

## **Swiss exports to China grow ten times faster than overall exports - Swiss Center Shanghai builds new Bridges in innovation cooperation**

*Swiss September exports to China and Hong Kong exploded by 38% compared to the year before, while overall Swiss September exports gained only 3.8%. An official delegation of the Canton of Vaud including Mr Jean-Claude Mermoud, Vice-Governor and Minister of Economy, and Daniel Brélaz, Mayor of Lausanne, visited the Swiss Center Shanghai and took part in the Innovation Cooperation Day in Shanghai to develop high-tech and science cooperation opportunities.*

Shanghai (9 November 2010) – Swiss exports to China and Hong Kong exploded by 38% in September compared to the year before. The Swiss trade balance with China and Hong Kong in the first three quarters 2010 shows a surplus of 3.2 billion Swiss francs – goods in the value of 8.5 billion Swiss francs have been exported in this period of time. “The trade balance with China and Hong Kong is the second best world wide – Switzerland only has a bigger surplus with the United States (7.8 billion Swiss francs). That shows how important China has become. And it will be even more important in the near future, as China’s economy fast catches up in size with the US”, reports Nicolas Musy, Swiss Center Shanghai (SCS) Managing Director. SCS, a non-profit organization assisting Swiss companies to enter the Chinese market, co-organized the Lake Geneva Region Innovation Cooperation Day in Shanghai to facilitate the development of Swiss technologies in the rise of China’s economy.

Mr. Jean-Claude Mermoud, Vice-Governor and Minister of Economy of the Canton of Vaud, opened up the event in the centre of Shanghai. “China’s role for Switzerland’s and Vaud’s export development is crucial. We want to make sure that Vaud companies have a good access to the Chinese market as well as offer the opportunities for Chinese high-tech companies to invest in our region”, states Mr. Mermoud.

### **Science and technology cooperation**

A high-ranking Vaud delegation presented Switzerland’s innovative strength and outlined cooperation opportunities between Swiss/Vaud and Chinese universities, science and technology parks and businesses. The delegation included Daniel Brélaz (Mayor of Lausanne), Heinrich Schellenberg (Swiss Consul General in Shanghai), Adrienne Corboud-Fumagalli (EPFL, Vice President for Innovation), Willy Zwaenepoel (EPFL, Dean of Computer Sciences), André Borschberg (CEO and co-founder of Solar Impulse) and many others who made a very strong impression on Chinese decision makers. Among the Chinese participants were heads of science parks and universities, leaders of industry associations and government, as well as owners and directors of Chinese high-tech companies. “With more than 100 participants, the Innovation Day was a big success for the Vaud delegation. We had the opportunity to create strong links between Chinese and Vaud partners involved in high technology. By presenting the Solar Impulse challenge the Canton of Vaud positioned itself in front of Chinese economic leaders as a pole of competences focused on innovation”, states Mr. Mermoud.

*Legend: “The Swiss trade balance with China and Hong Kong in the first three quarters 2010 shows a surplus of 3.2 billion Swiss francs. China is a key market for Swiss exporters growing 10 times faster than the other export markets.” Nicolas Musy, Managing Director Swiss Center Shanghai*

*Legend: "With their technology strength and innovative power, Swiss companies must take part in the rise of China's economy." Mr. Jean-Claude Mermoud, Vice-Governor and Minister of the Economy of the canton of Vaud*

**About Lake Geneva Region Innovation Cooperation Day:** The Lake Geneva Region Innovation Cooperation Day took place on 12 October 2010 in Swissotel Grand Shanghai. The event was organized and sponsored by the Canton of Vaud, the City of Lausanne, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Credit Suisse, Fert, Clinique Lemanic, Biopôle, Swissnex China, and Swiss Center Shanghai. Among the Chinese participants were heads of Shanghai greater area science parks and universities, leaders of Chinese Chambers of Commerce and industry associations, local officials in charge of innovation and science & technology development, owners and directors of Chinese high-tech companies as well as prominent Chinese lawyers.

**About Swiss Center Shanghai (SCS):** Founded in 2000, SCS is by far the largest cluster of Swiss enterprises in China with a rich experience in business set-up and China operations management. SCS not only offers instant workshop, office and desk space, but also supports the companies with government relations and a broad network of experts. SCS served more than 100 companies in China – both SMEs and large enterprises. Among other, the SCS experts performed set-ups of 20 production companies and more than 30 offices and trading companies. For more information, please visit: [www.swisscenters.org](http://www.swisscenters.org).

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