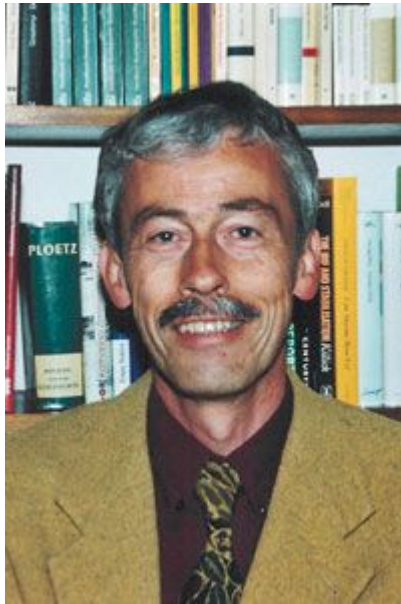


Richard Gerster



is a development economist and activist from Switzerland. He holds a PhD Econ of the University of St Gall (Switzerland). 1972/81 he has been a staff member of Helvetas, Swiss Association for Development and Cooperation. During 1981/98 he served first as a Coordinator for Development Policy and then up to 1998 he was the Executive Director of the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations. Since then, he is Director of Gerster Consulting, an independent small consulting firm for public policy and international development (see www.gersterconsulting.ch). The key areas of research and advice include:

- (1) pro-poor policies, with an emphasis on Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS);
- (2) trade, in particular WTO issues as well as fair trade;
- (3) finance, issues such as debt reduction or governance of IMF/World Bank;
- (4) development cooperation, with an emphasis on programme aid and evaluation;
- (5) global public goods, including information and communication.

From 1978 to 1994 Richard Gerster served as a Member of the Advisory Committee on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid to the Swiss Government. In 2000, he was appointed a member of the Development Cooperation Advisory Council to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria. In 2002, his book "Globalisation and Equity" won the Blue Planet Award as well as the Golden Slate Award for the educational graphs. Richard Gerster is author of several books and numerous articles in scientific journals and newspapers. For a list of selected publications, consult http://www.gersterconsulting.ch/docs/publications_RG.pdf. Some of his more recent publications:

- Diminishing the Digital Divide in Switzerland. ICT-Policies, Practices and Lessons Learnt, SDC November 2003 (together with Andrea Haag)
- ICTs and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa. A Learning Study (together with Sonja Zimmermann) on behalf of CIDA, DFID, DGIS, SDC, 2003

- Convention on Biological Diversity: Exploring the Creation of a Mediation Mechanism (together with Chaytor Beatrice and Herzog Theresa), in: Journal of World Intellectual Property, April 2002, pp. 157 - 180
- Patents and Development. Lessons Learnt from the Economic History of Switzerland, Third World Network, Penang/Malaysia 2001
- Globalisation and Justice (“Globalisierung und Gerechtigkeit”), hep-Verlag, Berne 2001 (in German only)
- Alternative Approaches to Poverty Reduction Strategies. A Review of the World Bank Compared to Other Donors, SDC Working Paper, Berne 2000
- Switzerland as a Developing Country, Swiss Coalition News, Berne February 1998

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