

## **Willy A. Schmid** *Retired*

On 18 September 2008, Professor Dr. Willy A. Schmid retired from his chair at the ETH Zürich. For more than 30 years he has been the director of the Institute for Spatial and Landscape planning (*Raum- und Landschaftsentwicklung*), at the Network City and Landscape (Netzwerk Stadt und Landschaft). During these 30 years he has been considerably influential in the field of spatial planning, geomatics and landscape planning in Switzerland.

Willy A. Schmid has been a founding member of AESOP. He participated in the legendary first meeting of AESOP at Schloss Cappenberg near Dortmund. Since the formal establishment of AESOP in 1989, and until 2003, he served, with remarkable Swiss accuracy and efficiency, as treasurer of the Association, thus contributing much to secure a solid financial base for this successful European network of higher education.

A symposium at the ETH Zürich, organised by his former students and collaborators in honour of Willy A. Schmid praised his remarkable achievements during the last 30 years. One of the speakers at this symposium was Klaus R. Kunzmann, Professor emeritus of the University of Dortmund and founding president of AESOP, who rhetorically asked whether a "*Switzerland without mountains*" is thinkable.

After his retirement Willy A. Schmid will not stop being actively involved into spatial planning. He will continue to advice cities in China on sustainable development, a field in which he has been involved since a decade.

Professor Dr. Adrienne Grêt-Regamey, one of his former PhD students and long term research collaborators, will be his successor at the ETH in Zurich, and continue a long tradition to promote spatial planning in the country.