

## **Siegfried Karg**



Siegfried Karg, BD, ThM, born 1946 in Oberurbach, Germany. Theological studies in Hamburg, Germany, and Switzerland, Fellow at the Institute for Social Ethics of the University of Zurich (1974-1980). Pastor and Pastoral Counselor in Adliswil and Winterthur, Switzerland (retired 2011). Vice President European Federation of Hard of Hearing People EFHOH (2002-2010), Convener of the First International Hearing Loops Conference in Winterthur in 2009, Board Member of the Swiss Hearing Loss Association pro audito Switzerland (2003-2012), Honorary Member, President of pro audito Winterthur (1993-2015), Member of the International Federation for Pastoral Care to Hearing Impaired Persons IVSS-Churchear since 1994, Member of the Swiss Acoustical Society SGA-SSA, presenter at international conferences, author of magazine articles about hearing loops (since 1988), book author.

### **Hearing Loops: Past, Present, and Future. A historical and international perspective**

Although Audio Frequency Induction Loop Systems (AFILS) have been used for quite a long time to benefit people with hearing loss, no other technology has yet emerged which is as universal, cost effective, requires no extra equipment, has no time delay, does not have to be "paired" and is as popular with consumers as hearing loops. Three major points have substantially improved the loop technology: 1. special current loop drivers, rather than voltage drivers, give an even frequency response especially in high frequencies important for speech intelligibility. 2. The new loop standard of the International Electro technical Commission (IEC) in 1981 guarantees high quality. 3. "Phased array" loops improve sound quality in large venues. Three international conferences have been held to expand the use of hearing loops internationally, especially in the USA. A preview of future possibilities will be given.