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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[New Swiss Consuls General](#)

Published by [eda.admin.ch](#), 8th May 2018

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs announced the nominations of Swiss Consuls General. Martin Bienz, consul general in Guangzhou, will succeed Didier Boschung in summer 2018. Martin Bienz was born in 1959, place of origin Hasle, canton of Lucerne. He joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1981 and was posted to Marseilles, Addis Ababa, Bogotá, Osaka and Ottawa, followed by a secondment to the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP). Mr. Bienz then returned to the FDFA where he was posted to Manila, Karachi and Chicago. He has been the head of post in Mumbai since October 2014. Othmar Hardegger, consul general in Mumbai, will succeed Martin Bienz in summer 2018. Martin Maier, consul general in Ho Chi Minh City, will succeed Othmar Hardegger in summer 2018. Olivier Zehnder, consul general in Shanghai, will succeed Alexander Hoffet in summer 2018. Olivier Zehnder was born in 1966, place of origin Köniz, canton of Bern. He joined the FDFA in 1998 and was posted to Vienna, Brasilia and Bern. Between 2010 and 2013 he was seconded to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN Office and to the other international organisations in Vienna as deputy permanent representative.

[Official Visit of the Ambassador GENG Wenbing in the Canton of Neuchâtel](#)

Published by [ch.china-embassy.org](#), 8th May 2018

Ambassador GENG Wenbing paid an official visit to the canton of Neuchâtel and held a meeting with Mr. Laurent Favre, Governor of the canton. Mr. Jean-Nathanael Karakash, Councilor and Chairman of the Department of Economy and Social Activities, Mrs. Chancellor Séverine Despland, Mr. CHEN Peizhong, Counselor for Politics and Ms. XI Ru, Counselor for Education also attended the meeting. Mr. Favre warmly welcomed Ambassador GENG and his team. He introduced the economic and social development of

Neuchâtel and expressed his willingness to promote the pragmatic cooperation between the canton and China, to deepen the development in the fields of innovation and industry, and to work together on the watch industry and education. Mr. GENG also thanked Mr. Favre for his kind welcome and said that the bilateral relationship between China and Switzerland is at its best. Cooperation in various areas had achieved significant success, which set an example for Sino-European relations. China would continue to support exchanges and further cooperation between itself and the canton of Neuchâtel in areas such as business, trade and education, and wished that the cooperation between the two sides could expand and intensify in other areas.

[Interview of the Chief Editor of *Tribune de Genève* with Chinese Ambassador in Switzerland GENG Wenbing](#)

Published by ch.china-embassy.org, 4th May 2018

On 3 May 2018, in an interview with Mr. Pierre Ruetschi, chief editor of *Tribune de Genève*, the Ambassador GENG Wenbing explained the issues regarding the Chinese political system, economic and social development, the Sino-Swiss relationship, the Sino-European relations, the situation in the Taiwan Strait and the Korean peninsula affaire. Ambassador GENG pointed out that the friendship between China and Switzerland had existed for almost 70 years. The establishment of the innovative strategic partnership between China and Switzerland had promoted the rapid and stable development of the bilateral relationship, which was a role model for the Sino-European relationship. As for world trade, Ambassador GENG emphasized that the Sino-American relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world and has a significant impact on global stability and development. Trade disputes should not have a bearing on the development of the two countries. *Tribune de Genève* is one of the most influential newspapers in the francophone areas of Switzerland, and Mr. Ruetschi is a renowned media representative.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Bank of China Signs its Return to Geneva](#)

Published by tdg.ch, 7th May 2018

Three months after learning that the third Chinese bank, Agricultural Bank of China, is to establish an office in the canton, it is time for another tycoon from the People's Republic of China. Bank of China will open an affiliate in Geneva. China's ambassador to Switzerland, GENG Wenbing, confirmed it in an interview with *Tribune de Genève*. Based in Beijing, the bank is one of the world's leaders in terms of assets under management. It employs 300,000 people, including 22,500 outside China. Present in more than 50 countries, Bank of China is already active in the neighborhood, with branches from Luxembourg to Milan via Lyon, Hamburg, Paris, Rotterdam, Brussels and Lisbon. The group has recently started in Turkey and Pakistan. It is the trade finance that attracts the Chinese bank to locate at the lakeside of Léman. A decade ago, Bank of China had already settled in the canton. In the heart of the banking district, it employed about fifty employees. But four years later, the group left Geneva because of bad strategic decisions, internal conflicts and cultural shock.

