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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[1st China-Europe Talent Forum Opens to Boost Exchange, Cooperation](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 26th September 2018

The first China-Europe Talent Forum was jointly hosted in Zurich, Switzerland, on 25 September by the Chinese Embassy in Switzerland and the Swiss Adecco Group. The forum gathered more than 100 senior executives from over 40 Chinese and European companies to exchange their views on three topics: European labour market and its laws and regulations, international talent acquisition, and staff management and training. Geng Wenbing, Chinese ambassador to Switzerland, said at the forum that since the beginning of the 21st century, talent has become the key factor for the development of all countries and business. After 40 years of reform and opening up, China's economy, now shifting from high-speed growth to high-quality development, is at a key phase of changing patterns, optimizing economic structure, and transforming growth momentum. An economy driven by innovation is, after all, one driven by talent, which is why the Chinese market has a huge demand for high-level talents, Geng said. He added that the Chinese government has always attached great importance to the work related to talent, including the international cooperation in this field. China and Europe are the world's two major economies, showing a broad prospect for cooperation in the area. The forum aims to promote the exchange and integration of all talent by building an open, pragmatic and future-oriented Sino-European talent exchange platform that will help Chinese enterprises operating in Europe actively participate in international cooperation, the ambassador concluded.

[China Remains Committed to Openness in Fast-Changing World: Chinese Envoy in Geneva](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 25th September 2018

In a fast-changing world, China's commitment to openness remains unchanged, the Permanent Representative of China to the UN Office at Geneva Yu Jianhua said, just a week before China's 69th Nation Day. "The door to China will not close. It will only open wider," Yu said at a national day reception held here on Monday night, which as usual drew hundreds of diplomats from every corner of the globe as well as business leaders and the world-wide press corps based in Geneva. Saying that reform and innovation are the two essentials for advancement, robustness, and success, Yu told the audience that "Reform and innovation were there when the Chinese people, with diligence and intelligence, impressed the world with the "China miracle". "With much search and struggle, our nation stood on its own feet, achieved prosperity, and grew strong," he said. "China will do well only when the world does well, and vice versa." He also told the audience that China will forge ahead with the Belt and Road Initiative, deepening multilateral and bilateral economic ties and trade, and uphold multilateralism with the UN as the mainstream. It will improve China's foreign investment environment, better coordinate regional plans for country-wide openness, and promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, he explained. Jean Musy, President of APES (Foreign Press Association in Switzerland and Liechtenstein), told Xinhua that it is refreshing in the current climate to see China's commitment to multilateralism and he enjoyed exchanging ideas with Chinese people from various walks of life at the function.

[The Consulate General of China in Zurich and for the Principality of Liechtenstein Launched Official WeChat Account](#)

Published by zurich.chineseconsulate.org, 19th September 2018

On 15 September, the Consulate General of China in Zurich and for the Principality of Liechtenstein officially launched its WeChat account at its 30th anniversary. The account aims to provide more comprehensive and in-depth information and more efficient services to the compatriots who come to Switzerland and Liechtenstein to travel, visit, study, work and live on this new communication and interactive platform. You will find "The Swiss Travel Handbook" with guide and information of living in Switzerland. The "Passport Appointment" function allows users to make a reservation online for the passport renewal service and track the status of application as well. The "One Click for Help" feature can help users to quickly contact the Consulate General and reach the 12308 Hotline. The "Link to China" lists useful websites of China's domestic affairs, diplomacy, economy, finance, culture, tourism, education, etc.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Companies Benefit from Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China](#)

Published by unisg.ch, 26th September 2018

Since 1 July 2014, Switzerland has been the only continental European country to have signed a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with China. In the FTA's fifth year, the University of St. Gallen, the Chinese University of International Business and Economics, and the Nanjing University have joined forces to analyse its economic impact for the first time. The results of the Sino-Swiss FTA - 2018 Academic Evaluation Report show that, thanks to reduced tariffs on imports and exports, industries in both countries benefit from potential savings amounting to several hundred million Swiss Francs. However, not all companies and firms utilise the trade agreement to the fullest extent possible. Since the enactment of the FTA, Chinese companies have exploited roughly 42% of their savings potential, although high utilisation rates are already reported for certain products such as kettles and electric motors. Chinese companies have been able to export most of their products to Switzerland duty-free since 2014. Simultaneously,

Chinese tariffs on Swiss products are being gradually lowered over the course of the FTA's first 15 years. By 2018, most products have become duty-free and consequently, there is a steadily increasing incentive for Swiss companies to utilise the FTA - current rates read at around 44 percent. The savings in duties amounted to over CHF 100 million for both parties in 2017 alone. Particularly the machine industry, which is of great importance for the Canton of St. Gallen, as well as the med tech and watch industries, count among the main beneficiaries of the FTA.

