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Reader's Digest, 26 May – 8 June 2018

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[Solid Sino-Swiss Ties Provide Framework for Future Economic Cooperation: Ambassador](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 27th May 2018

The rapid development of Sino-Swiss bilateral ties in recent years has provided a good framework for promoting economic and trade cooperation in the future, China's ambassador to Switzerland Geng Wenbing has said. In an interview with local media this week, Geng told the Swiss audience that there is no need to worry about investments from China. "If Switzerland wants to attract more Chinese investments, it should create a better and favourable public opinion environment," Geng suggested. According to the Chinese Ambassador, in addition to the rapid growth of direct investment, some well-known Chinese enterprises have set up branches in Switzerland, and more Chinese enterprises are looking forward to having closer ties with their Swiss partners. He mentioned that in the past several years, a relatively still limited number of Chinese companies has started to enter into Switzerland, a country for a long time being considered as having high quality environment, strong innovation ability, the craftsman spirit and the excellent business service level. Nevertheless, Geng said, there are only some 80 Chinese enterprises running in Switzerland now, most of them are private enterprises and are limited in investment scales and business sectors. In contrast, he said, there are currently more than 1,000 Swiss companies doing business in China, and almost all of the famous companies in Switzerland now have branches or R&D centres in China.

[Ambassador GENG Wenbing Met Markus Seiler, General Secretariat of the FDFA](#)

Published by ch.china-embassy.org, 24th May 2018

On 23 May, Ambassador GENG Wenbing welcomed and invited Mr. Markus Seiler, the General Secretariat of the FDFA to dinner in his residence. Ambassador GENG congratulated Mr. Seiler on taking

up his post and stated that Switzerland was an important cooperation partner of China, and China paid high attention to the development of the Sino-Swiss relationship. Since the state visit of President Xi Jinping in 2017, exchanges and cooperation between the two countries reached a new level. The Chinese Embassy in Switzerland hoped to continuously maintain the close and intimate contact with the FDFA in order to promote the development of the bilateral relations. Mr. Seiler thanked Ambassador GENG for his invitation and stated that he and the FDFA were willing to maintain the regular exchange with the Chinese Embassy to develop the relationship and strengthen the pragmatic cooperation with China. Furthermore, the two sides also exchanged points of views of important international and regional issues.

BUSINESS NEWS

[WISeKey Starts Manufacturing its IoT Semiconductors in China](#)

Published by globenewswire.com, 1st June 2018

WISeKey International Holding Ltd announced that is manufacturing its IoT semiconductors in China, having as a goal the ramp up of its secure chip install base to 10 billion within the next 3 years, with a new Secure Microprocessor for IoT, Blockchain, AI and WISeCoin. WISeKey IoT has an install base of over 1.2 billion secure chips (since 2010) in virtually all IoT sectors - autonomous cars, smart cities, drones, anti-counterfeiting, smart lighting, servers, mobile phones, etc. VaultIC407 features an outstandingly rich set of Security Protocols and Security Functions tailored to IoT applications. While WISeKey will continue manufacturing chips in other countries in Asia and Europe, its new plant in China will become the main manufacturing center for Asia. Trusted Semiconductors are the building blocks of the IoT, found in everything from autonomous cars, smart cities, drones, anti-counterfeiting, smart lighting, servers, mobile phones, etc. Although China has mastered the art of assembling products with semiconductors produced elsewhere (the iPhone is the most famous example), the aspiration is for technology companies in China to move from being mere assemblers to manufacturers of semiconductors, therefore there is huge opportunity for WISeKey to become one of the first global companies to establish its semiconductors manufacturing facility in mainland China.