[Glencore Forms Oil, Gas Trading Venture with Zhejiang Petroleum](#)

Published by globaltimes.cn, 3rd May 2018

Commodity trader Glencore has formed a joint venture (JV) with China's Zhejiang Petroleum to trade energy products, officials at Glencore and Zhejiang said on 3 May. The move comes after China National Chemical Corp, known as ChemChina, and Swiss-based trader Mercuria expanded an equity tie-up, as foreign trading companies look to gain a foothold in the world's largest energy consumer. Top officials from the government of East China's Zhejiang Province and Glencore executives attended the signing of the JV contract on 26 April, according to media reports. Each company will invest RMB 1 billion (USD 157 million) in the JV, Zhejiang Petroleum Trading Co, with Zhejiang holding a 71% share and Glencore the remainder, said the Glencore official, who declined to be identified due to company policy. "Glencore will have the flexibility to inject more money and increase its shareholding," he said. The new company will be located in the Zhoushan Free Trade Zone in eastern Zhejiang Province and will trade crude, oil products and liquefied natural gas, he said. The company also plans to apply for crude oil import quotas.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[Exhibition Featuring Lace Products Held in Hangzhou](#)

Published by chinaculture.org, 26th April 2018

Lace to Meet You, an art show featuring lace products from China and Switzerland, was recently held in Hangzhou. Co-sponsored by Textile Library and the St. Gallen Textile museum in Switzerland. The Textile Library in Hangzhou is China's first such facility, focusing on design and designer development in textile sectors all over the world. This exhibition is a creative carnival of internationally renowned designers and artists combining the classical and contemporary lace craftsmanship. Together with a number of brands, the exhibitors show the diversity of fashion elements with lace and demonstrate how those delicate designs and aesthetics go with everyone's daily life. The visitors are offered a unique artistic and cultural experience.

GENERAL INTEREST

[The Hotel Yearbook Launches its First-Ever Bilingual Edition, a Look at Travel and Hospitality Technology Trends in China](#)

Published by hospitalitynet.org, 4th May 2018

Wade & Co. SA, the Swiss-based publisher of The Hotel Yearbook, a family of annual compendiums of expert opinion and insights on the future of the hotel industry, announces the upcoming launch of *The Hotel Yearbook 2022 - Technology in China*, a new Special Edition focused exclusively on how the changing technology landscape will affect Chinese hospitality groups - and how Chinese technology providers will potentially affect the entire sector worldwide. "This publication is a first for us," said Woody Wade, the founder and co-publisher of The Hotel Yearbook. "Not only are our many editorial contributors looking at the rapidly evolving tech landscape, but from the perspective of a single, huge market: China." The editorial concept of all of the editions within The Hotel Yearbook family is to bring together senior travel and hospitality industry executives, recognized experts and thought leaders from every part of the industry to write about trends and innovation in the global travel and hospitality business. Underscoring its focus on innovation, *The Hotel Yearbook 2022 - Technology in China* includes a special section featuring a number of local travel and hospitality start-ups, each making use of different tech approaches to provide creative solutions to travel and hospitality challenges.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[Bobst: to Open New Production Site and Competence Center in China](#)

Published by 4-traders.com, 4th May 2018

Bobst, a Swiss company that provides machinery and services to the packaging industry, will open a new production site and Competence Center in Changzhou, China. The new site, a greenfield facility in Changzhou in the Jiangsu province of China, will be dedicated to web-fed printing and converting technologies for flexible materials. The opening of the new plant will mark a major step in the companies next phase of the development of activities for the Asian flexible packaging industry. The new plant will feature the groups highest Bobst manufacturing standards in its delocalized production plants and for the development of gravure printing and lamination solutions for the regions specific requirements and industry practices. The company will also open a Competence Center that will be part of the Bobst Changzhou facility. The center will provide support and advice to Asian clients throughout gravure printing and lamination trial runs.

