



CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ECO-NOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A group of experts in the socio-economic, ecological and trade fields created a foundation called "Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development" in 1993. The Geneva-based research and development Centre concentrates on activities with the common goal of putting into practice the ideas of socio-eco-nomic development through responsible and effective interactions among stakeholders and through better governance arrangements.

The objectives of the Centre are to facilitate development for common good. In today's globalised world, the Centre especially supports human evolution based on a balanced integration of individual, group, societal and environmental concerns whereby self-interest, care for others, respect of other cultures and appreciation of the environment are seen as synergistic, not antagonistic factors of human life. The Centre also takes the international organisations and arrangements to task in order to ensure their proper functioning and effectiveness.

MEANS

To reach this goal interdisciplinary teams of competent practitioners and academics such as psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, lawyers and economists conduct applied social research and consulting projects and missions in the development and strengthening of communities, private and public enterprises, civil service systems, public administrative

structures, and international cooperation and co-development frameworks.

The work records of the Centre in such institutional reform comprise the project to facilitate the reform of the public administration e.g., in China, Slovenia, Bolivia (mandated by the Swiss government) and feasibility studies and consulting inputs in Russia, Macedonia, Serbia, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, India and Albania. CSEND has also been actively engaged in the work of strengthening trade related institutions and policy making mechanisms in countries such as Bolivia, Kyrgystan, Macedonia, Lebanon, SEMAC countries just to name a few.

Poverty reduction in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of the UN has been another focus of the Centre's work. Through the cooperation with the UN organisations and other non-governmental organisations, the Centre has been actively promoting a pro-employment approach, better understanding the Poverty Reduction Strategy process requisited by the World Bank and engaged in related monitoring and evaluation studies in countries like Cameroon, Madagascar,



Ethiopia and countries in the horn of Africa. One direct outcome of these advocacy and awareness raising activities is Centre's work in the aid effectiveness. Many policy papers have been put forward to the EU, the Swiss authority, WTO, EIF, OECD and UN for discussion.

CSEND members make their experience available to the interested public by publishing articles in specialised reviews and by conducting roundtables, conferences on socio-economic topics, such as climate change, food security, and role of the non-government actors in the international processes and policy coherence of international agencies involved in trade and development issues.

THEMATIC CONCENTRATIONS

1) **Institution Development and Large System Reform**

Focusing on the process and interventions to strengthen the institutional capacity to devise better policies, to better perform regulatory functions and to deliver better services by the public authorities and governments.

2) **Trade Policy Governance**

Focusing on trade policy formulation at the international and national levels as well implications of WTO rules on food security, basic human rights and access to essential medicine. In addition, special focus is put on the needs of the LDCs on their negotiation strategies and domestic cross-sector coordination and consultation.

3) **Education Policy and Human Capital Development**

Focusing on education and human capital development policy and implementation by examining the performance of educational institutions from a national development, employability and social equity perspective.

4) **Negotiation and Dispute Resolution**

Focusing on mechanisms and approaches to conflict resolution through negotiations, which can be in the commercial, political, and environmental domain where multistakeholder interact in an interdependent relationship.

5) **Multistakeholder Interactions and Sustainable Development**

Focusing on framework and mechanisms to constructive engagements of multistakeholder in public policies discourses with the aim of fostering sustainable arrangements and development outcomes.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1) **Institution building projects**

To strengthen the public institutions in all regions of the world, be they part of the northern or southern hemisphere of the globe, depending on the needs of their beneficiaries and the specific requirements of interested donors.

Selected Samples:

Reform of China's Human Resource Development Institutions and System (1988 – 1997). Reform of Slovenia's Public Administration (1993-1997).

2) **Trade Policy Governance**



To build up the trade capacity of the country for more effective policy making and negotiation in the bilateral or multilateral contexts and to advise countries on accession negotiations to the WTO or regional trade arrangements.

Selected Samples:

Developing the trade negotiation capacity of Bolivia (2001-2003). Preparing accession countries for the WTO negotiations (since 1985) in terms of interministerial coordination, building negotiation teams and defining national strategies.

3) Research & Evaluation projects

To strengthen the impact of socio-economic development theory, research projects are organised to clarify policy options in order to guarantee synergistic growth between personal inspirations, economic goals, social concerns and environmental considerations.

Selected Samples:

WB Customer Survey in Francophone African (1996). Mainstreaming Decent Work Agenda into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (ILO, 2004-2005). Mediation of Environmental Conflicts in the Alpine Region (Swiss National Science Fund, 2005-2006). Interministerial Coordination for Trade Policy Making in Newly Accession States (Swiss National Science Fund, 2006-2008). Global Commodity Development Strategy Analysis based on Trade Integration Diagnostic Studies (UNDP, 2008-2009). Programme Evaluation of Geneva

Initiative in the Palestine (Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2009)

4) Quality Assurance for Human Capital Development

To ensure the quality of training and education, the Centre offers consultation and certification to interested organisations and education institutions in order to 1) ensure the relevance of training/learning outcomes, 2) to strengthen institutional management of the learning processes, and 3) to increase the aid effectiveness when developing human capital in the developing world.

Selected Samples:

Setting up a National wide Quality Assurance Standard and Implementation System for Non-formal Education and Vocational Training in Taiwan (Bureau for Vocational Training and Employment, 2005-2007). National Training System Diagnosis and Quality Enhancement Strategy (ILO, 2006, 2007)

5) Diagnostic and learning Tools

Based on the extensive research, the Centre develop interactive and dynamic learning tools e.g., simulation exercises, role playing scenarios and gap analysis instruments in order to facilitate individual learning, enhance system perspective and galvanise the collective energy for collective or system performance improvement.

Selected Samples:

Simulation on FDI and Adoption of Clean Development Mechanism in the Developing Countries (World Bank, 2002). Simulation on TRIPS



Flexibility and Access to AIDS/HIV Medicine (UNCTAD, 2007). Other WTO Accession and Trade Round Simulations.

6) **Outreach Activities**

To put the socio-economic theory into action and challenge the tried but ineffective patterns and institutional arrangements, the Centre will organise theme-centred conferences, policy debates and workshops bringing together researchers, practitioners, decision makers and if appropriate civil society representatives from all parts of the world for dialogue.

Selected Samples:

Swiss-OECD-China International Conference on Governance, Finance and Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions (OECD, 2007). WTO Rules and Food Crisis in the Least Developed Countries (co-organised with the LDC Group in the WTO, 2008). Panels for the WTO NGO Forum.

7) **Arts and Society**

Focusing on supporting cultural expression by artists and societies through dialogue and exchanges.

Selected Samples:

Art Exhibitions of Wang Hongjian (1996), Roman Romanyshyn (1997). Radio Feature "Logic of Implosion" (1989) and An Open Space process on "Helmat" in the Intercultural Dialogue (EU Cultural Project, 2008).

INSIGHTS

The Centre, governed by its Articles of Incorporation and by the Swiss Civil Code, is registered in Geneva Switzerland. Its operational budget comes out of project funding (bilateral, multilateral or multi-bilateral technical cooperation contracts), donations and legacies.

A small board of three members and an advisory council assures an efficient and effective functioning according to its mandate. The board elects the Managing Director and has the following duties:

- to supervise the use of the Foundation's assets and to prepare the annual accounts;
- to encourage and support all studies and publications in connection with the Foundation's purpose.

The Centre has a small, dynamic and multicultural team, providing both research and office backup. The working languages are: English, French, German, Spanish, and Chinese Mandran.

Under the umbrella of the Centre, there are sub-groups with their own mandate and specific missions.

INFO

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