



#### Location Details

ETH Zurich, Building LEE, Room E 101, Leonhardstrasse 21, 8092 Zurich

#### How to Reach the Venue

The LEE building of ETH Zurich can be easily reached by public transportation.

- from Zurich Main Station, take tram no. 6 (direction: Zoo) or tram no. 10 (direction: Zürich Flughafen), tram stop: Leonhardstrasse
- from Central, take the Polybahn to the Main Building and walk down Leonhardstrasse (1 min.), right side of the road

#### Contact

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## ETH Global Lecture Series

# Breaking the vicious circle of poverty in the Nepal Himalayas - Lessons learnt in 20 years of bridging the gap between community development, applied research and investment

**Wednesday, 4 March 2015, 18.00 – 19.15**

ETH Zurich, Building LEE, Room E 101,  
Leonhardstrasse 21, 8092 Zurich

#### Dr. Alex Zahnd

University of California, San Diego;  
Kathmandu University, Nepal;  
RIDS-Switzerland and RIDS-Nepal;  
Corresponding Member of SATW

Registration: <http://bit.ly/1uv9oZy>



Dr. Alex Zahnd, a Swiss engineer, is a visiting scholar at University of California, San Diego and a visiting professor at Kathmandu University, Nepal. He wrote his PhD thesis on the role of renewable energy technology in holistic community development at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia. He is a Corresponding Member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) and a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Solar Energy Society.

Alex has lived and worked for more than 20 years in Nepal. He developed a new community development approach which has served as the basis for holistic community development projects in 29 high-altitude villages in Nepal. In 2002, he co-founded the non-governmental organization "Rural Integrated Development Services-Nepal" (RIDS-Nepal, <http://www.rids-nepal.org>) and in 2013 its Swiss sister organization RIDS-Switzerland (<http://www.rids-switzerland.org>). Through these two NGOs, Alex Zahnd is currently implementing holistic community development projects in 11 villages in the high-altitude districts of Humla and Jumla, in the North-West of Nepal.

In this talk, he will summarize some of the key lessons he learned how contextualized technologies, educational tools and infrastructures developed according to the local communities' self-identified needs can break the chains of extreme poverty through a constructive cross-cultural dialogue and awaken educational and economic activities. He will also illustrate that a long-term and holistic perspective of all involved stakeholders, especially in the project partnership and in funding, is one of the most critical success factors of development projects and still deserves a wider recognition as a best practice.

## Programme

18.00 – 18.10	<b>Opening</b> Dr. Barbara Becker, ETH Global
18.10 – 18.15	<b>Introduction</b> Prof. Maurice Campagna, Full Member of SATW; Fellow of the American Physical Society; Member of Economiesuisse (Commission for Education and Research)
18.15 – 19.15	<b>Breaking the vicious circle of poverty in the Nepal Himalayas - lessons learned during 20 years of bridging the gap between community development, applied research and investment</b> Dr. Alex Zahnd, University of California, San Diego; Kathmandu University, Nepal; RIDS-Switzerland and RIDS-Nepal; Corresponding Member of SATW
19.15	Closing  Apéro