[Bühler Opens New Center in China](#)

Published by world-grain.com, 27th April 2018

Bühler officially opened its Asia-Pacific Manufacturing and R&D Center on 26 April, a ceremony that included customers and stakeholders representing 32 nations from six continents. The ceremony was kicked off by Liping Shao, general manager of Bühler Changzhou, who told the audience that “the factory covers an area of 26.6 hectares. The 140,000-square-meter workshop will be Bühler’s center for feed, pet food, animal nutrition equipment and the manufacturing process.” The ceremony was part of a three-day program that started with a Networking Day and ended with visits to three livestock, aquaculture and premix plants in the region. The facility includes a comprehensive animal nutrition R&D Application Center that covers 5,200 square meters spread over four floors. It is operated by around 15 Bühler employees operating two pilot plants. One of them is devoted to the development of feed production processing technologies and the other is focused on grain logistic applications. These pilot plants will facilitate basic technology research and development as well as collaboration with customers for customized solutions. In addition, the R&D Application Center will serve as a major animal nutrition training center for customers and Bühler employees.

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[UBS Group AG to Boost Majority Stake to 51% in China JV](#)

Published by yahoo.com, 3rd May 2018

The Swiss bank — UBS Group AG UBS — has expressed interest in increasing majority stake in its Chinese securities venture with the submission of application to China’s securities regulator — The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), Bloomberg reported. This move follows CSRC’s lessening restrictions on foreign ownership of brokerages announced earlier this year. Notably, indicating their readiness to allow greater access to global banks into their financial markets, the securities regulator has set the month of June as deadline for foreign companies to increase majority stake to 51% in securities

JVs, up from the existing ceiling of 49%. Regarding this, the CSRC detailed the guidelines and experience mandatory for foreign shareholders, last week, along with the scale of businesses which can be recognized. Therefore, to explore opportunities for its investment banking, wealth and asset management operations in China, this Zurich-based bank targets to raise stake to 51%, up from the existing 24.99%.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Nestlé, Zhuwa Primary School Celebrate Art Festival](#)

Published by womenofchina.cn, 9th May 2018

Ten years has past since Nestlé joined hands with Zhuwa Primary School in Piddu District, Chengdu after the Wenchuan earthquake happened. During the Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008, Zhuwa Primary School was seriously damaged. Nestlé and its staff generously donated money to help reconstruction of the teaching building of the school. Since then, in order to practice the concept of "creating shared value" that Nestlé had consistently adhered to, Nestlé decided to support Zhuwa Primary School in the long term, and organized outstanding employees to participate in related activities in Zhuwa each year so as to effectively combine public welfare activities with employee motivation. With the theme of "enjoying learning, staying healthy and growing up together", Zhuwa Primary School and Nestlé Company ushered in the "9th Zhuwa Primary School Art Festival". At this year's festival, Nestlé employees brought the children "Nestlé Healthy Kids" interactive games to teach them through lively activities. Nutrition knowledge such as dietary pagoda, nutrients, and diet & exercise balance was imparted through these interactive games so that the children may get a deeper understanding of the knowledge of exercise and health.

