



Science, Technology and Education News from China

Number 60 – June 2009

Please note that the previous newsletters can be downloaded from the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in China: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing¹. To subscribe/unsubscribe or send us your comments, please send an email with the corresponding subject to shu.zhou@eda.admin.ch.

Introduction

The President of ETH Zurich, Prof. Eichler, and his team visited China in May, basking fruitful agreements with their Chinese partners in science and education. China's science and technology budget sees a 25% rise in 2009, more so than the 20% increase on average in the past ten years. China's bio energy development will eventually replace 30% of oil imports. The largest solar power plant in the world is being built near Beijing. The Swiss Embassy team building day landed in Airbus Tianjin A320 assembly line.

Contents

Policies	2
News.....	4
1. China's Science and Technology Budget Sees a 25.6% Rise in 2009	4
2. China's First Bio-Energy Research Centre Inaugurated in Nanning	4
3. China to build world's largest solar power base	4
4. Swiss Embassy Visited the Airbus A320 Assembly Line in Tianjin	4
Events (July – December 2009).....	5

Contact

Markus Reubi
Science & Technology Counsellor
Embassy of Switzerland in the People's Republic of China
 Tel: +86 10 8532 8849
 Email: Markus.Reubi@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/beijing

¹ Please click on the blue texts to activate the hyperlinks to either email addresses or related websites.



Policies

ETH Zurich Takes Further Steps in Cooperation with China

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), the number one university in continental Europe, is the Swiss Leading House of the Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (SSSTC), a program devoted for developing the S&T cooperation between the two countries. On May 12, 2009, ETHZ president, Prof. Ralph Eichler, arrived in Beijing with a delegation for a 3 day visit. The purpose of their trip is to call on SSSTC's most important political and academic partners in both Beijing and Shanghai. This is an important gesture from ETHZ of its intention to strengthen the links in China.

Strengthening ties with the Chinese S&T Authorities

The ETHZ delegation paid visits to the Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), as well as the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). At MoE, the possibility of intensifying the effort in scholar exchange between the two countries was discussed. After the official meeting, the Chinese Scholarship Council initiated an informal discussion with the delegation to indicate its intention of sending top Chinese Ph.D. students to ETH Zurich, the leading technological university in mainland Europe. At MOST, views were exchanged on the issue of S&T priority areas. Encouraged by the smooth start of the SSSTC, the two parties also discussed potential further steps and additional areas of collaboration.



Prof. Eichler, President of ETH Zurich together with Prof. Zhou Ji, Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China.

The signing of a renewal agreement between CAS and ETH Zurich was the highlight of the meeting at CAS. The agreement was made based on the principle of financial reciprocity and faculty exchanges will be an important component of the agreement. Both ETH Zurich and CAS celebrated their excellent cooperation under the framework of SSSTC and identified new areas of interests, e.g. Nano-Technology and Particle Physics.



The Science & Education Section of the Swiss Embassy in Beijing hosted a networking party in honor of the presidential delegation. Aside from Prof. Li Jinghai, Vice President of CAS, and Prof. Wu Qidi, former Vice Minister of Education, both alumni of ETH Zurich, other prominent members of Chinese S&T authorities, Swiss R&D facilities in Beijing, as well as Chinese SSSTC program participants were among the guests.

Hand in hand with top Chinese Universities

Besides meeting with the Chinese S&T authorities and the CAS Shanghai branch (headed by Mr. Jiang Mianheng), President Eichler also visited his counterparts at Tsinghua university in Beijing, Jiao Tong University, and Shanghai Tongji University.

To mark the beginning of an intensified academic collaboration between ETH Zurich and Tsinghua, Professor Eichler signed a student's exchange agreement and delivered a speech, "Modern Einstein for Global Challenges", at the well-known Tsinghua Global Challenges Lecture Hall.





Enthusiastic Tsinghua students asked many questions about the secrets of training new generations of global engineers at ETH Zurich, the cradle of Nobel Prize winners.

