

swisscham.org

Reader's Digest, 31 March – 13 April 2018

Swiss and Chinese Business Related News in Switzerland and China

Bilateral Relations

Business

Culture & Society

General Interest

Industries

THIS BANNER COULD BE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT !
swisscham.org



Contact us for more information

follow us on WeChat

BILATERAL RELATIONS

[Switzerland Ready to Host North Korea Talks](#)

Published by swissinfo.ch, 3rd April 2018

The meeting between Cassis and Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi, aimed at discussing key trade and policy issues, is the "first strategic dialogue" in the history of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Wang emphasised recent positive developments on the Korean peninsula and said that all parties were engaged in "sincere exchanges". Cassis recalled that the Korean crisis had already been the subject of negotiations in Geneva, and that Switzerland was "ready to welcome on its territory new negotiations or all meetings on the subject if the parties so wish", according to a Swiss foreign affairs ministry. Citing recent visits in Switzerland by the Chinese and American presidents, he added: "Switzerland has a lot of experience in these meetings, particularly in terms of security." According to the press release, a strategic platform has also been implemented to reinforce relations between Switzerland and China. It will convene every two years during the World Economic Forum in Davos and will involve political and economic representatives of both countries.

[China, Switzerland Vow to Further Innovative Strategic Partnership](#)

Published by ecns.cn, 3rd April 2018

China and Switzerland vowed to further their innovative strategic partnership. The pledge was made between Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Swiss Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis when they held the two countries' first round of foreign ministerial strategic talks. In 2016, China and Switzerland established an innovative strategic partnership, the first of its kind between China and a foreign country. China is willing to boost its innovation cooperation with Switzerland in the new era to fulfill the important consensus reached by the two heads of states, Wang

said. Earlier in the day, Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, also met with Cassis, calling for more progress in the two countries' innovative strategic partnership. Cassis said his country will push forward bilateral cooperation in various fields.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Swiss Watchmaker Audemars Piguet Makes China Push, on Track to Hit 2018 Sales Target](#)

Published by reuters.com, 10th April 2018

Swiss watchmaker Audemars Piguet is on track to hit CHF 1 billion Swiss francs (USD 1.04 billion) in global sales this year, the firm's chief executive said in an interview in Beijing, amid a revival in luxury demand in China driving up watch sales. The watchmaker's CEO Francois-Henry Bennahmias said that sales rose more than 9% in the first quarter. Last year, sales rose 12% thanks to a shift towards single-brand stores and higher average retail prices. "We are confident about being able to do a year as good as 2017," Bennahmias said. The watchmaker also launched its first online pop-up boutique with Chinese e-commerce platform JD.com Inc, hoping to tap into China's burgeoning middle class who are increasingly shopping online. Swiss watch industry exports to China rose 18.8% last year, according to the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry. Growth this year so far has been even faster.

[Hong Kong Bitcoin Exchange Plans Move to Switzerland](#)

Published by s-ge.com, 5th April 2018

One of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in the world wants to relocate its headquarters to Switzerland, a move that will make Bitfinex the most transparent stock exchange of them all. Founded in 2012 in Hong Kong, the cryptocurrency exchange wants to set up business in Switzerland as an AG and replace its previous parent company, iFinex, which is located in the British Virgin Islands. Bitfinex CEO Jean-Luis von der Velde and other managers would also move to Switzerland. Van der Felde already confirmed the relocation plans to the Handelszeitung, which also reports that several construction meetings have already taken place with the State Secretariat for International Finance (SIF) and Federal Councillor and Minister of Economic Affairs, Johann Scheider-Ammann. Business development authorities hope that the crypto-giant's relocation will have a knock-off effect for the entire cryptocurrency sector.

[WayRay Establishes a New Affiliate in China and Appoints a General Manager](#)

Published by prnewswire.com, 5th April 2018

WayRay, a Swiss holographic AR technology company, announced the opening of its newest affiliate in the Jiading District of Shanghai, China. This is the company's fifth location worldwide. Known for its world-class automotive cluster, Jiading has attracted SAIC, NIO, Formula 1 Circuit and other famous automotive-related companies. WayRay's new office in China marks another step towards deepening its collaborations with Asian suppliers and car manufacturers. By locating the new affiliate in the office space at the Alibaba Innovation Center (Shanghai Jiading), operated by InnoSpring, a US-China accelerator, WayRay aims to reinforce its foothold in the Chinese car industry. In addition, WayRay announced that Dennis Zhu has been appointed as the General Manager of the new WayRay China affiliate. Dennis will manage all business operations and develop strategic partnerships with car manufacturers in China.