[Swatch CEO Blasts France, U.S. Department Stores & Praises China](#)

Published by jingtravel.com, 27th April 2018

In a recent interview with CNBC's Geoff Cutmore, Swatch CEO Nick Hayek didn't pull any punches when it came to France and the United States. Seemingly utterly unimpressed by what France is offering tourists and a strong-worded critic of U.S. malls and department stores, Hayek found few redeeming qualities in the two countries. The Chinese consumer, China's government, and Alibaba, however, were among the main subjects of the Swatch CEO's praise. It should perhaps not come as a surprise that Swatch, with its swathe of luxury brands spanning everything from hyper-luxury to entry range, is a major beneficiary of the rise of the Chinese luxury consumer, as well as consumption in China as a whole. Consequently, Swatch Group is also a major stakeholder in Chinese outbound tourism—with much of its revenue sourced from Chinese tourist consumption. When being asked about the so-called "return of the Chinese consumer" in the last 12 months, Hayek insisted that it's not a question of a "return," but rather of changing consumer behaviors. "He was always there. He just bought in different places. He just changed a little bit his behavior. He bought sometimes not so much luxury products anymore or high end but he bought the mid-range products and he was never away," Hayek told CNBC.

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

[EMBA Delegation from University of St. Gallen Visits Shanghai](#)

Published by swisscenters.org, 8th May 2018

On 28 and 30 April, the MBA delegation from University of St. Gallen Executive visited Shanghai on a program jointly hosted by Swiss Center Shanghai and swissnex China. The delegation was introduced to

a number of MNCs and start-ups based in China. The program included site visits to the Swiss elevator and escalator manufacturer Schindler, the fintech incubator Jade Value and presentations from 3 technology start-ups active in China – the technology-powered insurance company Vsurance, the Swiss block chain technology provider Decent, and Biocloo, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) company led by Silicon Valley returnees. The delegation was acquainted with the current business climate in China through presentations by Emmanuelle Roudit, Operations Manager at Swiss Center Shanghai, Nicolas Musy, founder of Swiss Centers China, and Prof. Dr. Tomas Casas from the University of St. Gallen, and Joe Liu, Managing Director of Fraisa China. The delegation also participated in a panel discussion led by Nicolas Musy which took place on the Hyatt on the Bund.

[Asia Embraces Swiss Tech](#)

Published by startupticker.ch, 4th May 2018

CES Asia is the premier event for the consumer technology industry, showcasing the full breadth and depth of the innovation value-chain in the Asian marketplace. Key global businesses visit the event to grow and reinforce their brand by highlighting the latest products and technologies. This year, CES Asia has launched “Artificial intelligence” as a new product category to present the latest advancements and new solutions based on AI. Players from different segments will exhibit some of the latest in big data analytics, speech recognition and predictive technology. Swissnex China has selected seven startups to present their solutions. The audience will have the opportunity to exhibit Swiss AI technologies applied across a wide range of industries from wrist bands to farming. The startups include: Kenzen – creates health wearables to support its users in all dimensions of health. Myotest – provides personalized smart coaching software and services for runners. SoFlow – manufactures and sells e-mobility products and electric ride-ons. Technis – transforms flooring into an intelligent platform. Ubisim – creates interactive training for nursing students using Virtual Reality. Urban Farmers – builds commercial food production units in cities.

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<p>SwissCham Beijing 中国瑞士商会 - 北京 Room 611, Building 19 Xinyuanli West, Chaoyang District Beijing 100027, China 中国北京市朝阳区 新源里西 19 号 611 室 邮编: 100027 Tel / 电话: +86 10 8468 3982 Email / 邮件: info@bei.swisscham.org</p>	<p>SwissCham Shanghai 中国瑞士商会 - 上海 1133, 11F Carlton Building 21 Huanghe Road Shanghai 200001, China 上海市黄河路 21 号 鸿翔大厦 1133 室 邮编: 200001 Tel / 电话: +86 21 5368 1270 Email / 邮件: info@sha.swisscham.org</p>	<p>SwissCham Guangzhou 中国瑞士商会 - 广州 27th Floor, Grand Tower 228 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District Guangzhou 510620, China 广州市天河区天河路 228 号 广晟大厦 27 楼 邮编: 510620 Tel / 电话: +86 760 8858 1020 Email / 邮件: info@swisscham-gz.org</p>
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