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Lauterbrunnen/Grindelwald, 4 June 2009

**JUNGFRAU CLIMATE CO2OPERATION**  
**Paper by Peter Wälschli, Mayor of Lauterbrunnen**

The four municipalities of Grindelwald, Gündlischwand, Lütschental and Lauterbrunnen more or less cover the whole area of the Lütshinertäler, in the world-famous Jungfrau region. The region relies heavily on tourism, taking advantage of an intact nature and a unique landscape ...

The Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau triumvirate forms a unique landscape. Spectacular mountain railways run to their peaks; since 1912, the Jungfrau Railway to the "Top of Europe" with the highest railway station in Europe at 3,454 metres above sea level or, following its conquest by James Bond, to the Piz Gloria on the Schilthorn, at 2,971 metres above sea level.

The Jungfrau region is, however, also world-famous thanks to its fabulous winter events, such as the Alpine World Cup ski race on the Lauberhorn in Wengen, the international Inferno-races in Mürren and the World Snow Festival in Grindelwald. The principle summer events include the Jungfrau marathon, the Inferno-triathlon, the Eiger Bike challenge and Eiger Live.

This uniqueness always leaves me speechless. For this reason, I hope you will allow me to express my feelings for this region with a quotation by Lama Govinda (1898-1985 / real name Ernst Lothar Hoffmann, who was a modern German exponent of Buddhism and Taoism, as well as an author and artist).

"To see the greatness of a mountain, one must keep one's distance; to understand its form, one must move around it; to experience its moods, one must see it at sunrise and sunset, at noon, and at midnight, in sun and in rain, in snow and in storm, in summer and in winter and in all other seasons.

He who can see the mountain like this comes near to the life of the mountain, a life that is as intense and varied as that of a human being.

Mountains grow and decay, they breathe and pulsate with life. They attract and collect invisible energies from their surroundings: the forces of the air, of the water, of electricity and magnetism; they create winds, clouds, thunderstorms, rains, waterfalls and rivers.

They fill their surroundings with active life and give shelter and food to innumerable beings. Such is the greatness of the mighty mountains."

We live and work surrounded by this grandeur – there, where others take, and have to pay for, their holidays. In this region, with its closeness to nature, we however also see, experience and feel the consequences of climate warming through a wide variety of natural phenomena, such as glacier retreat, rock falls, floods, etc.

Because of our consternation and willingness to act, we are, with today's ground-breaking ceremony, actually getting down to work. The aim is to present an interested public at home and abroad with a new CO<sub>2</sub> cooperative initiative, developed in the Jungfrau region, that concerns regional climate protection and that will have a far-reaching, nationwide effect.

The "**JUNGFRAU CLIMATE CO2OPERATION**" is voluntarily supported by communities, science and transport, tourism and energy companies, as well as other private parties – by conviction and sense of responsibility.



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This morning, the organizing institution was founded in Lauterbrunnen by the four municipalities and a few private persons (local council members, cadres from the administration, partners, etc.). The four municipal mayors then rode in the Mitsubishi iMIEV carbon-neutral electric vehicle from Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald, in order to participate in today's climate day. The iMIEV is the first mass-produced electric vehicle and BKW FMB Energie AG, together with the Biel and Lucerne colleges of higher education, has been testing it.

Looking at the seriously shrunken Grindelwald glacier, a symbol that reminds us of climate warming, we later on want to sign up to the "**Jungfrau Climate Charter**", and to this end I would now like to pass you over to my counterpart and friend, Mäni Schläppi.