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BILATERAL RELATIONS

[China Reveals Top-Level Planning of Economic Policy at Davos Forum](#)

Published by ecns.cn, 25th January 2018

Liu He, a senior Chinese official, Wednesday elaborated on the top-level planning of China's economic policy for the next few years at the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in this Swiss resort. "In a nutshell, this policy centers around a key necessity, a main task and three critical battles," said Liu, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the General Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs. Liu also pledged that China will open wider to the world across the board.

[China's Hong Kong Strengthens Financial Cooperation with Switzerland](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 23rd January 2018

The authorities and private sector representatives from China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 23 January signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Switzerland to strengthen financial cooperation, said the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). One of the three documents, signed by the HKMA Chief Executive Norman Chan and Head of the Swiss State Secretariat for International Financial Matters Jorg Gasser "serves as the basis for regular financial dialogue and sets out the parties' willingness to strengthen financial markets cooperation, including in the area of RMB internationalization, wealth management, infrastructure financing and international financial matters," the HKMA said. A second MoU signed by the HKMA and the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority was meant to "enhance fintech collaboration with a view to facilitating financial innovation in the two places." The third MoU was signed by the Hong Kong Private Wealth Management Association and the Swiss Bankers Association to "further collaborate to promote the development of private wealth management in Switzerland and Hong Kong," according to the HKMA. The three documents were signed during a meeting in Bern, Switzerland, between HKSAR Chief Executive Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor and Swiss Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer. The meeting, with a focus on strengthening cooperation in the area of financial markets, discussed topics including further

development of the two financial centers, opportunities arising from the opening-up of the financial markets in the Chinese mainland, developments in fintech sector and international tax issues. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further enhancing collaboration to promote the healthy development of the financial services industry in and between Switzerland and Hong Kong.

[China, Switzerland Pledge to Further Boost Bilateral Relations](#)

Published by xinhuanet.com, 24th January 2018

China and Switzerland Tuesday pledged to further promote bilateral relations, at a meeting here between senior officials of the two countries. Liu He, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the General Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs, met with Ueli Maurer, vice president of the Swiss Confederation and head of the Finance Department. Thanks to the joint efforts of the presidents of both countries, China and Switzerland have further strengthened mutual trust and deepened economic and trade cooperation and the two sides should implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas, and advance the innovative Sino-Swiss strategic partnership, Liu said. Maurer admired the progress made by China, saying that Switzerland is very interested in China's opening up and is ready to further strengthen cooperation with China in various fields. Switzerland is ready to encourage more Swiss companies to invest in China and also supports Chinese investment in Switzerland, and Switzerland plans to coordinate cooperation with China within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, and to promote the continuous development of bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields, Maurer said.

[Chinese Intellectual Property Leader Sets up in Geneva](#)

Published by bilan.ch, 18th January 2018

With more than 600 employees, China Patent Agent is one of the leading legal advisers specializing in patents and intellectual property. Based in Hong Kong, the company advises clients on all continents. This new Geneva branch reflects the dynamism of Switzerland-China relations. One of the pioneers of intellectual property in China takes up residence in Geneva. China Patent Agent has no less than 600 employees, including more than 220 patent lawyers. According to the company's website, their areas of expertise range from the machine industry to electricity, chemistry and pharmaceuticals. It also ranks among the top 3 Chinese companies in the sector.

BUSINESS NEWS

[Swiss Davos to Launch Alipay for Chinese Visitors](#)

Published by technode.com, 29th January 2018

Ant Financial Services Group today announced that Alipay is soon to be made available to most local businesses in the Swiss town of Davos, thanks to a partnership with SIX Payment Services, a pan-Europe payment service provider based in Switzerland. Restaurants, bars, supermarkets and hotels in Davos will be offering Alipay, all with merchant information available in Alipay's in-app overseas traveller service platform. Alipay, along with its arch-rival WeChat Pay, has aggressively expanded globally in recent years. Data from research institution iResearch shows that the value of China's mobile payments market tripled to more than RMB 38.5 trillion (USD 5.6 trillion) in 2016 and is projected to reach RMB 55 trillion in 2017. Comparing the marketshare, Alipay accounted for over 80% of transaction value just three years ago, however, it held a 54% share of mobile transactions by value, while WeChat Pay claimed 40%, in the first quarter of 2017. With around 40 flights between the two countries every week, China has become the fourth largest source of tourists to Switzerland and the two nations experienced over 1.2 million two-way visits

between China and Switzerland in 2017, up 12% year-on-year. Holiday is the peak season, as Alipay overseas transaction grew by eight times over National Holiday Golden Week in 2017.