[Huawei Switzerland Appoints New CEO](#)

Published by telecompaper.com, 6th April 2018

Huawei Switzerland has appointed a new CEO. Wang Haitao replaces Xiao Haijun. Also, Felix Kamer, former VP at Huawei Switzerland, now has a new position in Sales and Consulting at the headquarters in China. The company has in addition appointed a new Director Channel & Alliances EBG, after Daniel Bachofner left the position, as reported by Inside Channels. The company will need a replacement also for Urs Wursch, who since the beginning of April has been working as Head of Sales & Marketing at ITpoint. The new CEO will take over his new position with immediate effect. The former CEO, Xiao Haijun, had been at Huawei for nearly four years. He will now take over the management of Enterprise business in Russia. Wang is responsible for all three business units - Carrier Networks, Consumer and Enterprise Business. Under his predecessor Xiao Haijun, Huawei has become the third biggest smartphone manufacturer in Switzerland and the cooperation with the operators Swisscom, Sunrise and Salt has developed.

[China's Huawei Rumored to Partner with Cold Storage Smartphone Maker](#)

Published by thebitcoinnews.com, 27th March 2018

Embattled Chinese smartphone maker, Huawei, is rumored to be in serious talks with Sirin Labs to bring its handset into the cryptoverse, possibly incorporating the Swiss company's cold storage wallet along with its system to instantly convert fiat to crypto. This comes at a time when, in the US, at least one regulator is insisting carriers drop Huawei out of security concerns. China's Huawei Technologies Ltd. "is considering developing a mobile phone that will be able to run blockchain-based applications, according to two people familiar with the plans," the story ran. Applications by way of Sirin Labs' SIRIN OS would parallel the set's existing Android software. Sirin Labs, a Swiss Company with headquarter located in Schaffhausen, is most famous for 2016's Solarin smartphone, retailing for USD 16,000, and, more recently, its successful initial coin offering (ICO) last year in preparation to launch The Finney (named after Hal Finney), a smartphone claimed to include an embedded cold storage function and a way to automatically convert fiat to crypto.

[Timepiece Industry Seduces Chinese Customers on Social Network of WeChat](#)

Published by tdg.ch, 25th March 2018

Forget the traditional advertising campaigns! A poster will not have the same impact in a large Chinese city. "Too much loss", explains Yves Vulcan, head of Darwel agency, specializing in Swiss watch brands. "- Among 100,000 Chinese who will pass by, how many are likely to be interested in the watch there? - One, maybe two? "That's why Darwel has established a partnership with i2i China Group, a Shanghai-based company, which is active in the targeted sales platforms on WeChat. It has opened one special branch, the "Swiss Made Watch", to attract the attention of 1.72 million Chinese travelers and consumers to subscribe to the various commercial platforms of the social network. Emphasised by Hublot, "it is unthinkable to ignore these new channels of communication". Is it the time to abandon traditional watch shows like Baselworld? "It all depends on the strategy of each brand, but for Hublot, they are complementary tools".

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[Follow Me, Across the Border of Reality](#)

Published by prohelvetia.createsend.com, 10th April 2018

At the recently concluded Shenzhen Creative Week, the “Design Switzerland” booth brought together ingenious experimentations by eight exceptional young Swiss designers. Co-curated by Michel Hueter and Mimi Yan, the Swiss corner revealed smart, reliable, unique design that appeals to visitors from all over the country. The four-day exhibition was accompanied with forum, lecture, and gala. Over 350,000 audiences attended the fair. Visitors displayed a high interest towards the newly advent technology applied in the works and the concept underneath, among whom quite a number expressed collaborative intention. Swiss designers speak to the global needs of customers with smart, unique, no-nonsense design that stands the test of time.

