economic collaboration: highlights from the 8th Sino-Swiss Economic Forum

The 8th Sino-Swiss Economic Forum (SSEF), held on July 1 at the China World Summit Wing Beijing, convened a high-profile gathering of delegates from economics, education, and research. Notable participants included Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, head of the Department of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research, and China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao.



Organized biennially by the China Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of Switzerland in China, the SSEF serves as a platform for dialogue and partnership development between the two countries. The forum's discussions covered a wide range of topics, including sustainability, talent retention, digitalization, life sciences, supply chain management, market access and regulation.



A C-level forum offered insights into the economic prospects for the coming years. The event, attended by over 400 guests from Swiss and Chinese multinational companies and government agencies, facilitated networking and knowledge exchange.

Swiss National Day celebration in Shanghai

The Swiss Club Shanghai is delighted to invite all members,



Swiss citizens, and friends of Switzerland to the Swiss National Day Celebration on Saturday, July 27, at the Millennium Hong Qiao Hotel Shanghai (Garden Pavillion).

Get ready to savour delectable Swiss specialties, including BBQ and raclette. These culinary treats will be complemented by Swiss wine, beer, sparkling wine, soft drinks, and coffee. To keep young guests entertained, the hotel provides a play area where kids can play under supervision while also enjoying fun games and other activities. As always, there will be a lucky draw held during the event featuring incredible prize giveaways. To register for the event, send an email to events@swissclubshanghai.org by July 24.



SWISS NATIONAL DAY 2024

Saturday
27th July 2024
Registration:
17:00 – 18:00

Millennium Hong Qiao
Hotel Shanghai (Garden Pavillon)
2588 Yan An Xi Road, Shanghai
延安西路2588号, 近水城路

The price includes Swiss wine, beer, sparkling wine, soft drinks, coffee. Buffet with Swiss specialties, BBQ and Raclette station.
- Music and Kids entertainment
- Great prizes to win at the lucky draw

18:00 – 20:00 Dinner
17:00 – 22:00 Free flow

Members	CNY 400	Member Kids 6-12 years	CNY 150
Non-Members	CNY 550	Non-Member Kids 6-12 years	CNY 200
Walk-in	CNY 600	Kids below 6 years	CNY 0

Dress code: Casual - No refund

Please send your registration (and/or inquiry to become a member) to:
(events@swissclubshanghai.org) until July 24th 2024

New representative for the Swiss Abroad



During the May general assemblies of the Swiss Club Beijing and the Swiss Club Shanghai, Daniel Heusser was elected as the new China representative to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. He has been living in Shanghai for 25 years, where he successfully established

his own company, Virtuarch, providing architecture, interior design, and project management services for construction projects in China, Europe and Asia. Daniel Heusser was also a board member of Swisscham from 2002 to 2015, as well as a national representative and vice president of Swisscham Shanghai.

As a representative of the Council of Swiss Abroad, Daniel Heusser will voice the concerns and issues of the Swiss community living in China. The yearly council meeting took place in mid-July in Lucerne. Topics can be raised with Daniel by email d.heusser@virtuarch.net or phone +86 21 5272 9909 and he will report back to the Swiss Clubs and the Swiss community in the autumn.

Swiss educational program continues to thrive

The Swiss educational program at the Deutsche Schule Shanghai (DSS) continues to thrive under the committed leadership of Lisa Stöcklin and Patricia Duss-Schnyder. Over 25 students enrolled in its primary classes last semester: among them, many non-Swiss pupils curious about Switzerland. This semester, the school inaugurated a Swiss section within its library, a cozy corner where students can immerse themselves in reading or engage in games. This facility, rich with books on numerous Swiss themes, extends its resources to DSS parents and association members. In early June, the teachers organized a special activity around the story of Heidi, followed by a celebration with the parents.



The Association has been renamed Swiss Education Association Shanghai, broadening its scope to further Swiss educational initiatives and promote Switzerland as an educational destination. For more information, contact comittee@swisschoolshanghai.org.