Jiao Tong University, a member university of the newly formed 'Global Tech Alliance', was proud to impress the delegation with its impressive new campus. The ETHZ professors were also delighted to talk to the enthusiastic students and faculties at the Schools of Mechanical Engineering and Electric Information & Electric Engineering. The Presidents of the same Alliance shared their view of further collaboration at the dinner hosted in Jiao Tong's old campus.

At Tong Ji University, meetings with President Fei Gang and with Prof. Wu Zhiqiang - the Dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning and the chief Planner of World Expo 2010 - opened the door for future collaborations.

Ambassador of Swiss science and innovation

ETH Zurich, the SSSTC Leading House and the alma mater of Einstein, also showed a strong presence at the Shanghai Science and Art Festival. President Eichler gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the Festival, following the representatives of Shanghai Municipality government and famous Chinese academicians. Accompanying the live cello music, ETH Zurich's 'Baby Nova' instantly caught the eyes of the audience at the Shanghai festival with its 3 dimensional light displays. 'Baby Nova' is the world's first full-color real 3D LED (light emitting diodes) screen, developed to allow dynamic, 3D visualization of scientific data. Together with the robots from the University of Zurich and the Swiss Expo Pavilion 2010, 'Baby Nova' won the Award of Innovation in Science and Art. The price was handed to swissnex Shanghai, the coordinator of the Swiss participation to the Science festival



Networking with leaders of Swiss and Chinese R&D organizations

Beyond academic and political visits, a business luncheon was organized for the presidential delegation in order to explore the potential of S&T Cooperation with Swiss and Chinese companies. Opportunities and challenges of R&D in China were the main themes of discussion among the attendees (heads of R&D of Swiss and Chinese companies and managers of major Shanghai universities and research institutes). Valuable lessons learned while organizing R&D activities in China by foreign and local companies were also shared among the participants.



Celebrating the fast growing ETH alumni network

Through out the years, many of the ETHZ alumni have risen to prominent positions. Mr. Jiang Shangzhou, an ETHZ Ph.D. from the late 1980's and the first chairmen of the Chinese Student Association in Switzerland, is another good example. He is now a member of the Shanghai Policy Making and Consulting Committee and the Director of the Shanghai Committee for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The visit of the presidential delegation of ETH Zurich in China provided an opportunity to assemble the ETH Zurich alumni in China: ETHZ alumni meetings were organized both in Beijing at the Embassy and in Shanghai at swissnex during the presidential visit. A Q&A session on the further development of ETH





Zurich presence in China allows the alumni to have a dialogue with professor Eichler during the Shanghai alumni meeting. Mr. Jiang Shangzhou attended the meeting and is proud of being an ETHZ alumnus.

(Swissnex Shanghai, 1 July 2009)

News

1. China's Science and Technology Budget Sees a 25.6% Rise in 2009

(CAS, 29-06-2009)

China's science and technology budget in 2009 will reach 176.1 billion RMB (about 25.7 billion USD), stated Du Zhanyuan, Vice Minister of Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. The budget is 25.6% higher than 2008 and is a strong indication of China's determination to invest in science and technology in the context of global economic depression. Du made the statement at the China International Software and Information Services Forum 2009 which was held in Dalian, Liaoning Province on June 18, 2009.

2. China's First Bio-Energy Research Centre Inaugurated in Nanning

(Xinhua, 14-06-2009)

China's first bio-energy research centre was inaugurated Sunday in Nanning, the capital city of southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, amid government's plans of new energy development to combat global energy crisis. The research centre is set up based on the national guidance on energy and grain security, and will look to cassava, sugar cane, sweet sorghum as the main sources for new energy development. [...] According to a report released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on June 10, bio-energy is expected to realize commercial production on a massive scale in China and replace 30 percent of the oil imports by 2050.

3. China to build world's largest solar power base

(People's Daily, 30-06-2009)

China's first demonstration project integrating wind power, photovoltaic power and power storage was recently established in Zhangbei, northern China's Hebei province with a planned total investment of over 8 billion yuan. Upon completion, it will become the world's largest solar power base and experimental center for the complementary generation of wind and photovoltaic power. It will also be China's first test base for the centralized output of wind power over 1 gigawatt. The project will have an installed capacity to generate 300 megawatts of wind power, 100 megawatts of solar power and 75 megawatts of chemical energy storage.

