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Reader's Digest, 21 October - 3 November 2017

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[China's Top Legislator meets Swiss Council of States President](#)

Published by english.sina.com, 1st November 2017

Chinese top legislator Zhang Dejiang met with Ivo Bischofberger, President of the Council of States (upper house) of the Swiss Federal Assembly on Tuesday. China and Switzerland should push forward their innovative strategic partnership, said Zhang, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. China's NPC stands ready to work with the Swiss Federal Assembly to strengthen exchanges and cooperation, increase political mutual trust, and share experiences in legislation and state governance to boost economic and trade, as well as cultural cooperation, Zhang said. Zhang briefed the Swiss delegation on the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, saying China is working hard to realize the goals set at the congress. Bischofberger said he appreciated the sound Switzerland-China relations and the visit enabled him to learn about the goals set at the congress. The Swiss Federal Assembly will continue to play an active role in deepening friendship with China, Bischofberger said.

[Swiss Ambassador to China led a delegation to Wuhan for Business Matchmaking](#)

Published by Business Wuhan, 31st October 2017

On 31 October, the Wuhan – Switzerland business matchmaking conference was held successfully in Wuhan. Swiss Ambassador to China, Dr. de Dardel led a delegation of 18 Swiss company executives, including the Vice President of Nestlé Mr. Dong Yuguo, CEO of Swiss Centre Xiao Zhen etc. for business matchmaking with 25 local companies. In his speech, the Ambassador addressed that China and Switzerland have maintained close and profound bilateral relations for a long time. Despite the small land area, Switzerland enjoys an important international status in political, economic and cultural fields and good reputation in pharmaceutical, chemical and watch industries. Mr. Xie Zhongqing, Deputy Director of Merchants Bureau of Wuhan, introduced in his speech that Wuhan has unique advantages in terms of national strategy, industrial development, science and education, location, living cost and

water resources, etc. In recent years, the economic and trade cooperation between Wuhan and Switzerland has also been very close. They are looking forward to reaching more extensive cooperation with Swiss enterprises in areas such as smart manufacturing, information technology and so on.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Pharma's Betting Big On China, But R&D Boom Still To Come](#)

Published by biopharmadive.com, 30th October 2017

In the booming Chinese metropolis of Shanghai, about six hundred scientists employed by the Swiss pharma Novartis AG are working to develop a new pipeline of medicines with the world's largest population specifically in mind. Novartis' research center in Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, one of three main global R&D hubs for the company, is just one of the many big pharma outposts located in China — a collective bet by the industry that "Made in China" will give way to "Discovered in China." Despite years of investment, however, multinational drug firms have yet to deliver a wave of innovative, China-specific therapeutics. Recent reforms by the government should help lower some of the hurdles that have historically stood in the way of developing new drugs in China. And a new crop of local biotechs speaks to an appetite from China Inc. for a larger role in the global pharmaceutical supply chain. Still, it will be some time yet before cities like Shanghai and Suzhou stand alongside global R&D hubs like San Francisco, Cambridge, Massachusetts and Basel, Switzerland. Changes in the regulatory environment will hasten progress toward that goal, but won't make up for years of low investment into innovative R&D overnight.

[WIOTC China Summit Successfully Held In Beijing](#)

Published by prnewswire.com, 25th October 2017

At the time when the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was successfully holding, WIOTC China Summit was grandly held in China National Convention Center on 19, October. Guan Jinghui, former Secretary General of Publicity Department of the CPC gave an opening speech. He Xuming, Executive Chairman of WIOTC delivered a theme report about "Innovate China IOT new economy and promote the huge development of IOT world". Nearly 500 honored guests including enterprises, scholars and experts, some ambassadors and diplomats from more than 30 countries such as China, America, Germany, New Zealand, Austria, Japan, Malaysia, Switzerland and Slovakia attended the summit. He Xuming, executive chairman of WIOTC, summarized the advantages and problems lying in the global IOT development, brought up the direction for IOT sustainable development, explained in layman's terms that the current fiber-optic network and microwave based station transmission should transfer to interstellar, astral and quantum transmissions. He listed the water meter, electric meter, and gas meter with a built-in sensor to form a complete set of energy saving system. The IOT products and network like this will have sustainable development.