[ITTF Museum Officially Launched in Shanghai China](#)

Published by ittf.com, 31st March 2018

The ITTF Museum, which was originally housed at the ITTF Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, made its star-studded opening with ITTF President Thomas WEIKERT, Deputy President Khalil AL-MOHANNADI and ITTF Executive Committee members SHI Zhihao and Masahiro MAEHARA, together with ITTF Honorary President XU Yinsheng, ITTF CEO Steve Dainton and Museum curator Chuck Hoey as well as Vice Mayor of Shanghai WENG Tiehui. Famous World Table Tennis Champions LI Furong, ZHANG Yining, WANG Liqin, and LI Xiaoxia were also presented to grace the ceremony. Upon the opening of the museum, ITTF President Thomas WEIKERT addressed at the Opening Ceremony of the ITTF and China Table Tennis Museum. “I truly wish the museum could be a new window for promoting table tennis culture and inheriting table tennis spirit. China has made great contributions to our sport, hence we decided to move our ITTF Museum from Lausanne to Shanghai, where we believe it will bring more opportunities and benefits in showcasing our sport.”

GENERAL INTEREST

[Footballer Tommy Chuck Becomes Latest Hongkonger to Play in Europe](#)

Published by scmp.com, 31st March 2018

The 23-year-old forward, who played five seasons with Rangers in the Hong Kong Premier League, announced that he had signed with Swiss second-tier side FC Chiasso on a two-year-contract. “I’ve been playing professionally for a few years and I always wondered whether I would have a chance to play overseas and improve my skills as a footballer,” said Chuck on his fans’ Facebook page. “I want to see how far I can go.” Chuck hopes he will have more opportunities to play for Hong Kong in the near future. The Hong Kong forward will be based in Ticino, the southernmost canton of Switzerland, on a border town near Italy’s regions of Piedmont and Lombardy and where Italian is the official language. Chiasso are competing in the Swiss Challenge League, which is the second highest tier of the Swiss football league system. Chiasso are in eighth spot in the 10-team division. The team’s most glorious period was between 1948 and 1961, when they played in the Swiss Super League.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[Clariant's China Strategy on Track to Deliver Growth](#)

Published by clariant.com, 10th April 2018

Clariant announced that the company is making good progress with the implementation of its dedicated China strategy. After announcing this strategy in 2016, Clariant continued its commitment to innovation and sustainability in combination with improvements in governance, increased production capacity and more local cooperation. “2017 was a successful year for Clariant in China, with 13 % sales growth and an increase in profitability. We are convinced that with our holistic growth initiative we are able to double our sales from the 2015 baseline until 2021 by continuing this successful shift towards adapting ourselves to the Chinese market and business mindset”, said Christian Kohlpaintner, Clariant's Executive Committee Member responsible for and based in China, at Clariant's Defining the Future 8 Conference in Hangzhou, China. Since China is fundamental to Clariant's overall growth strategy, the company acted on various fronts in order to improve its position in this vital market.

[ABB Hopes for U.S. Concessions for Tariffs on Chinese Special Steel](#)

Published by reuters.com, 6th April 2018

Swiss engineering group ABB hopes the U.S. government will make some concessions on its plan to slap tariffs on steel imports from China, its chief executive told Reuters. The United States and China are ABB's two largest markets with around 20,000 employees in each country. The industrial drive and power transmission company operates more than 60 production sites in the United States where it has ramped up its presence in recent years with a string of acquisitions. For its local production of certain transformers and electric engines, ABB needs special steel of a certain quality that is not available in the required amount in the United States, Chief Executive Ulrich Spiesshofer said. “We are in discussions with the U.S. government on how to deal with this special situation. Our priority is to expand our local footprint in our different markets. We hope to fall on understanding ears for our arguments, an exception is needed if the raw material is not available locally.”