4. Swiss Embassy Visited the Airbus A320 Assembly Line in Tianjin

(Embassy, 29-06-2009)



The Embassy of Switzerland in China organised a staff tour to the Airbus A320 Assembly Line in Tianjin on Friday 26 June 2009 for team building. Airbus Tianjin delivered its first A320 airplane on Tuesday 23 June 2009. The Tianjin factory is one of the two A320 assembly lines for Airbus in the world. Its customers are Chinese airlines. Currently, eleven A320 planes are being assembled here.

(Embassy staff members and their spouses/partners in front of a new A320.)



Events (July – December 2009)

July 2009

1st Dalian International Education and Cultural Innovation Industry Fair

Date: 17- 20 July 2009

Place: Dalian World Expo Centre

- Contact: Ms. Zhang Qi, zhangqi@citff.com.cn

Int'l Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Date: 20 July 2009

Place: Shanghai

- Academic Exchange

23th Int'l Congress on Conservation Biology

Date: July 2009

Place: Beijing

- Academic Exchange

Young Scientists Program 2009

Date: July 2009

Place: Shanghai

- Academic Exchange

Int'l Symposium on the Family Zingiberaceae

Date: July 2009

Place: Yunnan

- Academic Exchange

2009 Symposium on Computational Chemistry and HPC Applications

Date: July 2009

Place: Haerbin

- Academic Exchange

August 2009

The 5th China Reproductive Health New Technologies & Products Expo

Date: 5 August 2009

Place: Beijing

- Reproductive Health

World Soybean Research Conference VIII

Date: 10 – 15 August 2009

Place: Beijing

- "Developing a Global Soy Blueprint for a Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Supply"

The 17th Int'l Congress of the IFAA

Date: August 2009

Place: Beijing

- Academic Exchange



September 2009

Int'l Conference on Nanoscience and Technology, China 2009

Date: September 2009

Place: Beijing

- Academic Exchange

Architecture Exhibition “ArchScapes”

Date: 26 September – 20 October 2009

Place: Today Art Museum, Beijing

- Academic Exchange

October 2009

13th Int'l Fire Protection Equipment, Technology Conference & Exhibition China

Date: 13 October 2009

Place: Beijing

- Fire equipment, Rescue Equi., Fire Pumps, Fire Resistant Building Materials, Design for Five Protection Engineering

The 7th China Int'l Exhibition for Roofing & Waterproofing Tech.

Date: 14 October 2009

Place: Beijing

- Roofing & Waterproofing Tech

The First Int'l Conference & Exhibition on Reagents and Their Application

Date: 14 October 2009

Place: Beijing

- Reagents and Their Application

China Education Expo 2009

Date: 15-18 October 2009 Place: Beijing	Date: 28 October 2009 Place: Chengdu
Date: 21 October 2009 Place: Wuhan	Date: 31 October – 1 November 2009 Place: Guangzhou
Date: 22-25 October 2009 Place: Shanghai	

- One of the largest international education expo in China

The 11th Multinational Urban Traffic Conference and Exhibition

Date: 18 October 2009

Place: Beijing

- Traffic planning and urban development, ITS

The 1st China (Beijing) Int'l Cleaning Energy Technology & Equipment Exhibition and Summit of Conserving Energy & Reducing Emissions

Date: October 2009

Place: Beijing

- Solar power technology



November 2009

China Fashion Week 2009

Date: November 2009

Place: Beijing

- Fashion Design

Int'l Symposium on Carbon Cycling in Tropical Ecosystems

Date: November 2009

Place: Guangzhou

- Academic Exchange

December 2009

PHD Workshop

Date: 11 – 13 December 2009

Place: Swissôtel, Beijing

- Contact: Christine.Kyburz@eda.admin.ch

Marintec China 2009

Date: December 2009

Place: Shanghai

- Contact Mr. Liang at +86 (010) 8858 1528

Source: www.most.gov.cn