

## **Minutes of the Founding and Regional Annual General Assembly (RAGA) 2023 of SwissCham Southwest China**

Date: 10.03.2023

Time: 18:30

Venue: SinoSwiss Technopark (SSTP), Chongqing

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# 1 Introduction and welcome

## 1.1 Opening by the SwissCham Southwest China Representative

Raphael Zumsteg-Yuan (“**Southwest China Representative**”) opens the RAGA. He welcomes the Acting Consul General of Switzerland in Chengdu, Suzanne Streit (“**Acting Consul General**”), the National Chairman of SwissCham, Martin Mueller (“**Chairman**”), the regional board member candidates, and all the members and friends of SwissCham.

## 1.2 Speech by the Acting Consul General

The Acting Consul General welcomes all the participants and delivers a congratulatory speech. The Acting Consul General emphasizes the good relationship and collaboration between the Swiss authorities and SwissCham. The Acting Consul General expresses her surprise that SwissCham Southwest China is only being founded now - in several stakeholders’ perception the organization existed already before. The Acting Consul General thanks the organizers and wishes all the participants a fruitful RAGA and a pleasant networking event.

## 1.3 Introduction and background by the SwissCham Southwest China Representative

The Southwest China Representative explains that SwissCham Southwest China informally existed before the present Founding. In the past few years, in coordination and with the support of SwissCham Beijing, Shanghai, and South China, SwissCham Southwest organized activities, represented SwissCham at official occasions, and had a few members. However, it never held a RAGA, it never adopted regional bylaws, it never had a regional board of directors (“**BoD**”) and it never held elections. With the establishment during the present RAGA, SwissCham Southwest China will start to formally exist.

The Southwest China Representative highlights that the advantages of formalizing SwissCham Southwest China are that the organization will become more democratic (accountability to members; regular elections), more professional (division of labor; clear mandates), more transparent (clear decision-making mechanisms; rule-based), and more sustainable (institutionalization instead of personalization; complying with PRC rules and regulations).

SwissCham Southwest China will cover the same regions as the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu, *i.e.* Chongqing, Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan, with a particular focus on the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle.

The four offices of SwissCham on the mainland together with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, will allow SwissCham from now on to cover China’s four most important economic (city) clusters, namely:

- the Jing-Jin-Ji Region (Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei) covered by SwissCham Beijing;
- the Yangtze River Delta (Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi) covered by SwissCham Shanghai;

- the Greater Bay Area (Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao) covered by SwissCham South China and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; and
- the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle (Chongqing, Sichuan) covered by SwissCham Southwest China.

The Southwest China Representative explains that the formal decision to establish SwissCham Southwest China was taken in the National Annual General Assembly (“NAGA”) in September 2022. The regional bylaws, on which the RAGA will vote today, will then have to be confirmed by the National BoD and approved by the NAGA, in accordance with the National Articles and National Bylaws.

#### 1.4 Speech by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomes all the participants and delivers a congratulatory speech. The Chairman explains that the founding of SwissCham Southwest China was debated several times in the National BoD. As a strong supporter of the opening of SwissCham’s fourth office in mainland China, the Chairman is delighted to see the founding happening today.

Since the launch of the “Go West” strategy by the Chinese government, companies are eager to explore opportunities in China’s Southwest. The Chairman states that with the founding of SwissCham Southwest China, SwissCham can be closer to where its members are or to where its members are planning to expand.

The Chairman is looking forward to seeing close collaboration between SwissCham Southwest China and SwissCham’s other offices in China.

## 2 Quorum confirmation

In accordance with the SwissCham Southwest Bylaws (which are not effective yet), the quorum for any SwissCham Southwest China general assembly shall be at least one fifth of all the members with voting rights.

*Table 1: Overview of members with voting rights, required quorum, and attendance*

<b>SwissCham Southwest Bylaws, Article 4 Section C 1:</b>			
<i>The quorum for any SwissCham Southwest China GA shall be at least one fifth of all the members with voting rights.</i>			
<u>Members with voting rights</u>		<u>Attendance 10 March 2023</u>	
National	24	Valid voting members present	7

Regional	3	Valid voting members proxy	0
<b>Total voting rights</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Total voting members</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Quorum (20%)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Simple majority</b>	<b>4</b>
<u>Others</u>		<u>Others</u>	
Corporate Associate (national + regional)	7+2	Non-voting members and guests	28
Individual associate	0		
Honorary member	1		
<b>Total members (national and regional)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Total attendees</b>	<b>35</b>

With the presence of 7 members with voting rights, the required quorum (20% of all the members with voting rights = 6) is achieved.

In order to reach a simple majority, 4 votes are required.

Min Xu ‘Jojoe’ (“**Southwest China Secretary-General**” or “**Southwest China S-G**”) is approved to count the votes.

### 3 Application for changes to the agenda

No applications for changes to the agenda are being made.

### 4 Activity report

The Southwest China S-G provides a report of SwissCham Southwest China’s activities before the founding of today.

With the support of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu, SwissCham Southwest China regularly organized the Swiss Business Luncheon.

For several years already, SwissCham Southwest China is a co-organizer of the annual Swiss National Day Reception in Chongqing.

The Southwest China Secretary-General highlights that in the past five years, SwissCham Southwest China supported the annually held SinoSwiss Business Incubation Competition in Chongqing.

SwissCham Southwest China regularly participated at business trips and meetings organized by various public authorities in the Southwest.

The Southwest China S-G shows that SwissCham Southwest China actively engaged in networking activities (co-)organized by other chambers of commerce as well as other associations.

No questions are raised.

## 5 Adoption of the regional bylaws

The bylaws of SwissCham Southwest China (“**Southwest China Bylaws**”) were submitted for consultation to the voting members and the National BoD prior to this RAGA. Each voting member has received a hard copy of the Southwest China Bylaws at the RAGA registration booth.