[China's Economic Mastermind Pledges More Reform at Davos](#)

Published by expatica.com, 24th January 2018

The man behind China's economic policy took the stage at Davos on Wednesday, pledging to push forward the country's four-decade reform and further open the country to the world. Liu He, President Xi Jinping's main economic advisor, echoed his boss's lofty pro-globalisation words from last year's Davos summit, promising foreign companies greater access to China's financial services market, manufacturing and some service industries. He promised to carry out China's financial services liberalisation, which was unveiled late last year. Banking, securities and insurance industries will allow more foreign access, he said, adding that these measures would be implemented one at a time. China will work to increase imports, do better at protecting intellectual property and "gradually lower the imported automobile tariff rate", he said. Noting this year was the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening policy that brought about the country's economic miracle, he said "we will continue to press our reform and opening policy in China". Those market reforms were "behind China's growth", he said.

[Switzerland, UK Top Recipients of Chinese Investment in Europe in 2017](#)

Published by gbtimes.com, 19th January 2018

Switzerland, United Kingdom and Netherlands emerged as top European recipients for Chinese investment last year while Germany, Spain and France saw the incoming flow of Chinese investment money fall sharply. Chinese investment in Europe surged 76% year-on-year to USD 81bn in 2017, according to data by law firm Baker McKenzie and research consultancy Rhodium Group. The figure includes new greenfield projects and completed acquisitions that resulted in an ownership stake of 10% or more. However, the sharp increase was due to the delayed completion of ChemChina's record USD 43 billion takeover of Swiss agribusiness company Syngenta – without it Chinese investment into the region would have fallen by 22% to USD 38bn. The findings are consistent with Chinese Commerce Ministry data which shows overall Chinese outbound investment fall by almost a third last year amid tightened capital outflow controls and increased scrutiny of overseas deals. The Syngenta megadeal made Switzerland the top recipient of Chinese investment – with a combined value of USD 44.6bn – not only in Europe but globally, ahead of the United States, where investment from China fell by more than a third to USD 29bn.

[Swiss Master Mario Botta to Be Leading Speaker and Guest of Honour in First Sino-Swiss Architecture Dialogue](#)

Published by sinoptic.ch, 22nd January 2018

Today, the inaugural Sino-Swiss Architecture Dialogue, with sustainable architecture as the main topic, took place in Beijing. Organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in China, in collaboration with Tsinghua University Art Museum (TAM), the dialogue aimed to offer a first-class platform for young Swiss and Chinese talents and accomplished masters to meet and exchange around a topic that combines science, economy and art. The dialogue was held on the sideline of the exhibition "The Realm of Idealism: Mario Botta Architecture and Design 1960-2017" at the TAM. Mario Botta, a world-renowned Swiss architect, who also designed the significant TAM, was attending the dialogue as a leading speaker and guest of honor, and gave keynote speeches along with well-known professionals from China including Professor Li Xiaodong from Tsinghua University.

GENERAL INTEREST

[Bastian Baker: Voice of Friendship Between China and Switzerland](#)

Published by chinadaily.com.cn, 22nd January 2018

Armed with a guitar and pop-folk tracks, Swiss pop singer and songwriter Bastian Baker has wrapped up his latest China tour in four cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, running between Jan 9 and 12. Bastian Baker has been a household name in Switzerland since the release of his first album Tomorrow May Not Be Better in late 2011. However, the singer did not realize he also captured the hearts of so many Chinese fans. "Be it in Beijing or Shanghai, quite a few Chinese music lovers called out my name when I sang my hit tracks, and I feel privileged," Baker said, "They sing with me, chat with me and take photos with me. It is just amazing!" Discussing his China tour in the wake of the new year, Bastian Baker told China Daily that, "China has a special place in my heart, as I really appreciate all of the enthusiasm of Chinese music fans I received wherever I was in China. Therefore, China is the first destination of my 2018 music tour." "I also hope that my music and songs may play a humble role in the promotion of cultural and artistic exchanges between the Swiss and Chinese people."

INDUSTRIES

Engineering / Manufacturing

[ABB "Green Factory" to Write the Future of New Energy](#)

Published by abb.com.cn, 22nd January 2018

ABB recently celebrated its new green factory at Shanghai Minhang as the installed 3.1-MW solar power facilities began official operation. The project marks the company's latest move to achieve low-carbon and sustainable development. Guests from Shanghai Electric Power Co, Shanghai Land Minhong (Group) Co and Shanghai Minhang Park PV Project Co as well as the management representatives of ABB in China attended the launching ceremony. The installment is capable of generating 3 million kWh/a, meeting half demand of ABB and delivering extra 300,000 kWh/a to the local grid. The project is expected to bring considerable social and environmental benefits, saving 1,050 tce/a (equivalent to the plantation of 300,000 trees), reducing carbon emissions by 2,616 t, sulfur emissions by 78 t and nitride emissions by 39 t.

