

## Walter R. Stahel



Vice-Secretary General and Director of risk management research of The Geneva Association (International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics) since 1986; Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Surrey; Guest Lecturer at Tohoku University, Japan, on business models for sustainable development.

Since 1986, he has been in charge of the Research Programme on Risk Management and responsible for the M.O.R.E. seminar series (Managing Risk in the Economy) and also in charge of editing and publishing the *Risk Management Newsletter* of The Geneva Association. In 2003, he initiated the Annual Round Tables of Chief Risk Officers meetings (ART of CROs) and in 2005 the CRO Assemblies, for which he has been responsible since. The activities for Chief Risks Officers are organised jointly with Mr Hans Peter Würmli, chairman of the ART of CROs networks; and the CRO Assemblies alternatively with the CROs of Swiss Re and Munich Re. In June 2008, Stahel took charge of the new Climate Change and Insurance (CC+I) Project, and the new annual CC+I Seminars.

### **Professional experience**

After his 1971 Diploma in Architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Stahel worked as an architect in Great-Britain and Switzerland. In 1973, he joined the Battelle Research Centres in Geneva as head of project. 1980-84, Stahel was personal Assistant to the CEO of an international holding company based in Geneva with interests in rail grinding, real estate and shipping. In 1983, together with Orio Giarini, he founded the Product-Life Institute in Geneva which he is still managing today (<http://product-life.org>)

Publications include *The Performance Economy*, 2006, published by Palgrave Macmillan, London (a second revised and enlarged edition has been published in March 2010), *The Limits to Certainty, Facing Risk in the New Service Economy*, 1989/92, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht (co-author Orio Giarini); a number of book chapters in edited volumes and several research reports. He regularly publishes articles on topics related to risk and the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, ecologic and social issues).

### **Honours**

In 1982, with a paper, *The Product-Life Factor*, Stahel was one of the laureates of the Mitchell-Prize Competition on sustainable societies in Houston, TX, USA <http://www.product-life.org/en/major-publications/the-product-life-factor>. In 1978, together with Peter Perutz, he won a first prize in the competition of the German Future's Society, Berlin, with a paper on unemployment, occupation and profession. <http://www.product-life.org/de/archiv/arbeitslosigkeit%E2%80%93beschaffung%E2%80%93beruf>

In 2005, Stahel was nominated as member of the "Consumer Commission" of *Ministerpräsident* (PM) Oettinger, head of the Government of *Baden-Württemberg*, Germany, and heads its section on sustainable development. In 2007, Stahel was

nominated as member of the Nanomed Roundtable, a “Coordination and support action” under the Seventh Framework Programme FP7 of the European Commission (Nanoscience, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies Theme), and of the Editorial Board of the *Chinese Journal of Population, Resources and Environment*. In 2009, Stahel was nominated member of UL's Underwriter Laboratories' (UL) new Construction Products Directive (CPD) Notified Body Stakeholder Committee, where he will emphasise the intelligent use of construction materials to mitigate repeated impacts of climate change events. Stahel is still a member of the « groupes de réflexion » sur « Risques et complexité » et « Ethique et technique » de l'Institut Fredrik R. Bull in Paris.