[China Once Again Chooses Kompogas Technology](#)

Published by recycling-magazine.com, 1st June 2018

Another project to build two Kompogas digesters for a biogas plant in Nanjing consolidates Swiss cleantech company Hitachi Zosen Inova's position as the leading supplier of anaerobic dry fermentation technologies in China. Following a similar project in Chongqing, with the signing of a contract to deliver two Kompogas PF1800 steel digesters to client German Bio Energy Technology (GBE) for a biogas plant project in the Chinese city of Nanjing, Swiss company Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) has landed its second project of this sort in a market that in addition to having great potential, also poses various challenges for western companies. According to the company more and more countries worldwide set up sustainable waste management and implement programmes for renewable energies. In this area China marks the largest market for first-class environmental technologies. "For quite some time we have been the leading technology provider in the field of thermal Energy from Waste technologies. Thanks to the realisation of our second Kompogas project in China, we are able to strengthen our position as a leading supplier for Dry Anaerobic Digestion technology as well", emphasises Andres Kronenberg, Chief Business Development for Hitachi Zosen Inova, the relevance of this project for the company.

Metals Focus: Swiss Data Point to Soft Gold Demand in Many Markets

Published by kitco.com, 31st May 2018

Swiss trade data show that physical gold demand in many key nations has been soft so far, this year, said Metals Focus. Switzerland is a major gold-refining hub; thus, the country's trade statistics are closely monitored as a barometer for global physical demand. Switzerland's gold exports rose by 2% year-on-year to 478 tonnes from January through April. "However, this growth is almost entirely driven by robust growth in China. Excluding that country, Swiss exports were actually down by almost a third," Metals Focus said in a report released. Further, combined shipments to Hong Kong and mainland China were 43 tonnes in April, down by 46% from the prior month and the lowest level since October, Metals Focus said. During the first four months of 2018, Swiss exports to the region totalled 172 tonnes, up 65% year-on-year, Metals Focus said. However, the consultancy explained, the "dramatic" rise was due to a weak comparison level from a year ago. "It is worth stressing that part of these gains came as a result of the tightening regulations on gold bullion imports imposed by the Chinese central bank in 2017, which led to a temporary slowdown in Chinese imports early in the year," the consultancy continued.

Swiss Cities of Zurich, Geneva Remain World's Most Expensive: Survey

Published by xinhuanet.com, 30th May 2018

Zurich and Geneva are still the world's two most expensive major cities, the annual rankings of 77 metropolitan areas by Swiss bank UBS showed. Egypt's capital Cairo is the cheapest, the survey found. The two Swiss cities beat New York, Oslo and Copenhagen as revealed in UBS's 2018 "Cost of living in cities around the world" survey. Zurich is also the most expensive place in the world to party on Saturday night and it has often been viewed as neck and neck with Geneva cost wise. But, "the biggest difference can be found in services, such as haircuts, an hour of household help, dry cleaning, language classes etc., where Zurich is 20% pricier on average than Geneva," said the survey. UBS based its calculations on a basket of 128 goods and services representing the spending habits of a three-person European family -- with separate data sets including and excluding rent, the single largest cost for most people. Zurich and Geneva topped both data sets, although the difference with basis city New York was greater when rent was excluded. In terms of price levels, Tokyo was the only Asian city in the top 10, coming in sixth, while its earning level ranked 17th and its purchasing power 20th. However, in a subset of data for 11 big cities (including Zurich but not Geneva), UBS looked at where millennials (those born after 1980) would be best off to buy a package of typical must-have goods including an Apple iPhone, a laptop and a Netflix subscription. Expensive Chinese city Hong Kong was the surprise winner for the study authors, but they said Zurich was another surprise.