[Oerlikon Secures Two Major Contracts Worth a Total of over Half a Billion Swiss Francs Form Manmade Fibers Solutions](#)

Published by sinoptic.ch, 19th January 2018

Oerlikon has been awarded two large orders from two of the top 10 global manmade fibers manufacturers. Both

companies are located in China. The orders include Oerlikon Barmag's leading yarn spinning technology for efficient and sustainable polyester production. The two contracts have a total value of approximately CHF 540 million (EUR 460 million), and the solutions will be delivered in 2019 and 2020. Innovative technologies from the Oerlikon competence brand, Oerlikon Barmag, will enable both companies in China to upgrade their existing yarn manufacturing capacities for the production of polyester. Oerlikon's comprehensive manmade fibers technologies, including the latest spinning and winding technologies introduced over the past two years, will be used along the polyester production value chain. The WINGS POY and WINGS FDY equipment will be delivered in phases over a two-year period, with the initial delivery scheduled in 2019. Order intake for both contracts will be recognized in 2018 and 2019. Both projects will be installed at the customers' sites in the Zhejiang province in China.

Bank / Finance / Insurance

[Things Are Looking up for China's Financial Firms, UBS Says](#)

Published by cnbc.com, 9th January 2018

Despite fears about China's financial stability, UBS is positive on Chinese financials this year, its head of China strategy explained. "There's less worry about financial stability in China because a lot of other sectors are doing well," Gao Ting told CNBC on the sidelines of the UBS Greater China Conference. Sectors dealing with over-capacity issues like steel and coal are doing "quite well" in China, Gao added, meaning there are fewer concerns about non-performing loans and the resulting shocks to financial stability. "So financials will do well," he said. Steel prices have rallied in recent months due to tighter supply as Beijing restricts production in a bid to curb air pollution. On Monday, China issued stricter rules on building new steel production capacity to replace obsolete facilities, which may cut supply even further. Coal prices have also been supported by gas shortages in China this winter. The market is also pricing in supply shortages for the future due to the government's pollution clean-up, Gao added.

Hospitality / Tourism / Retails

[ISPO Beijing 2018 – What's Hot in Winter Sports Industry Retail Design](#)

Published by 5starplusdesign.com, 29th January 2018

ISPO is the leading multi-segment sports exhibition in Asia, taking place in both Munich and Beijing at the beginning of each year. Having secured the Olympic Winter Games for 2022, Beijing is a hotspot for the entire winter sports industry. Therefore, it was no surprise to see international brands showcasing alongside local Chinese brands at ISPO Beijing. This year, over 500 exhibitors represented more than 700 brands at the China National Convention Center in Beijing from 24-27th January 2018. Every year the winter sports exhibition showcases major innovations in the outdoor, action sports and skiing segments. In addition, the latest trends in fashion, fabrics and fibers are presented across 40,000 square meters. Such a wide and varied showcase means that temporary exhibition designs require that little-bit-extra to stand out from the crowd, and this year there is one trend in particular that started making waves. This year will see an increased use of dazzling lighting throughout winter sports retail, mainly in white and blue. The stark colors will be used to emphasize the cold, imitating clear blue skies and white snow to create a wintery feeling. Although brands typically shy away from cold designs, opting for mood lighting and soft furnishings, winter sports are well-positioned to go against the grain and be a bit more daring. The conditions which winter athletes are exposed can be unforgiving, so it stands to reason that the consumers themselves can be too.

Legal / Trade / Consulting / Services

[Deal Activity down from a Record Year, but Overall Trend Positive - PwC's M&A 2017 Review and 2018 Outlook](#)

Published by pwccn.com, 23rd January 2018

China's M&A activity in 2017 was down 11% in value terms compared to the record highs of 2016. At USD 671bn, the

total value of deals was roughly equal to the previous record set in 2015. This was largely attributable to a reduction in Mainland China outbound deals, according to PwC's M&A 2017 Review and 2018 Outlook. "While deals are down by both value and volume compared to a bumper 2016, the trend is still strongly upward on a five-year view," said Weekley Li, PwC China Transaction Services Partner. "The number of deals was the second highest ever, as all of the main drivers of M&A activity are still in place." The value of deals declined for the China outbound, foreign inbound and financial buyer segments. But the overall total was supported to some extent by a 14% increase in the value of domestic strategic deals (where a company is bought in order to integrate it into an existing business). The number of mega-deals (those with a value in excess of USD 1bn) declined from 103 in 2016 to 89 last year. This fall was accounted for entirely by China outbound deals.

[EY to Share Insights on Market Readiness for Augmented Intelligence \(AI\) in Greater China](#)

Published by ey.com, 22nd January 2018

On 18 January 2018, joining hands with the Centre for Innovation and Technology, Faculty of Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), representatives of the EY Advisory Services Hong Kong spoke alongside CUHK AI experts at the Technology Forum titled "Artificial Intelligence over Humans?" shared their thoughts on the impact of AI on customer and business experiences, and explore the future possibilities and development trends of AI. Key aspects included: Has AI lived up to its billing so far? How do businesses design AI for augmenting humans, and not replacing humans? What risks should businesses consider when looking to implement AI? Should business takes a top-down or bottom-up approach to AI implementation? Further to the forum, a white paper will be released by the team to explore in depth the readiness of the market in embracing the opportunities and challenges posed by the AI trend.

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