[BaselArea.swiss Welcomes BeiGene to Basel](#)

Published by s-ge.com, 25th September 2018

BeiGene, Ltd., a global commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company, has established a regional headquarters in Basel. BaselArea.swiss assisted BeiGene in evaluating and establishing the new site. The Nasdaq and Hong Kong Stock Exchange-listed company is dedicated to becoming a global leader in the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative, molecularly targeted and immuno-oncology drugs for the treatment of cancer. From its new location in Basel, BeiGene will manage its European clinical trial operations and prepare for the potential launch of its drug candidates outside of Asia. The new presence marks another milestone for BeiGene on its way to becoming a leading global bio-pharma company. Access to a large and highly skilled talent pool, a business-friendly environment and close proximity to the European market were key drivers of BeiGene's decision to establish operations in Basel. Basel is home to several of the world's leading oncology companies and a vibrant biotech hub. Many global life sciences companies manage their commercial activities from Basel. BeiGene has a global team of over 1,300 employees, including more than 500 people in its clinical team in China, the United States and Australia. The company has offices in China in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Suzhou; in the United States in Cambridge, MA, Ridgefield Park, NJ, and Emeryville and San Mateo, CA; and in Europe in Basel, Switzerland.

[VAXIMM Announces Regional Development and Commercialization Agreement with China Medical System Holdings](#)

Published by biospace.com, 21st September 2018

VAXIMM AG, a Swiss/German biotech company focused on developing oral T-cell immunotherapies, today announced the signing of a development and commercialization collaboration agreement with China Medical System Holdings Limited (CMS). VAXIMM will collaborate with CMS, which will have the full rights in China and other Asian countries (excluding Japan) to VAXIMM's existing programs, enabling the development and commercialization of VAXIMM's pipeline of oral cancer immunotherapy candidates in the region. The parties will coordinate and share data from their respective clinical studies. VAXIMM will also receive development and commercial milestones and royalties based on the achievement of sales milestones by CMS. In parallel with the agreement, CMS will make an equity investment in VAXIMM, as part of VAXIMM's current Series B financing. Dr. Thomas Hecht, Chairman of the Board of Directors of VAXIMM, said: "We are thrilled to have CMS as a partner for the important and growing Asian markets. China in particular has increased its focus on bringing new therapies to cancer patients, and it is critical to have a strong partner there, with the appropriate know-how and who can maximize the potential value of our programs. CMS has a solid track record of successfully in-licensing novel therapies and has a highly effective sales and marketing network in China. The equity investment, which CMS is making in VAXIMM, will enable us to advance our clinical development programs."

[NEO Global Development Opening Office at Trust Square in Zurich, Switzerland](#)

Published by [neonewstoday.com](#), 19th September 2018

NEO Global Development (NGD) is opening a new office at Trust Square in Zurich, Switzerland. Trust Square opened in April, 2018 and has become the world's largest blockchain hub, hosting over 40 blockchain start-ups and organisations. On 20 September, Trust Square is holding an "Open House" day to celebrate its expansion to 300 workstations across 3,000 square meters. It is inviting the general public to come and meet the many residents to learn about their projects. NEO will be represented at the Open House event by Lili Zhao who is heading up NGD initiatives in Zurich. The former banker joined the NGD team in June 2018 and is based out of Zurich. She holds an MBA from the University of St. Gallen and has a Bachelor of Economics from the Royal Holloway, University of London. After completing her bachelor studies, Lili founded a quarterly inflight magazine called "China Ethos", which was distributed across 15 airlines. Lili moved to Switzerland in 2011 to work for HSBC as a relationship manager, and in the years that followed held different managerial roles at Bank Vontobel AG and at the Zurich Institute of Business Education. In 2017, Lili began advising blockchain projects before joining NEO.