Swiss Watch Exports Tick Ahead Nicely in April

Published by thelocal.ch, 29th May 2018

Exports of Swiss watches rose nearly 14% year on year in April, trade figures showed, aided by strong demand from prime market Hong Kong. "After a relatively calm March, growth moved ahead strongly in April," the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry said, noting exports for the first four months of the year rose 11% on the same period of 2017 to CHF 6.7 billion (EUR 5.8 billion, USD 6.75 billion). March growth had been tepid at 4.8%, down on January's 12.6 and February's 12.9. April's recovery of 13.8% saw exports hit 1.76 billion francs, driven by a healthy 43.4% rise in sales -- a six-year high -- to Hong Kong, a lucrative Asian market hub. Other key markets also saw large rises, with exports to China and the United States clocking up increases of 11% and 12.8% respectively. Europe was a mixed picture with German

sales up 12.8% but sliding 14.7% in Britain, continuing a recent trend as the United Kingdom wrestles with Brexit. The global picture has been healthier since a difficult period across 2015 and 2016 saw the sector take a hit after China introduced anti-counterfeiting measures, helping knock back sales of luxury goods.

[Air China Marks 5th Anniversary of Beijing-Geneva Flight, Vows Better Service](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 28th May 2018

A total of 260,000 passengers have flown directly between Beijing and Geneva via Air China during the past five years, and the successful opening and operation of the Beijing-Geneva flight has become a microcosm of the deepening relations between China and Europe under the Belt and Road Initiative. Marking the 5th anniversary of the opening of the Beijing-Geneva flight, the Geneva office of Air China said on Monday that it is now launching a "better service" campaign to better fit the needs of the passengers. Air China is now operating 29 flights to Europe, linking China to 22 cities in 15 European countries. Every week, it said, the Chinese national flag carrier flies 290 flights to Europe, delivering a total of nearly 3 million passengers per year. Already the largest flight carrier between China and Europe, Air China opened a number of European flights such as Beijing-Zurich, Shanghai-Barcelona, Beijing- Athens in the year 2017. In 2018, according to the Geneva Office of Air China, the airlines will open more flights from China to Europe, such as Beijing-Copenhagen and Chengdu-London flights. According to Geng Wenbing, China's Ambassador to Switzerland, last year more than 1 million Chinese tourists had been in Switzerland, and more are expected to come in the future.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[Swiss Doctor Serves Patients in NW China for Over a Decade](#)

Published by womenofchina.cn, 4th June 2018

A female doctor from Switzerland has earned high praise from the public after serving the patients in northwest China's Qinghai Province for over a decade. Ju Ruixin, together with her husband, came to China through an overseas placement project after obtaining her doctorate at the Medical School of the University of Zurich in 2007. She currently serves as a technical director at the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department of Qinghai Red Cross Hospital, where she is mainly responsible for medical quality supervision, personnel training and assisting in complicated surgeries. To remove the language barrier, Su learned Mandarin in Tianjin for two years. "Patients without knowledge of my background tend to leave at the sight of me because they thought I might not be able to understand their language," Su said. "I always pull them back, telling them I can speak Chinese," she added. Being a remote and less developed region, Qinghai lags behind some provinces in terms of medical level. When it comes to her medical skills, Ju said she was not an encyclopaedia, and she also had many difficulties in treating patients. Her modest attitude has won her widespread appreciation. With the accelerating development of China, more and more foreign experts choose to work in the nation. Now, a total of 13 foreign doctors work at Qinghai Red-Cross Hospital.

GENERAL INTEREST

[Swiss Winter Tourism Booms as Franc Strength Ebbs](#)

Published by reuters.com, 7th June 2018

Visitors from Europe flocked to Switzerland in the winter season as a weaker Swiss franc helped make holidays more affordable and early season snow spurred interest in mountain resorts, data released on Thursday showed. The hotel industry registered 16.5 million overnight stays from November 2017 to April 2018, an increase of 4.6% from the year-earlier period, the Federal Statistics Office said. Foreign demand grew 5.6% to 8.7 million stays, while domestic rose 3.5% to 7.8 million units. Lots of snow that started falling early also helped tourism, as ski areas were able to open in advance of the holiday season in December. German, British and French visitors led the gains among Europeans. Overnight stays by Asian visitors rose 8.7%, led by Chinese, Indian and South Korean guests. Stays by U.S. residents increased 5.3% Switzerland's economy grew robustly in the first quarter, as the weaker franc supported exports and global sporting events helped fill the coffers of the Swiss-based International Olympic Committee (IOC) and soccer body FIFA.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[Roche CEO: US, China Dominate Healthcare Innovation, EU Lags 'Far Behind'](#)

