

Ambassador Walter Fust
Director General of the Swiss
Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC
(Swiss) Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



Mr Walter Fust, born in 1945 in Mosnang/St Gallen, studied at St Gallen University and graduated with a Master of Political Science. He entered the diplomatic service in 1975 and was assigned to Berne, Geneva, Baghdad and Tokyo. From 1976 to 1979 he was in charge of economic affairs at the Swiss Embassy in Baghdad. In 1979, he was transferred to Tokyo, responsible for economic, commercial and industrial affairs. In September 1983, he was appointed deputy head of the Integration Office, dealing with the Swiss government's relation with the European Community and the EFTA countries. From 1984 to 1986 he was appointed as personal adviser to Federal Councillor Dr Kurt Furgler, Minister of Public Economy and President of the Swiss Confederation in 1985. In 1986, he was elected as Managing Director of the Swiss Office for Trade Promotion. From 1990 to August 1993 he served as Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior.

In September 1993 Walter Fust was appointed Director-General of the (SDC) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation based in Bern (www.sdc.admin.ch). He is Chairman of the Board of the 'Global Knowledge Partnership GKP', a network dealing with knowledge, information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development cooperation. Furthermore he is member of the Steering Committees of the 'UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development GAID', of the 'Development Gateway Foundation', and of the (IRGC) 'International Risk Governance Council'. He is also member of the Board of 'Diplo Foundation', an organization specializing in the use of ICTs in order to promote education and research in the field of diplomacy, international relations, and international organizations. On 6 July 2007, Mr Fust was appointed member of the Advisory Board of the newly established 'Development Cooperation Forum' within the UN-ECOSOC.