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Sino-Swiss strategic pact aimed at deepening ties



Alexander Hoffet, consul general of Switzerland in Shanghai
— Wang Rongjiang

Liu Xiaolin

It has been two years since Alexander Hoffet was appointed consul general of Switzerland in Shanghai, but he still feels amazed at the city's speed of construction and social development.

He cited one recent experience to illustrate the rapid changes in this mega city in an interview with Shanghai Daily.

A quiet side street near his residence was lined with residential townhouses and commercial properties. Recently, it had one side demolished within a few days and a wall was erected for a possible redevelopment project. "In my country, it would take years, perhaps never be possible, to rehouse so many landlords at once," Hoffet said, citing it as an example of the "China speed."

"This hands-on, can-do attitude helps to explain the spectacular progress of the Chinese economy in the past 35 years," he said. Earlier this month, Swiss State Secretary

for Education, Research and Innovation Mauro Dell'Ambrogio visited Beijing and sat down with Huai Jinpeng, Chinese vice minister of industry and information technology. They agreed to explore collaboration based on the Sino-Swiss Innovative Strategic Partnership established in April.

The partnership provides a framework for further deepening and energizing the existing cooperation between the two countries in various fields of innovation.

"It aims to combine China's innovation-driven development strategy with Switzerland's innovation advantage to expand and consolidate our free trade and financial cooperation, to support the establishment of innovation cooperation platforms, and to encourage innovative cooperation between enterprises, universities and research institutes in both countries," Hoffet added.

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