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[Credit Suisse Promotes for China](#)

Published by finews.asia, 23rd March 2018

The Swiss bank is promoting Joe Lai as co-head of investment banking and capital markets, or its trading division, in China. The move, effective immediately, comes after a reshuffle at the top of the unit following the exit of high-profile rainmaker Mervyn Chow in January. Lai will jointly run the unit with Honggui Li, and the two will report to wider Asia trading unit heads Zeth Hung and Edwin Low. The bank told staff the promotion underscores its commitment to China, both for onshore as well as offshore banking. Lai and Honggui are tasked with selling investment banking services like capital markets access to Chinese clients, and in particular targeting wealthy entrepreneurs.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Swiss Gastronomic Week: Seven Days of Swissness and Unique Culinary Enjoyment](#)

Published by eda.admin.ch, 29th March 2018

Did you know that Switzerland, as a culinary hotspot, boasts the highest number of Michelin-starred restaurants per capita in the world, and its food is enriched by creative influences from neighboring countries and beyond? Did you know that besides the classic dishes of cheese fondue, rösti, and raclette,

there is a number of innovative delicacies in its national cuisine? Now, it is time for the Chinese palates to discover the secrets of Swiss cuisine! Thanks to a series of Swiss Gastronomic Weeks initiated by the Embassy of Switzerland in China, connoisseurs, curious foodies and critics will have the opportunities to discover the exquisiteness of Swiss cuisine and the innovative creations brought by the most talented and passionate chefs from Switzerland. The Hilton Beijing Hotel will host the first stop from 24 to 29 April, courtesy of an exclusive partnership with the Kulm Hotel in the Alpine village of St. Moritz, which was awarded “Hotel of the Year 2018” by the prestigious Gault & Millau restaurant guide. The second week is scheduled in June at the TRB Forbidden City, with the third one coming in September at Hotel Éclat Beijing at Parkview Green.

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

[Second Edition of Seminar “Subsidiary in China” in Switzerland this Summer](#)

Published by swisscenters.org, 10th April 2018

Since 2010, China has been Switzerland’s most important trading partner in Asia and the third-largest globally. The growing number of subsidiaries set up in China is often accompanied by lack of understanding of China’s social and economic background from headquarters in Switzerland. The Swiss Centers China and the St. Gallen Institute of Management in Asia (SGI-HSG) will join forces to offer the second edition of the seminar “Subsidiary in China – Key to Success for the Headquarter” in Switzerland this summer. The first edition last year achieved a great success, offering a comprehensive view and practical approach on foreign investment in China to Swiss business leaders who manage a subsidiary in China or have plans to set up one. This year the seminar will maintain its high quality, aiming to inform participants on the investment environment on the basis of practical experience. It will also include a practical workshop session to provide answers to the concrete case studies the participants present.

[Innovation Drives China’s Regional Coordinated Development](#)

Published by pwccn.com, 10th April 2018

PwC has been cooperating with the China Development Research Foundation since 2014, to select cities in China as samples for further comprehensive comparison and study. This year is the fifth year they publish Chinese Cities of Opportunity. Chinese Cities of Opportunity 2018 features observations on 30 cities including Beijing and Shanghai, as well as all cities reviewed in 2017. This year, Chinese Cities of Opportunity 2018 provides two observation results. One involves comparison between Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The other is a comparison of the 26 remaining cities. This year special attention has been given to the development of national strategic regions such as Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and Xiong’an New Area. Through exploring urban characteristics and advantages, they are striving to set up an innovative approach for urban social governance to build a harmonious and beautiful China.

[Exhibition Stand Design, Department for International Trade, UK](#)

Published by 5starplusdesign.com, 31st March 2018

For the participation of the Department for International Trade of the UK in the 98th China Food and Drinks Fair in Chengdu, 5 Star Plus Retail Design created a large 50 square meter pavilion matching the “Britain is GREAT” theme. The stand was designed to be visible from far away, have maximum space for displaying products, easy interaction with visitors, a focus on Britain’s national colors, and providing

enough space for different products. A key consideration for the exhibition stand design was a strongly branded impression of the slogan, whilst also highlighting practical beauty. The background of the bar area displayed a brick wall, and the afternoon tea area featured a beautiful display tea table. The displays of the individual food and beverage exhibitors were kept white, clean, and in line with the overall theme.

Looking for more news? Go to [SwissCham's Website](#).

<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>
---	---	--

Disclaimer: SwissCham's Reader's Digest is a bi-weekly publication. Editorial, advertising and news published in the Reader's Digest are for advertisement and/or information purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in China, of its Board, its members or its staff. SwissCham therefore rejects any liability related to the accuracy of and/or views reflected in the newsletters.