

PRESS RELEASE

Swiss foreign trade figures indicate China boom

Swiss January exports to China went up by 19.2% year on year – Exports are expected to grow throughout the Chinese year of the tiger – While worldwide Swiss exports declined sharply in the crisis year 2009, trade with China was stable

Shanghai (Press Release, 22 February 2010) – Swiss January exports to China went up by 19.2% year on year, according to recent figures by the Swiss Federal Customs Administration. “Including Hong Kong, Swiss companies exported goods in the value of 761 million Swiss francs in this period of time, resulting in a trade surplus of 228 million Swiss francs”, explains Nicolas Musy, Managing Director of Swiss Center Shanghai (SCS). SCS is by far the largest cluster of Swiss enterprises in China, facilitating the market entry of Swiss companies in the Far East. Mr. Musy expects exports to grow in the just started Chinese year of the tiger. “China will continue to develop as it does now. And traditional Swiss exports, such as watches and machinery, will remain strong”, says Musy.

Stable China exports in 2009

The year of 2009 was an “annus horribilis” for worldwide Swiss exports, suffering the sharpest decline in decades. For example, exports to Germany went down by 16% and exports to the EU declined by 14.7%. In the same period of time, the trade with China was relatively stable. “The 2009 exports to China declined by mere 2.2%, still securing a positive trade balance. In December 2009, exports to China grew by 18.9% - and the January figures prolong this very positive trend”, analyzes Musy.

SCS hosting service as first step to China

More and more Swiss companies seek their chances in China. Swiss Center Shanghai supports them with its network of experts and facilitates their market entry. SCS not only offers instant workshop and office space, but also government relations. With the recently started hosting service, SCS reacted on new regulations concerning the establishment of Representative Offices in China. The Beijing government increased control over Representative Offices and made the setting up more difficult. “That is why SCS offers an alternative: With our hosting services, Swiss enterprises can make their first step within our network – and without legally setting up a company in China”, states Musy. The SCS services include the providing of office space, hiring of employees for the companies, supporting to apply for visa and residential permit, payment of the employee’s salary and social welfare payment etc.

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.

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