[Wayray Raises USD 80 Million in a Round C Led by Porsche and Joined by Hyundai Motor, JVCKENWOOD, and Other Investors, Aiming to Become A USD 1 Billion Company Next Year](#)

Published by [wayray.com](#), 18th September 2018

WayRay, a leader of holographic AR displays for cars, has today announced a new investment from Porsche, Hyundai Motor, Alibaba Group, China Merchants Capital, JVCKENWOOD and Consortium of Sovereign Wealth Funds (among them Russia-Japan Investment Fund, formed by JBIC and RDIF; Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrein). The newly raised funds will bolster the company's focus on R&D, industrialization and team expansion to become a supplier of holographic AR solutions for car manufacturers. Porsche first joined forces with WayRay for a pilot project at Startup Autobahn, Europe's biggest platform for automotive innovation. Now the premium German car manufacturer is leading investment Round C, along with China Merchants Capital, one of the largest Chinese investment companies. Since its inception in 2012, the Swiss startup has raised more than USD 100 Million. By the end of 2019, the company aims to become a unicorn with a USD 1 billion valuation. In its transition from startup to scaleup, WayRay plans to use the raised funds to establish an affiliate with a pilot production line in Germany. The investments will also help to diversify WayRay's portfolio of applications in different sectors — from AR in transportation to AR smart glass in the smart home business and construction industry.

[Swiss Post China Study Tour 2018](#)

Published by [swissnexchina.org](#), 13th September 2018

At the beginning of September, Swiss Post arrived in Beijing with a nice group of 12 delegates. The team consisted in different heads of sections working for the Innovation Department. Swiss Post has realized that nowadays, it is necessary to bring innovative solutions in big corporates and wisely decided to partner with swissnex China to do some field scouting and meet with local startups, incubators and corporates. They were interested in building links with potential partners in the fields of Connected Economy, Smart City, IoT, Digital Trusts, AI, New Realities, Autonomous driving... Some high expectations that the Chinese ecosystem will hopefully fulfill! D.com is one of the two massive B2C online retailers in China and a major competitor to Alibaba-run Tmall. The Swiss Post team was lucky enough to have access to the showroom

which provided a great introduction about their business. Then, they visited JD Logistics X, a department which develops and integrates intelligent handling robots, robotic arms, and other warehouse automation tech and applies big data analysis to improve warehouse operation efficiency. Later on, they headed to Zhongguancun, the biggest technology hub in China. It was established by the Beijing and Haidian government to foster entrepreneurship and to offer a platform for an open exchange between global players in the innovation ecosystem.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[Swiss Painter Shows Off Her Skills in Speed Painting in China](#)

Published by china.org.cn, 24th September 2018

Swiss artist Corinne Sutter, who has a notable following in Switzerland for her unique, speedy way of drawing portraits, recently performed and interacted with her fans in Beijing. She disclosed a few details ahead of her show about her painting style, saying that "I do a special-effect painting, combining as many effects that I've never done before. So that will be already surprised from how I do it. But whom I paint? I hope I can surprise everybody: I will paint a very famous Chinese person; it's such a famous person that even people in Europe know him. It's Jackie Chan. And I'll turn him into another subject, and I hope you'll be surprised about that as well." Corinne Sutter's visit was arranged by the Embassy of Switzerland in China in celebration of the 6th anniversary of Parkview Green Beijing, a spectacular piece of green architecture with innovative ecologically sensitive designs and operations. The artist is quite excited about her trip, so she could better understand the Chinese people and celebrate with them the traditional Chinese Mid-autumn Day. She said "in China, there are so many people. But I learnt 'you function very well' like in a community. The European people often, they are more like individually working and everybody is just working for himself. And like in China, you are really like a community, and all people know what the person does and all connect with each other, and I think it's very inspiring also for us to do. And I appreciate a lot how open you are and how much respect is coming towards me and I bring that respect back.

[Swiss Art Sales Set a Steady, Humble Pace](#)

Published by swissinfo.ch, 19th September 2018

Giacometti paintings led an intense night of bidding at Christie's annual auction of Swiss art in Zurich. Netting a total CHF 5,369,500, the auction house also bucked the downward trend of Swiss art sales in the last few years. The auction attracted interest from clients from 20 countries (+50% on 2017) with an increase in registered bidders of 48% over the same sale last year. The number of new registrants also doubled. Many artworks fetched values far above their highest estimates while the auction also featured more contemporary pieces. Hans-Peter Keller, Impressionist and Modern Art external link specialist at Christie's in Zurich, told swissinfo.ch that the demand for more contemporary works is an imperative, as "sooner or later the offer of traditional pieces will diminish considerably". The financial crisis is seen as the main culprit for the radical plunge experienced by this market in 2008-09. Even with some rebounds in 2011 and 2013, sales of Swiss art hardly pass the CHF 20 million range, even though demand for more traditional pieces is still strong among Swiss collectors. "Apart from the so-called 'patriot collectors' in Switzerland, such as Christoph Blocher, most collectors of Swiss art abroad have a more conservative taste, looking for art that evokes the Swiss landscape and traditional lifestyle", says Keller. Meanwhile, emerging Asian, and mainly Chinese, collectors also prefer to invest in more established artists. For Keller,