Published by euractiv.com, 28th May 2018

Speaking at the "Entrepreneurship in Healthcare: Powering Innovation" event organised by the European Healthcare Distribution Association (GIRP) in Dublin, the CEO of the Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company criticised Europe for lagging "far behind" compared to the US and China in healthcare innovation. "The US leads, China is catching up and Europe is watching. People have not realised yet what is going on here and I am afraid of that," he warned. Schwan explained that the US was without a doubt ahead of others in healthcare innovation as it has provided a clear regulatory framework which has allowed for an ecosystem of new start-up companies in the field. "Europe is far away from what is happening in the US, not even close. In addition, China has already overtaken Europe and I am concerned that it will be very difficult for Europe, also for inherent reasons as data is so fragmented within Europe and within countries, to catch up." Roche CEO said that the company was investing a lot in the US not because it does not want to invest in Europe but because it's just much simpler: there is a regulatory framework that allows investment in these new digital opportunities. "China is also catching up. Chinese are totally committed to innovation. If you are talking to European politicians about innovation [...] you don't know who you will meet next time, if they are still in the government." On the other hand, he said, in China, they have a long-term strategy to grow and get from low-value industries to high-value industries, with life science and IT some of the key industries they want to develop.

[ABB Supports Denza 500 in Sustainable Pilot on Roof of the World](#)

Published by abb.com.cn, 23rd May 2018

From April 2 to 15, 2018, a test drive of Denza 500 pure electric vehicles was held in the Lhasa-Linzhi section of China National Highway 318 on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, aptly named the 'Roof of the World' due to its 3500m elevation. As the global strategic partner, ABB provided the DC charger for this test drive, ensuring the safe, reliable and smooth operation of the pilot. Due to restrictions on the development of new energy vehicles and supporting charging infrastructure facilities in Tibet, no public charging stations had been built before. Therefore, the ABB DC chargers used for this test drive were transported from Shenzhen and installed around the Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa. Frank Mühlön, Head of ABB's Global

Business for Electric Vehicle Charging commented: “We are delighted to have been selected as a partner for this test drive, which has delivered very positive results. According to the charging data fed back from the field, the performance of ABB DC chargers was the same in the plateau area as in the plains, with no slowdown, interruption, or instability resulting from the elevation and associated harsh conditions.”

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[Credit Suisse Adds Fintech to Hong Kong Digital Push](#)

Published by finews.asian, 5th June 2018

Swiss bank Credit Suisse is bolstering its wealth management arm with outside financial technology aimed squarely at Chinese clients. Credit Suisse is extending a partnership with Canopy, the Swiss bank said in a media statement. Now, clients in Hong Kong will also be able to access the Singapore-based fintech's account aggregation platform. The Zurich-bank is releasing Canopy's technology in both traditional and simplified Chinese for the Hong Kong market – a nod to Credit Suisse's biggest market in Asia. Canopy hasn't locked itself into working exclusively with Credit Suisse, and can offer its platform technology to another private bank in future. The Swiss bank and the Singapore fintech clinched a partnership last year for an equity stake – Credit Suisse's first investment into a fintech company in Asia Pacific.

