

Message of the President

The report period of the International Foundation High Altitude Research Stations Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat (HFSJG) was saddened by the death of its Honorary President, Professor Hermann Debrunner, who died on July 6, 2002. As an active President of the Foundation and Director of the scientific stations for almost three decades he became the heart and the soul of the HFSJG. If the Foundation continues to flourish it is only due to his foresight with which he has prepared and paved the way for his successors. We all have lost in him a great leader, a prolific scientist, and a wonderful friend.

The success of the International Foundation HFSJG is measured by the extent to which its research stations are used. According to this criterion the year 2002 has been successful. The research stations at Jungfrauoch as well as Gornergrat worked under the able and devoted directorship of Professor Erwin Flückiger near their upper capacity. The prospects for 2003, the 73rd year of the Foundation, are equally promising.

Of course, the next question is the importance of the scientific results. Excellent research has been done indeed and long-time monitoring campaigns – some of them the longest in the world – have been continued. But the Foundation faces an inherent difficulty in documenting the ‘product’ of all these research activities. The results are the property of the individual scientists and groups and are disseminated by them. Yet it becomes increasingly necessary to give a global view of what has been achieved.

As an answer to this need the reader will find in the following pages more information on scientific results than in the past. It goes without saying that it is impossible to attain completeness. Only some highlights are described as far as space allows. But over the years the Activity Reports should give a fair overview of what has been accomplished. In addition a first refereeing process, which will be repeated in the future, has proven not only to be very helpful but in this case to be most encouraging. It has also been decided to organize workshops every two or three years on special topics relevant for the research stations. A first such workshop was organized by two Commissions of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, i.e. the ‘Commission Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics’ under its President, PD Dr. U. Baltensperger, and the ‘Commission High Altitude Research Station Jungfrauoch’. The workshop under the title ‘Atmospheric Research at the Jungfrauoch and in the Alps’ was held with international participation in Davos on September 20, 2002. The next workshop on an astronomical topic will be organized in Zermatt in 2003 by the University of Cologne and co-sponsored by the Foundation.

The very substantial Swiss contribution to the HFSJG is paid by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Its continued support also during a difficult period is gratefully acknowledged as well as the help and advice of its representatives. But the well being of the HFSJG also depends very much on its national and international members. Sincere thanks go to them for their faithful support. The Swiss Academy of Sciences is equally acknowledged for its help in promoting the goals of the Foundation.

There are many individuals – researchers, technical staff, railway workers, hotel personnel, administrative managers, board members, to mention only a few – who

have contributed to the smooth and successful operation of the research stations. Many of them are named in the following report of the Director, but I would like to thank all of them here also. It remains only to thank our Director, Professor Erwin Flückiger, who, in addition to his daily, untiring work, has written the following 'Activity Report'.

Basel, June 19, 2003

G.A. Tammann