that is not surprising. "It may take one or two generations of collectors to make bolder moves into contemporary art".

GENERAL INTEREST

[Shanghai and Swiss Universities to Launch Exchange Program](#)

Published by shine.cn, 14th September 2018

Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of Zurich signed an exchange program recently as swissnex China, an organization dedicated in promoting cooperation of education, research and innovation between Switzerland and China, celebrated its 10th anniversary. The exchange program will enable the Bachelor's, Master's, PhD students as well as the faculty members from the two universities to benefit from an international experience by studying or working abroad at the partner institution. Swissnex China was opened on 7 August 2008, by Swiss State Secretary Mauro Dell'Ambrogio. After Boston and San Francisco, swissnex China is the third Swiss "science diplomacy" outpost to commence its operations as an important platform for implementing Switzerland's policy of bilateral cooperation with selected priority partner countries outside of Europe. The mission of swissnex China is to connect the dots between the two countries in education, research and innovation. A total of 211 university agreements and collaborations have been signed between Swiss and Chinese higher education institutions, initiated or facilitated by swissnex China. Additionally, swissnex China has helped 117 Swiss startups prepare their first step in China, discovering the market, meeting professional coaches and connecting with the local experts.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[Tencent Pact with Novartis Shows Big Pharma's Ambitions in China](#)

Published by swissinfo.ch, 20th September 2018

Two giants from the pharma and tech industries are teaming up to take advantage of rapid growth in China's health-care market. Novartis AG, the Swiss drugmaker, said it signed a partnership agreement with Shenzhen-based Tencent Holdings Ltd. and is keen to pursue more deals in the digital realm as it expands in the world's second-biggest drug market. The collaboration will focus on heart disease and give patients access to Tencent's health services, including reminders to take their medication and information about their condition, Bertrand Bodson, Novartis's digital strategy leader since January, said Wednesday in an interview. Medicine-tracking systems, meanwhile, will help patients avoid counterfeit products, according to Novartis. Chief Executive Officer Vas Narasimhan, who took over in February, aims to more than double Novartis's sales in China over the next five years and gain faster reimbursement for cutting-edge cancer drugs as the country speeds up approvals. In an interview with Bloomberg in July, Narasimhan said the company plans to expand its efforts in China to scout for new business opportunities, partly focused on data.

[Roche Plans Center in Pudong to Boost Medical R&D](#)

Published by chinadaily.com.cn, 19th September 2018

Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche announced it will build an RMB 863 million (USD 125.87 million) innovation center in Shanghai's Pudong New Area. Set to open in 2019, it will be the company's third-largest strategic center after those in Switzerland and the United States. The state-of-the-art innovation center is expected to boost the city's top-level medical research and development capabilities by becoming a dream workplace for pharmaceutical scientists, said Shen Hong, head of medicinal chemistry and head of external innovation at Roche Innovation Center Shanghai, Roche R&D Center (China) Ltd. The center's focus will be developing antibiotics, as well as medicines to treat hepatitis B, and inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, Shen said. Founded in 1994, Roche established the first Chinese joint venture in Pudong's Zhangjiang area - Shanghai Roche Pharmaceutical Co Ltd. It quickly formed a complete pharmaceutical value chain that includes research, development, manufacturing and sales. Thanks to its 24 years of steady development in the country, Shanghai Roche generated RMB 10.45 billion in sales revenue in 2017, and the company had invested RMB 6 billion across the nation as of 2016.