Switzerland Tourism summer press conference



On May 31, Switzerland Tourism held its Summer Promotion in Shanghai. Daniela Chiani, Director Greater China of Switzerland Tourism, highlighted the strong recovery of the Chinese market, with a 9.2% global growth in 2023 and 92.2% increase in Chinese visitors

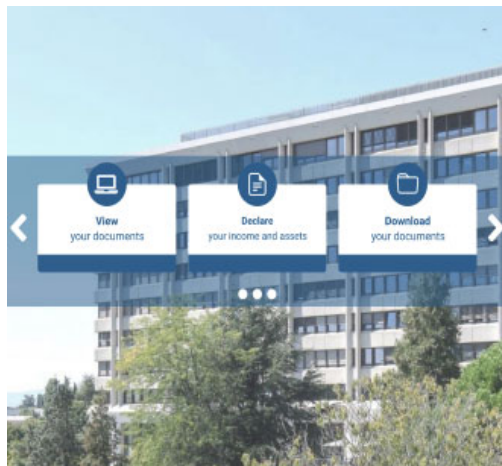
in Q1 2024, reclaiming the top Asia-Pacific spot. To cater to this growing demand, Switzerland Tourism is focusing on extended, immersive, and sustainable travel experiences, emphasizing its "Swisustainable Travel" approach. This initiative offers diverse options, from niche destinations and nature immersion to sports, relaxation, and family-friendly activities.

This year marks a significant rebranding for Switzerland Tourism. The iconic "Golden Flower" logo, used for 30 years, is being replaced with a new digital identity. The updated brand features the Swiss cross replacing the "T" in "Switzerland," symbolizing trustworthiness and optimism. This reflects Switzerland's core values of nature, hospitality, honesty, and reliability. For more information, visit [MySwitzerland.com](https://www.myswitzerland.com)



CONSULAR NEWS

Swiss Compensation Office: eCdC portal



Last year, the Swiss Compensation Office and the DI Office for insured persons living abroad introduced an online portal called eCdC for persons affiliated to the voluntary OASI (Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance)/DI (Disability Insurance) scheme. From now on, this eCdC portal is also available for persons receiving an OASI or DI pension.

The eCdC portal is your online personal space where you can create your account in order to access numerous e-services such as:

- checking the status of your benefits
- finding out about upcoming payments
- transferring your study certificates

Kindly note that in order to use the eCdC portal you need to be registered at your relevant Swiss representation abroad.

Additional information for persons affiliated to the voluntary OASI/DI insurance scheme or persons receiving an OASI or DI pension, can be found on the website of the Swiss Compensation Office:

- [Contact](#)

- [Voluntary OASI/DI](#)
- [eCdC portal](#)

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Ralph Steinegger has served as Head of Operations and Consular Affairs for the Consulate General in Shanghai since 2020. He and his team provided crucial support to the Swiss community during the Shanghai lockdown in 2022. This was his second posting in China (previously at the Embassy in Beijing, 2004-2008). Ralph Steinegger has been appointed as Head of Local and Honorary Personnel at the Directorate for Resources in Bern.



Daniela Rey Aponte served as Consular Attachée at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai from August 2020 to July 2024. This summer, Daniela Rey Aponte and her family will relocate to Switzerland, where she has been appointed as a Specialist in the Section for Consular Protection, Directorate for Consular Affairs in Bern.

Natascha Azevedo Andrade will join the Consular Section in August this year. She will be transferred from the Dominican Republic and looks very much forward to come back to Asia, continent which she really appreciates after a posting in the Philippines and many stopovers as a flight-attendant.



Mirta Del Frari has joined the Consulate General this June. She began working at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2023 after completing a year of consular training in Jakarta, Indonesia. Before her government role, she worked in the Swiss private sector and spent eight years with the International Committee of the Red Cross, primarily in Africa and the Middle East. Since 2014, Mirta Del Frari ran her own company in providing Global Mobility Consulting & Services to mainly Swiss SMEs in expatriate their talents

abroad, including to China.

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