[Swiss Fintech Company Avaloq Eyes Asia, Global Expansion](#)

Published by scmp.com, 22nd October 2017

Zurich-based technology company Avaloq, which provides cloud-based solutions for more than 150 international banks worldwide, plans to expand further in Hong Kong, mainland China and the US in coming years before seeking a stock market listing, according to its founder and group chief executive Francisco Fernandez. The company's clients include HSBC, Barclays, Deutsche Bank, DBS and financial institutions including Citic Bank and Agricultural Bank of China. "We plan to have an initial public offering in three to five years. Before that, we would like to expand our footprint to mainland China and the US, which are two very important markets," Fernandez told the South China Morning Post in an interview at his company's headquarter in Zurich. He did not confirm if Hong Kong would be its listing destination but said the city is an important market in Asia. In Asia, Avaloq has 30 banking clients, including 14 in Hong Kong, and two in Australia.

[Switzerland's Givaudan Smells Success in China](#)

Published by thelocal.ch, 21st October 2017

Swiss fragrance producer Givaudan said Friday it has begun work on a new production site in China, where the firm sees strong growth potential. The Geneva-based group said it was investing 100 million Swiss francs (EUR 86 million) in the production facility at Changzhou, northwest of Shanghai, in what would be its largest investment in China to date. The new site, joining others notably a manufacturing facility in Nantong, across the Yangtze River from Shanghai and set to open by 2020, will produce perfume fragrances as well as aromas used in oral hygiene products. "With this investment in a market undergoing strong growth we are taking another step towards achieving our strategic ambitions through to 2020," said chief executive Gilles Andrier. Givaudan, which supplies prestige names in perfumes including Christian Dior and Prada, sees Asia as pivotal to its growth strategy.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

[China's First Swiss School Opens At WAB](#)

Published by wab.edu, 31st October 2017

China's first Swiss School officially opened as a section of Western Academy of Beijing, a world-leading international school. Swiss School Beijing is China's first, and the world's 18th, school to be supported by the Swiss government. Several distinguished guests attended the grand opening ceremony on October 30, including the Swiss Ambassador to China H.E. Dr. Jean Jacques de Dardel and Swiss Council of States President H.E. Dr. Ivo Bischofberger. Guests enjoyed a ribbon-cutting ceremony, traditional Chinese lion dance, and tours of the campus. "The Swiss education is a holistic one which tries to go beyond a simple academic education and focuses on developing knowledge and creativity," Ambassador Jacques de Dardel said. The Swiss School Beijing offers a German-language education, based on the Swiss curriculum, within an international environment. In its inaugural year, the school is offering Kindergarten, Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes, with one additional class rolled out every subsequent year. In addition to learning German, students of the Swiss School Beijing are taught Chinese, English (from Primary 3 onward) and French (from Primary 5 onward).

[Switzerland Introduces Its Architecture To Chinese Tourists Through Online App](#)

Published by news.xinhuanet.com, 26th October 2017

The Switzerland launched on Thursday the Chinese version of an online application to introduce the history and architecture of 600 buildings in the country to Chinese smartphone users. The society for the history of Swiss art, developer of the online application, said in a press release that the free application called "Swiss Art To Go light", presents both Swiss historical highlights and contemporary buildings in words and pictures in Chinese. The application facilitates not only the discovery and exploration of the Swiss buildings, but also the preparation of an

architectural trip, for the Chinese tourists, added the non-profit organization, working on the long-term preservation of Swiss architectural heritage. Launched in Switzerland in 2013, the premium app contains information on thousands of buildings in Switzerland in German, French, Italian and English. The additional Chinese version of the application responds to the great interest in Switzerland shown by Chinese tourists by providing an easy way to discover the country, explained the organization.

