

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**the Federal Department of Economic
Affairs, Education and Research of the
Swiss Confederation**

and

**the State Administration of Work Safety of
the People's Republic of China**

**Regarding Cooperation on Occupational
Safety and Health Issues**

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation and the State Administration of Work Safety of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

Desiring to deepen the longstanding friendly relationship and institutional dialogues between Switzerland and China in particular after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Promoting Dialogue and Cooperation in 2007,

Acknowledging the positive experiences of fruitful cooperation between the Parties and the strengthening of the social, political and economic ties between Switzerland and China after the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China in 2013,

Committed to the pursuit of the objective of sustainable development, taking into account the social, cultural and economic circumstances of Switzerland and China, and noting that the promotion of the social dimension of sustainable development is essential for long term economic prosperity,

Mindful of the objectives and principles of the International Labour Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the "ILO") including the commitments of Switzerland and China under the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, as well as the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Determined to improve working conditions and living standards in Switzerland and in China,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Purpose

The Parties agree to undertake cooperation activities on occupational safety and health issues of mutual interest at the local, national and international level in order to deepen the understanding of each other's systems, promote decent work and contribute to long term economic prosperity.

Article 2

Areas of Cooperation

1. The Parties will jointly identify and decide on possible areas of cooperation.
2. Cooperation activities may, inter alia, be conducted in the following fields:
 - (a) Laws, policies and practices related to working conditions, including occupational safety and health,
 - (b) Social dialogue related to occupational safety and health, according to the national system of each Party,

- (c) International occupational safety and health issues of mutual interest.

Article 3

Instruments of Cooperation

1. Cooperation activities may, inter alia, be implemented through:
 - (a) Dialogue, exchange of information and best practices,
 - (b) Meetings, visits and expert workshops,
 - (c) Cooperation projects and capacity building,
 - (d) Exchange of expertise, for example in the context of cooperation projects,
 - (e) Exchange of electronic tools on occupational safety and health,
 - (f) Joint studies.
2. Cooperation activities are subject to national priorities and available resources.
3. Where appropriate, each side may seek advice of relevant stakeholders to help identify potential areas for cooperation, consult on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and, upon mutual agreement, undertake cooperative activities.

Article 4

Institutional Settings

1. Each Party shall designate a contact point for the purpose of implementing this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The Parties agree to meet each year or at the request of a Party to discuss the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and jointly decide on possible further cooperation activities.

Article 5

Final Provisions

1. This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force on its signature.
2. Any difference between the Parties concerning the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled through consultations between the Parties.

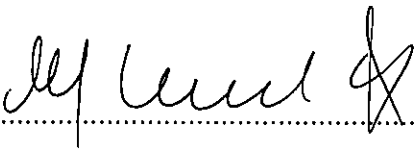
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by agreement between the Parties.

4. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at any time upon six months' written notice to the other Party. A termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity of any arrangements already made under it.

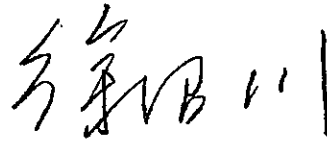
Done in duplicate in Beijing, on 8 April 2016, in English and Chinese, each version being equally authentic.

For the Federal Department of Economic
Affairs, Education and Research of the
Swiss Confederation

For the State Administration of Work Safety
of the People's Republic of China



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