

**SATW**

Schweizerische Akademie der Technischen Wissenschaften  
Académie suisse des sciences techniques  
Accademia svizzera delle scienze tecniche  
Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences



# A New Approach for Holistic Community Development and the Role of Applied Renewable Energy Technologies

Presentation of Alex Zahnd, Ingenieur  
Program Director RIDS-Nepal



ETH Zurich, Main Building (HG) D 3.2

Friday 20 August, 19.30

Duration: ca. 1.5 hours, followed by time for  
questions and an aperitif

**Alex Zahnd** is a Swiss Mechanical Engineer, working in Nepal since 1983. He works with the local communities in the high altitude areas of the Nepal Himalayas, participating in the development of their living conditions through the non-profit NGO RIDS-Nepal, which he co-founded and leads today. He is also a visiting professor at the Kathmandu University where he teaches a course in Renewable Energy Technology and Application, alongside practical student research projects. [www.rids-nepal.org](http://www.rids-nepal.org)

**VBG** is an interdenominational Christian movement in the German speaking part of Switzerland. Their goal is the integration of faith and reason. It reaches out to people in highschool and university as well as to people in the work place, society and church. It was founded in 1949 as „Vereinigte Bibelgruppen in Schule, Universität, Beruf“ (united bible study groups in schools, universities and work). [www.bgs-zueri.ch](http://www.bgs-zueri.ch)

The **Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW)** unites people, institutions and associations that are active in the technical sciences and their application. It promotes technology for the benefit of society and strengthens society's understanding of technology.

The SATW is politically neutral and not commercially orientated. It currently has 240 individual members and 60 member organisations. [www.satw.ch](http://www.satw.ch)

**Grüner Fisch** is an environmental association formed by Christians. It campaigns for justice, charity and the protection and conservation of creation. On one hand, Grüner Fisch promotes a sustainable lifestyle by supporting people in reducing their every day consumption of resources. On the other hand, Grüner Fisch supports organisations that implement sustainable and holistic projects in developing countries. [www.gruenerfisch.ch](http://www.gruenerfisch.ch)