GENERAL INTEREST

[Swiss Chocolate Fails To Impress In China](#)

published by swissinfo.ch, 31st October 2017

(VIDEO) It turns Swiss chocolate isn't to everybody's liking. Especially in China.

[Swiss Great Hingis Announces Retirement](#)

Published by reuters.com, 26th October 2017

Swiss great Martina Hingis has announced she will retire from tennis at the end of this week's WTA Finals, where the 37-year-old multiple grand slam champion is playing in the doubles tournament alongside Taiwan's Chan Yung-jan. The retirement will be Hingis's third in a long and illustrious career during which she claimed 25 grand slam titles since her WTA Tour debut in 1994, five in singles, seven in mixed doubles and 13 in women's doubles. Hingis and Chan opened their WTA Finals campaign with a 6-3 6-2 quarter-final victory over German-Czech duo Anna-Lena Gronefeld and Kveta Peschke, following which the Swiss elaborated on the decision to end her playing career. The Swiss also spent 209 weeks as world number one and has won the season-ending WTA Finals twice in singles, three times in doubles and claimed a 2016 Olympic silver medal in women's doubles with compatriot Timea Bacsinszky.

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[ABB Celebrates 25th Anniversary Of Its First Joint Venture In China](#)

Published by abb.com.cn, 27th October 2017

ABB celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first joint venture company in China – ABB Xiamen Switchgear Company. At the ceremony celebrating the anniversary, ABB also launched the innovative ZX2 AirPlus – the company's latest eco-efficient medium-voltage GIS, which helps satisfy the growing need for green technologies and supports sustainable development. Li Huiyue, vice mayor of the city, and government officials from Xiamen Torch High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and Xiang'an district, attended the ceremony with around 200 ABB customers and partners from across China. Dr. Chunyuan Gu, president of ABB's Asia, Middle East and Africa (AMEA) region and chairman and president of ABB (China) Ltd. said: "The establishment of ABB Xiamen Switchgear Company unveiled ABB's made-in-China journey. Its 25 years of development epitomizes ABB's development and localization in China. Now we have a whole value chain in Xiamen, ranging from R&D, to production, to sales and engineering service. Look forward, innovative and digital technologies will fuel China's economic growth with new momentum. We will grasp this opportunity with continuous focus on local innovation, service and talent cultivation, and write the future together with our partners."

[Swiss Elevator Maker Schindler's Third-Quarter Up On China Orders](#)

Published by uk.reuters.com, 24th October 2017

Elevator and escalator maker Schindler on 24 October posted a 7 % rise in third-quarter net profit, helped by strong

performance in all regions, with Chinese orders contributing the most. While the Chinese market for new installations remained challenging, order flow was boosted by several infrastructure projects, the company said. Second-quarter net profit of CHF 229 million beat the average forecast of CHF 221 million in an analyst poll. Orders for July-September climbed 5.6 % to CHF 2.74 billion, over double the poll average of CHF 2.68 billion. For the third quarter, sales rose 7.5 % to CHF 2.59 billion, compared to the poll average of 2.52 billion. The company reaffirmed its full-year outlook of revenue growth of 3 % to 5 % and net profit in the CHF 840 million to CHF 880 million range.

[Mercuria Eyes China Electricity, 'Big Data' For New Opportunities](#)

Published by reuters.com, 15th October 2017

Swiss energy trader Mercuria is looking to move into China's newly opened power market, do more structured financing deals and invest in assets to make up for the cyclical ups and downs in traditional oil trading, chief executive Marco Dunand said. Speaking during the Reuters Global Commodities Summit, Dunand said the firm has been diversifying so as not to be at the mercy of price volatility to have a good year. Mercuria Group's rivals have long lamented the historically narrow oil price range and only occasional price spikes that defined 2017 for further eroding already tight margins. "We started to diversify two to three years ago. We're more involved in assets and structuring in general," Dunand said. In terms of its non-trading ventures, Mercuria recently consolidated its investments in upstream assets in Argentina and with a syndicate of banks, it signed a deal to provide USD 400 million in financing for struggling Noble Group to cover its hard commodity trades in Asia. In a new foray, Dunand said it was keen to participate in China's giant power market that is in the process of opening up. Mercuria is already a relatively big electricity trader in Europe and the United States and has ties to China via crude deliveries and Chemchina which holds a 12% stake in the firm. "China has decided to open power trading in certain regions ... we are participating in some of those local markets to better understand the supply and demand. We have put teams together that have started looking at it."