[Julius Baer Migrates Hong Kong, Singapore Ops to Temenos WealthSuite](#)

Published by ibsintelligence.com, 29th May 2018

Swiss multinational private bank Julius Baer has migrated its Hong Kong and Singapore divisions onto Temenos WealthSuite. The WealthSuite platform is a Temenos package including its flagship core banking system, T24, as well as modules for portfolio management, channels, and analytics. Prior to WealthSuite, the Asian divisions utilised ERI's Olympic system. “We are pleased with the go-live in Asia, which is our second home market. Temenos' WealthSuite is laying the operational and technical foundation for our growth in the region,” said Nic Dreckmann, COO at Julius Baer. “After last year's integration of the T24 platform in Luxembourg, this is the second major step in our effort to harmonise our IT landscape around the world.” Julius Baer finalised a lengthy core banking selection process in early 2015, opting for Temenos and its T24 offering. Temenos beat off competition from rival Avaloq in the final round of the process, and came at a time when the vendor's shares were taking a dip. Steen Jensen, Temenos regional director for Europe, added: “Key to Temenos being selected as Julius Baer's partner for IT modernization was our ability to deliver a progressive renovation project.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Swiss-Belhotel Unveils Ambitious Expansion Plan](#)

Published by tradearabia.com, 1st June 2018

Swiss-Belhotel International, the global hospitality management chain, has revealed details of its global expansion strategy, which includes the launch of at least 60 new hotels and resorts worldwide over the next few years. Addressing delegates at the company's annual General Managers' Conference, which was held at the Hotel Ciputra Jakarta from 2- 5 May, Gavin M. Faull, chairman and president of Swiss-Belhotel International said that 2018 would mark the start of a period of accelerated growth for the company, following the celebration of its 30th anniversary last year. “The next five years will see a rapid expansion of our hotel portfolio in several key markets, including Indonesia, Australasia, the Middle East,

China, Vietnam and Europe. This strategic vision will play to our company's core strengths, whilst also capitalising on global economic and social trends to create a successful and sustainable future," he added. China was the location of Swiss-Belhotel International's first ever signed property in 1987, and the world's most populous country remains a priority market today. Four new Swiss-Belhotel International properties are scheduled to open in China in the coming years, located in the emerging cities of Taiyuan, Haikou, Dongguan and Quanzhou.

Nestlé Sells Majority Stake in China Plant

Published by plasticsinpackaging.com, 29th May 2018

Nestlé is offloading a 95% stake in a factory in northern China that manufactures raw milk powder. Longhua Zhongchen Enterprise Management Consulting Centre, a shareholder of Chinese dairy processor Ningxia Saishang Dairy, is to buy a majority stake in the facility, which is one of four dairy sites Nestlé has in China that manufactures the product. A spokesperson, who confirmed that the Hulunbuir site will remain open, said: "Dairy is an important component of Nestlé's portfolio and business operations in China. Over the years we have built a healthy dairy business with significant investments, and we are committed to further develop it, ensuring it is sustainable. In line with this strategy we are shifting to a new business model for our Hulunbuir dairy factory. "Ningxia Saishang Dairy is a processor based in Ningxia in central China. This move will bring benefits to all stakeholders including the community, government and other concerned parties. It will further revitalise the Hulunbuir dairy industry."

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

China 2018 Economic Report

Published by eda.admin.ch, 1st June 2018

The Embassy of Switzerland in China released the China 2018 Economic Report. In this report, you can learn China's economic overview, including macroeconomic situation, The 2018 National People's Congress, structural economic reforms, implications of recent changes in fiscal policy; In addition, the report also covers international and regional economic agreements, China's policy and priorities for the agreements and outlook for Switzerland, as well as the development and general outlook of foreign trade and bilateral trade, Chinese outward direct investment and inward foreign direct investment and trade, economic, investment and tourism promotion.

Berner Fachhochschule Delegation Visited Swiss Center Shanghai

Published by swisscenters.org, 1st June 2018

On 1 June, the Berner Fachhochschule Delegation visited Swiss Center Shanghai on a program to discover business development and intercultural challenges in China. The delegation was briefed with presentations on business opportunities and challenges in China market by Sélim Gawad, Product Manager of Laser & Additive Manufacturing Asia at GF Machine Solution, and Lucien Zhao, Regional Manager China at Alpvision, a leading digital invisible technologies supplier.

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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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