The Southwest China Representative presents the Southwest China Bylaws and highlights the key provisions, such as article 9:

*These Southwest China Bylaws shall come into effect when approved by the SwissCham Southwest China GA, for the first time on 10 March 2023, and approved by the National GA of SwissCham China on 1 April 2023.*

The voting members are asked whether they would like to make any final applications for amendment of the Southwest China Bylaws. No such applications are made.

The RAGA approves the Southwest China Bylaws unanimously.

## 6 Election and confirmation of board members and president

### 6.1 Election of the regional BoD

In accordance with the SwissCham Southwest Bylaws, the Southwest China BoD shall consist of not more than ten members and shall reflect the diversity of members.

The following persons are candidates for the Southwest China BoD (in alphabetical order):

- Sebastian Chen (陈俊逸) - Business Development Director at Sika;
- Martin Ebnetter - Head of Operations at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chengdu;
- Cynthia Ni (倪幸洁) - Communications Director at Holcim;

- Nancy Nie (聂杨) - Regional Manager Southern Sichuan at ABB;
- Yves Roduit - Owner of and winemaker at Château Roduit;
- Genie Wang (王劼) - Chongqing Branch General Manager of Schindler;
- Raphael Zumsteg-Yuan, Individual Member.

Every candidate introduces herself/himself to the voting members and the audience.

All candidates are elected unanimously by the RAGA.

The newly elected board decides to appoint Min Xu ‘Jojoe’ as the Secretary-General.

## 6.2 Confirmation of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the regional BoD

In accordance with the SwissCham Southwest Bylaws, the BoD proposes to confirm the following members of the BoD for the following roles:

- Raphael Zumsteg-Yuan, as the President.
- Cynthia Ni (倪幸洁), as the Vice-President.
- Genie Wang (王劼), as the Treasurer.

All candidates are confirmed unanimously by the RAGA for their roles.

# 7 Outlook 2023

## 7.1 Video message by the President of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCC)

The President of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (“SCCC”), Felix Sutter, delivers a congratulatory speech via video message. He emphasizes the importance of the Southwest to China’s economy and stresses his close personal ties to the region. As the President of SCCC, he is looking forward to a closer collaboration between SwissCham China and SCCC.

## 7.2 Focus & to-do list

The newly elected President of SwissCham Southwest China (“**President**”), Raphael Zumsteg-Yuan, presents SwissCham Southwest China’s focus for 2023:

- Grow the member base;
- Establish committees;
- Strengthen the exchange with SwissCham China’s other offices and with SCCC;
- Hire local staff;
- Improve communication channels; and
- Concentrate on activities and projects related to vocational and professional education and training (VPET).

### 7.3 Dates and activities

The President briefly introduces the following planned national and regional activities for 2023:

*Table 2: Overview of dates and activities*

<b>Dates and activities</b>	
25 March 2023	Swiss Ball, Shanghai
1 April 2023	National Annual General Assembly (NAGA), Guangzhou
Spring (TBC)	InterChamber Mixer, Chengdu
18-21 May 2023	Western China International Fair for Investment and Trade (WCIFIT), Chongqing
31 May - 2 June 2023	Explore Chengdu & Chongqing
29-30 June 2023	GBA Switzerland Economic Forum, Dongguan
August 2023 (TBC)	Swiss National Day Celebration
Autumn (TBC)	InterChamber Mixer, Chongqing and Chengdu (TBC)
Autumn / Winter (TBC)	Business and Diplomacy Briefing
Autumn / Winter (TBC)	Bridge Newsletter (Southwest Focus)

## 8 Budget 2023

### 8.1 Membership fees

In accordance with the SwissCham Southwest Bylaws, the BoD proposes to maintain the following membership fee amounts:

*Table 3: Membership fee amounts*

Membership Categories	Fee (in RMB)
Large Corporate (more than 1'000 emp.)	6'000
Medium Corporate (100-1'000 emp.)	4'500
Small Corporate (less than 100 emp.)	3'000
Individual*	1'500
Large Corporate Associate**	6'000
Medium Corporate Associate**	4'500
Small Corporate Associate**	3'000
Individual Associate**	1'500
Young Professional / Journalist ***	500
NPO****	N/A
Honorary	0

\* Individual refers to self-employed individuals.

\*\* Associate refers to non-Swiss Companies and individuals.

\*\*\* Young Professional (YP) can become a member without voting rights if under 30 years



old and self-employed or not working at the time of application.  
\*\*\*\* NPO refers to organizations without government affiliation.

The RAGA approves the membership fee amounts unanimously.

## **8.2 Drawing up the budget**

The BoD agrees to draw up a budget after the confirmation and approval of the Southwest China Bylaws by the NAGA.

## **8.3 Sponsorship acquisition**

The President highlights the importance of sponsorship acquisition to cover SwissCham Southwest China's costs and expenses.

# **9 Varia**

## **9.1 Video message by the Executive Director of SinoSwiss Holding**

The Executive Director of SinoSwiss Holding, Dominik Widmer, delivers a congratulatory speech via video message. As the former Representative of SwissCham Southwest China, he thanks the members and the BoD on this milestone and stresses the importance of further strengthening the existing relations between Switzerland and China.

## **9.2 New Founding Members**

The President congratulates and welcomes the following companies as new Founding Members of SwissCham Southwest China (in alphabetical order):

- Accelleron – large national corporate member;
- Château Roduit – small corporate member;
- Dancing Yak Handicrafts – small corporate member; and
- Ivy U Limited – small corporate associate member.

The RAGA ended at 19:53.

**Signature:**

President of SwissCham Southwest China

