

# Press release

Original French text:

[La Suisse célèbre avec le président de la Banque mondiale](#)

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## Switzerland celebrates with World Bank President

**Berne, 23 August 2017 - On the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Switzerland's accession to the World Bank, a conference was held with the President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, and Federal Councilor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann.**

In 1992, the Swiss people accepted Switzerland's accession to the World Bank. The conference organized to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession returned on the referendum ballot: Swiss voters approved by approximately 56% of the vote adherence to the Bretton Woods Institutions, namely the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The conference also addressed the successes of the World Bank and the challenges it has faced over the past quarter century.

Participants explored new avenues for the World Bank to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' sustainable development goals and the reduction of global poverty. They also recalled that the representation on the World Bank's Board of Directors enabled Switzerland to strengthen its position on the international level, to participate in discussions and decision-making within the organization.

### **Jim Yong Kim Welcomes Switzerland's Commitment**

President Jim Yong Kim praised the partnership with Switzerland and the constructive role of Switzerland as a long-standing and significant shareholder of the World Bank. He mentioned Switzerland's commitment to promoting the private sector, job creation, responsible water management, protection of the environment and climate, and support for fragile states. He also thanked Switzerland for its contribution of 645 million francs at the 18<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the International Development Association fund (IDA).

Jim Yong Kim has also mentioned the actions of the World Bank to eliminate extreme poverty and promote general prosperity, and the importance of the new instruments and methods to accelerate economic growth, investing in people and improving resistance Shocks and

threats. He recalled that development cooperation, a valuable and necessary tool, had to constantly reinvent itself in order to respond to growing expectations and expectations on a global scale.

Federal Councilor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, Governor of Switzerland to the World Bank, spoke about the institution's predominant contribution to the fight against climate change, financial crises, natural disasters and natural disasters. Migration, and stressed that it should continue to act independently. He urged the World Bank not to disperse in its activities but to focus on its core competencies and to grant credits more selectively.

Johann N. Schneider-Ammann and Jim Yong Kim signed two programs on the sidelines of the conference: the first promotes reforms in energy supply in developing countries to encourage climate-friendly economic growth, while the latter supports Countries in the responsible management of their public finances and their debts in order to reduce the risk of financial shocks.

#### **Information:**

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#### **Documents**

- Address by Federal Councilor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann
- Fact Sheet World Bank Group
- Multilateral focus, July 2017 edition