

Message of the President

We are looking back on a very special year: For 75 years the research station at Jungfrauoch has served scientists in pursuing their special projects, projects that can only be performed at very high altitude, at the Top of Europe. Without exaggeration it can be said that the station has enabled outstanding results in a wide variety of fields over this long period of its existence. And the outlook for the future is as bright as the past...

The highlights of the past year were the well-attended media event at Jungfrauoch, the international scientific conference in Interlaken, and the extraordinary meeting of the board (see the report of the director for details). These events all had a very special flavor thanks to the generous anniversary gift of the Jungfrau Railway Company: All participants at the three events got a free ride to the Jungfrauoch!

I personally enjoyed the very special experience of the third of these visits to the station, when the members of the board together with more than 20 former employees of our foundation boarded the historic train at Kleine Scheidegg. What foresight and courage of the pioneers to build this railway almost 100 years ago! It was this very spirit that enabled the establishment our research station in 1931 and that has supported our activities ever since.

In order to demonstrate its gratitude for this continued support of the Jungfrau Railway Company, the board of the foundation at its anniversary session elected for the first time a non-scientist as a corresponding member: Walter Steuri, the company's Chief Executive Officer, who during all the years has cared very actively for any smaller or larger problems that the station and the people working there faced. Mr. Steuri represents all the people – railway workers, restaurant staff, administrators etc – who keep up a very positive spirit towards our researchers. I include them all in my thanks.

I would like to finish by gratefully acknowledging the continued support of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Foundation's various foreign and national members. Their financial contributions are of course the basis without which "the high altitude research spirit" could not survive.



Bern, June 7, 2007

Hans Balsiger