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[China Still the 'Most Attractive' Among Emerging Markets: UBS](#)

Published by cnbc.com, 18th September 2018

The impact on the Chinese economy from the trade tariffs will be small, and China markets are still attractive despite slumping this year, said Catherine Cai, chairman of UBS's Greater China investment banking arm. China markets have tumbled more than 20% this year, which experts have attributed to the volatility over the trade war with the U.S. The market's reaction has been overblown, Cai suggested, pointing to the "pretty healthy" growth potential of most Chinese corporations. The latest news on the additional round of U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods did not "totally surprise" everyone, she said, given that investors knew they would likely come. "We still think, among all the emerging markets, China's still representing the most attractive market," she told CNBC at the World Economic Forum.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Nestlé Launches Organic Milk Powder Product NIDO](#)

Published by chinadaily.com.cn, 19th September 2018

World leading food and beverage producer Nestlé launched its first organic full cream milk powder product NIDO in China on 20 September, to compete in the high-end organic dairy product market. The product was trial launched in China last year through the cross-border e-commerce channel last year. NIDO is a member of the Nestlé family with annual sales of over USD 1.04 billion. Since 1944, Nestlé has been producing NIDO milk powder in Switzerland. NIDO milk sells 60 million cups in more than 80 countries around the world every day. In recent years, with the continuous improvement of the living standard in China, the demand of Chinese people for imported food has grown year by year. In 2017, China imported a total of USD 58.28 billion of food, with a year-on-year increase of 25%. The average annual growth rate of imported food trade volume in the past five years is 5.7%, with organic food drawing a lot of attention from Chinese consumers. As shown by data of Nielsen Consulting, 40 to 50% of Chinese consumers are willing to pay higher prices for natural, sustainable and organic products. NIDO organic full cream milk powder introduced this time is also a positive response of Nestlé to the changing demand of Chinese consumers, and is expected to bring an option of safe, high-quality organic milk powder to the public, said Roberto Reniero, head of Nestlé's R&D in China.

[Celebrating Swiss Gastronomic Week at Hotel Éclat](#)

Published by chinadaily.com.cn, 19th September 2018

To bring the true taste of Switzerland to China, Hotel Éclat in Beijing invited Michelin star chef Armin Amrein to bring an extraordinary culinary experience to its customers. In collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland, the 2nd Swiss Gastronomic Week run from 19 to 21 September – an exclusive series of three-course lunch menus and five-course dinner menus, provided a chance to savour the delightful culinary art of Chef Amrein, a true master of Helvetic gastronomy. Originally from Lucerne, Amrein discovered his passion for food in a cookery course during his schooldays. After training in cities throughout Switzerland, he has been chef de cuisine of a number of the best restaurants in the country, including the 5-star Bürgenstock Resort and the Relais & Châteaux Hotel Walserhof in Klosters, which includes the British Royal Family among its illustrious guests. He now leads his very own restaurant, Glow by Armin Amrein, the leading Michelin-starred fine dining destination in Davos, the highest town in Europe, a glamorous holiday resort famous for hosting the World Economic Forum.

[Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services](#)

[SKU Advanced Management Program Visits Swiss Center Shanghai](#)

Published by swisscenters.org, 19th September 2018

On 20 September, Swiss Center Shanghai welcomed from the SKU Advanced Management Program a delegation of 27 executives in the Swiss private and public sectors. We were delighted to have Ken Goenawan (Delegate from Headquarters of Frewitt Pharma Machinery), Andy Yang (Technical Manager at Sonceboz China) and our delegate of the board Nicolas Musy share their viewpoints on the China market as managers and researcher.

[World Economic Forum Takes on China Tech Regulation](#)

Published by wsj.com, 19th September 2018

As China's technology industry and government tangle over regulating new technologies such as drones and self-driving cars, the World Economic Forum is stepping into the fray. The forum will expand its Beijing office to include a "Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution," the organization's executive chairman, Klaus Schwab, announced Wednesday at its annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin. The center will serve as a think tank and testing ground in China for new policies regulating emerging technologies, said David Aikman, managing director of greater China for the World Economic Forum, which is best known for its annual winter meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Mr. Aikman said the new hub will pinpoint gaps within existing regulations and launch pilot programs to experiment with new ones. That has become more crucial as China's huge domestic market nurtures domestic tech giants and attracts foreign companies, he said. "Pretty much any issue you can think of, China is part of the problem or part of the solution," Mr. Aikman said. Ignoring China would be like having "a Ferrari without an engine," said Murat Sonmez, head of the forum's network of policy centers. The World Economic Forum is funding the effort. Mr. Aikman said the WEF's Beijing office is expected to double in staff to about 60 people. The tech-policy center will be the forum's third, after ones in San Francisco and Tokyo. A fourth will open in Mumbai later this year.

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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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