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Reader's Digest, 10 - 23 June 2017

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[Chinese Director General of Department of Treaty and Law Led a Delegation to Switzerland](#)

Published by fmprc.gov.cn, 16th June 2017

Director-General of Department of Treaty and Law of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Xu Hong led a delegation to Bern. A discussion was held with Director of Department of International Law of the Swiss Ministry Foreign Affairs. The two sides have conducted in-depth exchanges on international humanitarian law, international human rights law, asset return and anti-corruption and cyberspace international law. During Mr. Xu's stay in Bern, he also met the Deputy Director of the General Administration of Justice and Director of the Judicial Assistance Department to exchange views on Sino-Swiss law enforcement cooperation.

[Chinese Ambassador Paid an Official Visit to Canton Uri](#)

Published by fmprc.gov.cn, 15th June 2017

The Chinese Ambassador to Switzerland Mr. Geng Wenbing, paid an official visit to the Canton Uri of Switzerland. The State Councilor and Minister of National Economy, as well as the State Councilor and Minister of Finance warmly welcomed the Ambassador and introduced the cooperation with China in economy, trade and tourism. They expressed the willingness in enhancing the cooperation. The Ambassador introduced the current development of Sino-Swiss bilateral relation and said both sides should seize the opportunity to develop the third-party cooperation under the construction of "One Belt One Road" Initiative. The Canton Uri showed the full potential of its location and advantages of the landscape to develop the tourism and the Chinese Embassy will continue to support the local cooperation between Chinese provinces and Uri. The Ambassador also visited the representative local company, Datwyler Cabling Solutions AG, and heard the person in charge introduce its business in China.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Baoshida Swissmetal accumulates 4.8 million francs of debt](#)

Published by rts.ch, 17th June 2017

The company Baoshida Swissmetal in Reconvilier accumulates debts amounting to CHF 4.8 million, according to the RTS. The claims for unpaid social security contributions are over CHF 2 million. The situation of the industrial flagship group, purchased by the Chinese Baoshida in January 2013, has deteriorated. An earlier extract dated from February stated CHF 4.5 million of debt, from which CHF 1.3 million are claims for unpaid social security contributions. When asked in March in the program 'Temps Présent', the director of Baoshida Swissmetal, Claudio Penna, confirmed the delay in the contributions and said that a negotiation plan was negotiated. But for now, if we are to believe the document dated June 2017, the company has not fulfilled the plan and is even further in the red towards the compensation fund of Swissmem, the umbrella association of the machinery industry.

[Concardis Brings Alipay to Switzerland](#)

Published by finextra.com, 8th June 2017

Concardis is expanding its international portfolio: the payment service provider is bringing Chinese mobile payment solution Alipay to Austria and Switzerland. CGössl is the first merchant in Austria to enable Chinese guests to pay via smartphone and the Alipay app. The roll-out in the Swiss market is planned for October of this year. This in turn increases the demands on payment systems - not only in e-commerce, but also at the point of sale on site. Tourists from around the world come to Europe and, when shopping, expect the standard options they are used to from their home countries. But East Asia is leading the way in terms of mobile payment. This is the reason for our partnership with Alipay - which helps us enable merchants in all of German-speaking Europe to allow their customers who are travelling from Asia to pay using the preferred payment method in China,' says Marcus W. Mosen, CEO of Concardis. And it has certainly paid off: Alipay currently has more than 450 million active users and holds more than 50% of the Chinese online payment market - even reaching a total of 80% with regard to mobile payment. "Entry into the Austrian and Swiss markets is important for us to help us gain stable footing in Europe as a whole. With their strong position in German-speaking Europe and their international experience, Concardis is the ideal partner to help us achieve this goal." The partnership between the Chinese company and the Eschborn-based payment service provider has existed since June of last year, explained by the head of EMEA at Alipay.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[In the Footsteps of Ella Maillart](#)

Published by rts.ch, 14th June 2017

First a traveler then a writer, Ella Maillart remains, twenty years after her death, a model of openness to the world. Return on the journey of a Swiss woman in search of meaning and freedom, with the release of the documentary "Les voyages extraordinaires d'Ella Maillart". Known for her three great trips to Kyrgyzstan, China and Afghanistan at a time when crossing borders was an achievement, Ella Maillart is one of the greatest adventurers of the twentieth century. 'She was avant-garde in every way, and her journey and reflection can help younger generations make sense of today's world and of their own lives', says Raphaël Blanc, whose new documentary 'Les voyages extraordinaires d'Ella Maillart', co-produced by the RTS (Radio Télévision Suisse, Swiss public broadcasting), is released on 14 June in Swiss francophone cinemas.

