

Foreword of the President, Prof. G.A. Tammann

The present report covers the interval from January 1st, 1999, to the end of 2000. This interval marked the end of an era and at the same time a new start into the future.

As of the end of 1999 Professor Hermann Debrunner resigned after 26 years as President of the International Foundation HFSJG and after 31 years as Director of the Research Station Jungfrauoch and later also of the Research Station Gornergrat. His first scientific work at Jungfrauoch dates even further back to the year 1958. After so many years, it is truly the end of an era - an era that was marked by constant growth, modernisation, and adaptation to the changing needs of the users of the research stations. Thanks to Professor Debrunner's love for the research stations, his organisational talent, his open ear for scientific and technical developments, and his charming personality, he left the Foundation in a state of the greatest activity and prosperity. If it is true that the best moment for retirement is the one when it is most regretted, Professor Debrunner could not have chosen a better moment. In the name of all his colleagues and friends, I express the most sincere thanks for his unparalleled devotion to the Foundation.

I could not have accepted to succeed Professor Debrunner as President of the Foundation as of January 1st, 2000, if Professor Erwin Flückiger had not agreed to be Director of the research stations. Through his long-standing association with Professor Debrunner and his own outstanding work at Jungfrauoch, he knows the research stations as second to nobody. We form a harmonious team, and we shall try to continue the work of Professor Debrunner in his spirit. To do so we need the advice and the help of all collaborators and users of the research stations as well as of the members of the Foundation and of the many officials involved with the Foundation. We beg all of you for your support.

During the year 1999 very constructive and useful discussions took place between the Foundation, the Swiss Federal Office for Education and Science, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Swiss Academy for Sciences about the mode of the future financial contribution of Switzerland to the Foundation. We found everywhere much understanding and even sympathy for the concerns of the Foundation, and the funding could be secured until the end of 2003 with good prospects for additional prolongation.

During the negotiations it was helpful to have the very positive referees' reports on the long-term experiments in environmental sciences carried out at the Research Station Jungfrauoch. These reports, initiated by Professor Debrunner, will become a regular procedure of the Foundation.

With the Director of the research stations, Professor Erwin Flückiger, the members of his staff, and the secretary of the Foundation, Mrs. Louise Wilson, we are confidently looking forward to a vigorous and prolific future. The International Foundation HFSJG, responding to the needs of researchers at high altitudes, is as much in demand as ever and will do everything to fulfill the expectations and requirements of the community. Let us all work toward this goal!

Basel, June 2001

Gustav A. Tammann
President of the International Foundation HFSJG

