

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**the Federal Department of Economic
Affairs of the Swiss Confederation**

and

**the Ministry of Human Resources and
Social Security of the People's Republic of
China**

**Regarding Cooperation on Labour and
Employment Issues**

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security 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 the People's Republic of China, on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 25 August 2007 between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the People's Republic of China on promoting Dialogue and Cooperation,

Desiring especially to strengthen the social and political ties between Switzerland and the People's Republic of China and convinced that bilateral cooperation on labour and employment issues between the Parties will contribute to this goal,

Convinced that sound labour policies and practices are a crucial element of sustainable development and essential for economic prosperity,

Considering the objectives and principles of the International Labour Organisation [hereinafter ILO] of which Switzerland and the People's Republic of China are members including their commitment 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 their respective countries and protect, enhance and enforce basic workers' rights as embodied in the core labour standards,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1: Purpose

The Parties agree to initiate and develop cooperative activities on labour and employment issues of mutual interest at the national and international level in order to deepen the understanding of each other's systems, promote decent work and contribute to the advancement of their economies.

Article 2: Areas of Cooperation

1. The Parties will jointly decide on the subject of cooperative activities. Such activities shall be in the mutual interest and to the mutual benefit of the Parties.
2. Cooperative activities may, inter alia, take place in the following fields:
 - (a) International labour and employment issues of mutual interest
 - (b) Labour laws, policies and practices
 - (c) Labour relations, including social dialogue

- (d) Working conditions, including labour inspection
- (e) Labour market policies, including measures to promote employability and the unemployment insurance system.

Article 3: Instruments of Cooperation

1. Cooperative activities may, inter alia, be implemented through:
 - (a) Dialogue, exchange of information and best practices
 - (b) Meetings, visits and workshops of experts
 - (c) Joint studies
 - (d) Joint initiatives in multilateral organizations
 - (e) Cooperation projects and capacity building
2. Cooperative activities are subject to national priorities and available resources. Existing fora, such as the International Labour Conference, can provide a useful setting for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Where considered appropriate and necessary, each party may invite the participation of relevant actors 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 respectively appoint a coordinator who shall serve as contact point for all issues related to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and ensure the communication between the Parties.
2. The Parties agree to meet each year during the International Labour Conference to discuss the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and jointly decide on future cooperative activities. They jointly decide on the holding of any other meeting deemed necessary for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 5: Final Provisions

1. This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force upon signature by both Parties.
2. Any difference between the Parties concerning the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled through consultations between the Parties.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding can be amended by mutual consent of the Parties.

4. Either Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding by giving written notice in advance to this effect. The Memorandum of Understanding terminates six months after the issuance of the written notice. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity of any arrangements already made under it.

Done in duplicate in Bern, on 15 June 2011, in English and Chinese, each version being equally authentic.

Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann
Head of the Federal Department of Economic
Affairs

Mr. YIN Weimin
Minister of Human Resources and Social
Security



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