[China Beat Switzerland 3-0 at Montreux Volleyball Masters](#)

Published by news.xinhuanet.com, 7th June 2017

(PICTURE) Players performed their best during the Pool A match between China and Switzerland in 2017 Montreux

Volleyball Masters in Montreux, Switzerland, on 6 June 2017. China won 3-0.

GENERAL INTEREST

[Switzerland Tops WIPO Innovation Index](#)

Published by [trade Arabia.com](#), 15th June 2017

Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands are the world's top three most-innovative countries, according to the Global Innovation Index 2017 co-authored by Cornell University, Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Each year, the GII surveys some 130 economies using dozens of metrics, from patent filings to education spending providing decision makers a high-level look at the innovative activity that increasingly drives economic and social growth. In a new feature for the GII, a special section looks at "invention hotspots" around the globe that show the highest density of inventors listed in international patent applications. In 2017, Switzerland leads the rankings for the seventh consecutive year, with high-income economies taking 24 of the top 25 spots - China is the exception at 22. In 2016, China became the first-ever middle income economy in the top 25. "Innovation is the engine of economic growth in an increasingly knowledge-based global economy, but more investment is needed to help boost human creativity and economic output," said WIPO director general Francis Gurry. "Innovation can help transform the current economic upswing into longer-term growth."

[ETH Zurich has 'best reputation' in continental Europe](#)

Published by [thelocal.ch](#), 15th June 2017

Switzerland's federal technology institute ETH Zurich has the best reputation in continental Europe, according to the World Reputation Rankings 2017 carried out by the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE). Based on an opinion survey of leading academics, the ranking asked scholars to name 15 universities that they believe are the best for research and teaching, based on their own experience. The results were collated in a reputational ranking of the world's top 100 most powerful global university brands as judged by those best-placed to know, according to THE. ETH Zurich placed 22nd, behind mostly US and UK universities but ahead of any other institution in continental Europe. In its analysis THE said some Asian universities were now considered more prestigious among top academics than many distinguished Western institutions. Tsinghua University in China jumped into the top 15 for the first time and Peking University made its top 20 debut, both overtaking Cornell University in the US and the UK's Imperial College London.

[Live from Shanghai: 'China is going to take on a new role in the world'](#)

Published by [rts.ch](#), 14th June 2017

(VIDEO) Globalization, global warming, innovation... China is first in line on international level. Our correspondents Raphaël Grand (RTS) and Pascal Nufer (SRF) go for a stroll in Shanghai streets answering internauts' questions. China leader on international level, China innovative, China taking part in the global warming issue, China facing internal challenges... In this video, correspondent from the RTS Raphaël Grand and his colleague from the SRF Pascal Nufer mention the big challenges that China is facing today and they answer questions asked by the internauts in Shanghai. They also talk about their experience and daily life in the Middle Kingdom.

[Swiss Designers Eye Chinese Market With Their Unique Style](#)

Published by [usa.chinadaily.com.cn](#), 9th June 2017

While Switzerland is mostly known in China for its luxury watches, young Swiss designers are also looking to build their names here. So, InnoFashion 2017, an event that celebrates fashion, design and textile innovation in China and

Switzerland, was recently held at the Swiss embassy in Beijing. As for the growing links between the two countries, Switzerland and China established an Innovative Strategic Partnership in 2016 and launched the Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism covering 2016 and 2017. Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Swiss ambassador to China, says: "We know that you cannot order innovation, or inventions. Instead, you need to rely on the private sector and individual minds for breakthroughs. That is why we have InnoFashion. "We'd like to use this platform to exemplify such collaboration involving the government, private sector and individuals by bringing young creative minds together," he says.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[New Bystronic Business Location in Shanghai - Bystronic is Growing in China](#)

Published by bystronic.com.cn, 29th May 2017

During a festive ceremony on 18 May 2017, Bystronic inaugurated its new sales and service center in Shanghai. The new premises offer Bystronic an enhanced infrastructure with modern offices and a demo center. During his opening address at the inauguration of the new business location, Dr. Song You, President of Bystronic China, emphasized that the new center will allow Bystronic to offer even more comprehensive support to its Chinese customers with sales advice and services relating to all the steps of sheet metal processing. In addition to Shanghai, Bystronic has two other Chinese business locations in Shenzhen and Tianjin that act as centralized points of contact for the sales and service of its sheet metal processing systems. The goal of this infrastructure is to be a competent and reliable local partner for all the customers' concerns. For Bystronic, China is one of the most important individual markets worldwide. As Dr. Song You explained, ever since Bystronic took up its sales activities, it has been able to continuously expand its range of solutions in China. Today in China, Bystronic is one of the top 3 international manufacturers of machines for the cutting and bending of sheet metal.