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[Asia Is Now Home To The Most Billionaires, With China Leading The Pack, Report Says](#)

Published by Forbes.com, 30th October 2017

For the first time in history, Asia became home to the highest number of billionaires in the world. China is leading the pack, outnumbering the United States, UBS wealth management and PwC private banking reported. Two billionaires are born in China every week, with virtually all new entrants being self-made instead of from multi-generational family inheritance. But what makes Chinese billionaires stand out the most, is the startling trajectory the newly affluent have followed. While billionaires worldwide are aging, China's incoming class of freshers are breaking into the bracket at an average age of 55-years young, six years earlier than their U.S. peers, and seven years earlier than the Europeans.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[Marketing Luxury Goods towards Chinese Consumers](#)

Published by 5starplusdesign.com, 30th October 2017

When it comes to purchasing luxury goods in China, consumers have varying attitudes and expectations of branded products. With wide variation, it can be difficult for brands to appeal to a broad range of people. So, how can luxury retailers attract consumers into buying their products? "Luxury China: Market Opportunities and Potential" by Michel Chevalier and Pierre Lu has identified 4 types of Chinese consumer attitudes toward luxury: luxury lovers, followers, intellectuals and laggards. These consumers are male and female between the age of 35 and 50 years old, living in Tier 1 mainland economic cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou or Shenzhen) with successful professional careers.

Based on this classification, 5 Star Plus Retail Design has identified current ways to attract each group of consumers in China. Although the goal is to increase sales, whether online or offline, correct branding can lead to increased brand reputation and desirability.

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

[China's New Leadership Rolls Out New Blueprint For Future Development](#)

Published by pwccn.com, 1st November 2017

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which just concluded in Beijing is a landmark event. It represents that the Party has fortified itself with a new theory - the "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" and will embark on a journey towards building China into a "great modern socialist country" by 2049. It also marks that the world's second largest economy stands ready to play a bigger role in shaping the world's future agenda and to share the "China Solution" with other countries. These developments will not only bring profound impacts on China's economic and social development in the next 30 years, but also generate significant repercussions at a global scale, given the size of the Chinese economy and its rising influence in the world. PwC has developed an in-depth review of the Party's policy roadmap and its impact on potential investors and corporations operating in China. It provides details on the following topics: the economy, financial risk and bad debt, RMB and monetary policy, SOE reform, private entrepreneurship, foreign investment in China and China's outbound investment.

[EY and the 3 largest Procurement Professional Bodies in Hong Kong successfully co-organized the first-ever "EY CIPS IPSHK ISM-HK Procurement Innovation Forum"](#)

Published by ey.com, 20th October 2017

On 20 October 2017, over 100 industry professionals participated in the EY CIPS IPSHK ISM-HK Procurement Innovation Forum held in EY CITIC Tower. This is the very first time EY collaborating with the 3 largest procurement professional bodies, namely The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) – Hong Kong Branch, The Institute of Purchasing & Supply of Hong Kong (IPSHK) and Institute for Supply Management – Hong Kong (ISM-HK) to organize a procurement event. The topic is on "How the novel procurement method would transform the hospitality industry?" Hospitality industry includes food and beverages, tourism, hotel, casino and theme parks, etc. We were delighted to have speakers from Café de Coral, Great Eagle Group (a sister Group company of Langham Hospitality Group) and The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotel, Ltd to showcase their experiences in adopting technology and innovation in procurement practices and share their thoughts on future procurement trend.

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