

Vijay Mahajan (Basix India)
Arthur Vayloyan (Credit Suisse)
Roger de Weck (Author)

**“Financial crisis and banking with the poor and excluded:
Indian and Swiss perspectives”**

Presentation, Discussion, Apéro

Tuesday 2 February 2010, 14:00 – 16:00

SDC, Freiburgstrasse 130, Berne (Room A 2023)

Financial markets and banks play critically important roles in developing and developed economies. The poor and excluded need financial services (savings, insurance, credit, money transfers etc.) as much as the better off and the rich.

Financial systems integrating poor households, farmers and small enterprises have been an objective of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for more than 30 years. Indian institutions and personalities have been important partners, financially and intellectually, in this endeavour.

The current financial and economic crisis raises basic questions for developed and developing economies. This is why TRAVERSE invites Vijay Mahajan, a long-time partner of SDC from Basix India, and Arthur Vayloyan of Credit Suisse, for a discussion moderated by Roger de Weck, author of the recently published book "Nach der Krise – Gibt es einen anderen Kapitalismus?" (After the Crisis – Is there Another Capitalism?) on views and questions such as:

1. What are the (deeper) causes of the current crisis? How are the poor affected?
2. What have been the roles of the economic elite (economists, bankers etc.)?
3. What are the roles and responsibilities banks have for national economies and the poor and excluded? How can the latter be served sustainably?
4. What function has the State in financial markets?
5. Can formal financial sectors and economies create enough jobs in India, in Europe?
6. How important is Switzerland for socially responsible investments in developing countries - and for the flight of capital out of India?

These and other topics will be discussed at this TRAVERSE from the perspectives of an Indian social entrepreneur and "poverty banker" and a Swiss banker, with guidance and contributions from Roger de Weck, an observer and commentator of cultural and socio-economic developments in Europe.

Vijay Mahajan is chairman of Basix India, an institution promoting access to financial, social and business services. Vijay was nominated as an "Outstanding Social Entrepreneur" by the Schwab Foundation, listed in India's 50 Most Powerful People in 2009 by Business Week and is co-chairman of the Working Group on Social Entrepreneurship of the World Economic Forum WEF.

Dr. Arthur Vayloyan is member of the Private Banking Management Committee and head of Investment Services and Products of Credit Suisse. His special interests include innovations, globalisation and "Inclusive Finance".

Roger de Weck, economist by training, is the author of "Der Fall Chiasso" about a Credit Suisse case in 1978. He was chief-editor of the German weekly "Die Zeit" and the "Tages Anzeiger" in Zurich. Mr. de Weck has been working as a freelance publisher since 2001.

We are looking forward to a lively debate!.

Registration by 19 January 2010 at traverse@deza.admin.ch
(free of charge, limited number of participants)

For further information: www.deza.admin.ch/traverse or e-mail: traverse@deza.admin.ch