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[Move Over, Switzerland: Singapore and Hong Kong Set to Attract More Wealth](#)

Published by bloomberg.com, 14th June 2017

Singapore and Hong Kong will attract wealth from abroad at more than twice the pace of Switzerland over the next four years as Asia's economic expansion draws cash from millionaires, Boston Consulting Group predicts. For decades, wealth hubs including Switzerland and Singapore have benefited from political and economic instability elsewhere that prompted rich people to move money abroad in search of investment returns. Asia's biggest wealth centers are attracting clients from within the region who are becoming richer in tandem with its rising economic output. "Relative to Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore are growing faster because of the economic growth from China to India," said Mariam Jaafar, a Singapore-based BCG partner and one of the authors of the report. Still, China's restrictions on investment outflows may slow some of the movement of assets from the nation, Jaafar said. China ranks above Taiwan, Hong Kong and Indonesia as the largest source of offshore wealth in the Asia-Pacific region, according to BCG. It contributed almost USD 12 billion in revenue pools for private banks last year, the most in the region, the report showed. Banks from UBS Group AG to Credit Suisse Group AG and DBS Group Holdings Ltd. have been adding wealth management staff to service global clients as assets grow.

[UBS Sees Gradual China Slowdown](#)

Published by Bloomberg.com, 13th June 2017

(VIDEO) UBS Wealth Management APAC Regional Head, Chief Investment Officer Min Lan Tan discusses her

outlook for China's markets and economy, and talks about her investment strategies.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Pauline Houli: Education is the Foundation to Promote Hotel Service Industry](#)

Published by news.ifeng.com, 19th June 2017

Hotels and tourism are one of the most widely covered and fastest growing industries in the world today. Switzerland is a service oriented country, which is a good example to learn and study for China. Ms. Pauline Houli, Secretary General of SwissCham Beijing and Chairman of Eurohold China pointed out that education is the foundation to promote hotel service industry. More than 60% of people are employed in the service industry in Switzerland and now China is in the transition period from manufacturing to service, which can be accelerated by service industry developing. The value of the hotels in Switzerland is the hotel management which is more of an art and needs creativity and inspiration. Pauline Houli believes that Switzerland is a good model for China in hotel industry, and this industry also provides good employment for young people, this is why the Sino-Swiss cooperation and dialogue happened. The future of China depends on whether or not to provide employment opportunities for highly educated and skilled people, and China should study Switzerland's very good experiences in this respect.

[Sino-Swiss Dialogue 2017 "Mountain Tourism, Green Development" was held in Guiyang](#)

Published by news.xinhuanet.com, 18th June 2017

This is the 5th edition of Sino Swiss Dialogue since 2013 with the purpose of enhancement of cooperation and communication in ecology and economy development. This time the Sino-Swiss Dialogue 2017 with the topic "Mountain Tourism, Green Development" was held in Guiyang and the specialists, the government officers and company leaders from both China and Switzerland attended this Dialogue. They exchanged their points of view and gave their advice about "the management art of hospitality" and "the sustainable development of mountain tourism and reduction of poverty".

["Keep It Alive and Find a Way": The Creative Entrepreneurs Defying Street Business Crackdown](#)

Published by thebeijinger.com, 16th June 2017

Even though their doors have been blocked by bricks, and bars have been fixed to their windows, many street-side Beijing businesses have remained steadfast and found creative ways to keep selling their wares. The crackdown on such street-level outlets that began in earnest earlier this spring, in an effort to sanitize (i.e. sterilize) Beijing's dynamic street culture, has of course resulted in many vendors and operators abandoning their spaces – be it popular bars like Más or your small family-run neighborhood convenience store. There's CHEERS Wines founder and CEO Claudia Masüger, whose Sanlitun north street branch was among the first businesses to be hit by the crackdown back in March. Rather than forfeit the space, like her neighbors at Turkish Doner (who said they had little faith that customers would continue to come), Masüger told her staff to just hand the bottles of booze out the window or allow patrons in the back. "We are lucky as the bottles fit perfectly through the bars in front of the window," she says, before explaining how customers climb up on the air conditioner in front of the window to get up high enough to knock and then make their order. Better yet, she isn't even annoyed by it all. "It's amusing and our regulars easily find the way through the back door, having parties in the secret hidden store. So I think it's a perfect condition for a retail store."

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

[Trade Investment and M&A in Switzerland – Key Factors for Chinese Enterprises](#)

Published by vischer.com, June 2017

Switzerland has become a major jurisdiction for Chinese enterprises that are looking for Direct Investments in

Europe, establishing European Headquarters and R&D-Centers, and acquiring European high-class know-how. We have identified eight key factors which we believe make Switzerland a prime choice for Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Europe that we are going to introduce to you in this brochure. In addition, we introduce to you the Swiss M&A options for Chinese investors and company law in a nutshell.

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

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