

## Milestones in Sino-Swiss bilateral relations

Since 2010, China has been Switzerland's most important trading partner in Asia. The two countries also maintain dialogue in many more than 30 areas, including the environment and sustainable development, development cooperation, human rights and migration, education and science, and finance. Switzerland and the People's Republic of China have maintained bilateral relations since 1950. Below are the milestones in the development of Sino-Swiss bilateral relations. For more information, please refer [here](#).

<b>1950</b> Switzerland recognizes the People's Republic of China, as one of the first Western countries  Establishment of bilateral relations	<b>1954</b> Official visit of Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai to Switzerland	<b>1957</b> Exchange of letters on the protection of brands	<b>1963</b> First group of Swiss students in China on Chinese scholarship
<b>1974</b> Bilateral trade agreement and establishment of Mixed Economic Commission	<b>1975</b> China is Country of Honour at the Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne	<b>1978</b> First group of Chinese government funded students in Switzerland	<b>1980</b> First Sino-foreign joint venture with Swiss company Schindler
<b>1982</b> Establishment of city sistership between Kunming and Zurich, the first of many to follow	<b>1987</b> Bilateral Agreement on Investment Protection	<b>1988</b> Opening of the Chinese General Consulate in Zurich Opening of Swiss Study Center at Beijing Foreign Studies University	<b>1989</b> Agreement on cooperation in the field of scientific research
<b>1990</b> Signature of the Agreement on the Prevention of Double Taxation	<b>1991</b> Establishment of the Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue	<b>1992</b> MoU on the protection of Intellectual Property Rights	<b>1995</b> Opening of the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai
<b>1998</b> Opening of Switzerland Tourism Beijing Office, the first of a European country	<b>1999</b> State visit of President Jiang Zemin to Switzerland	<b>2000</b> Official visit of Swiss President Adolf Ogi to China, celebrating 50 years of Sino-Swiss relations	<b>2002</b> Opening of Swiss Business Hub in China
<b>2005</b> MoU on Health Cooperation	<b>2006</b> Opening of the Swiss Consulate General in Guangzhou	<b>2007</b> Establishment of Bilateral Political Dialogue  Switzerland recognizes China's market economy status as one of the first Western countries	<b>2008</b> Swiss President Pascal Couchepin attends the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games  Opening of swissnex office in Shanghai
<b>2009</b> Agreement on Environmental	<b>2010</b> Official visit of President Doris	<b>2011</b> Joint statement on Sino-Swiss Science	<b>2012</b> Joint document on Space Cooperation

Cooperation	Leuthard to China, meeting with President Hu Jintao  The Swiss Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo receives 2.8 million visitors  Opening of the Office of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia in Shanghai	and Technology Cooperation  Launch of the negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement	for Peaceful Purposes
<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Official visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to Switzerland  Official visit of President Ueli Maurer to China, meeting with President Xi Jinping, attending the first Sino-Swiss Dialogue at the Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference in Guiyang  Launch of bilateral Financial Dialogue  MoU on Climate Change cooperation  Signing of Bilateral Free Trade Agreement, the first one China concludes with a continental European nation	Entry into force of Bilateral Free Trade Agreement  Agreement on Illicit Import and Export and Repatriation of Cultural Property  For the first time, the number of nights spend by Chinese visitors in Switzerland exceeds 1 million  Signature of Swap Agreement  Opening of the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industry Park	Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets with Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga in Davos  MoU on setting up a RMB hub in Switzerland  Official visit of Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf to China  Switzerland becomes founding member of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)  Swiss-made solar plane Solar Impulse 2 stops in China  Working visit of Swiss Vice President Johann N. Schneider-Ammann on the occasion of the signing of AIIB's founding document	State visit of Swiss President Johann N. Schneider-Ammann to China  Establishment of Innovative Strategic Partnership  Switzerland opens 12 new visa centers across China to meet the increasing number of Chinese tourists and business men to Switzerland  Opening of the Swiss Consulate General in Chengdu, Switzerland's fifth representation in China
<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		
Chinese President Xi Jinping pays state visit to Switzerland, attends the World Economic Forum in Davos  2017 Sino-Swiss Year of Tourism, a large number of events held in both countries  Swiss Federal Councillor Guy	Canton of Schaffhausen, Hunan Province establish friendly province-canton ties  Work visit of Swiss Federal Councillor, Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis to China  First strategic dialogue between		

<p>Parmelin, head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, pays official visit to China</p> <p>Swiss Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, head of the Federal Department of Finance, on work visit to China</p> <p>Swiss President Doris Leuthard on work visit to China, attends the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation</p> <p>Swiss School Beijing opens, the first official Swiss school in China</p> <p>Establishment of city sistership between Bagnes/Verbier and Chongli in Shijiazhuang</p> <p>MoU on friendship exchange between St. Moritz and Yanqing</p>	<p>Switzerland and China</p>		
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