

*Check against delivery.*

## **Launch of the Jungfrau Climate Guide**

Prof. Dr. Urs Würigler, Rector of the University of Bern

### **The university starts the ball rolling**

Ladies and gentlemen

Climate change is taking place – even for us in Switzerland. By now, the specialists agree on this. The question is when and how climate change makes an impact. The first consequences are already visible today. For example, here in the Bernese Oberland.

Along with climate change concerns, expectations of climate research have also grown. It should explain why climate changes occur. It should show how climate change affects society, politics and the economy. And it should also explain how Switzerland can best deal with the consequences of this change. We have taken up this scientific challenge. For this reason, the University of Bern is investing in the expansion of its climate research activities. For eight years, we have been home to the National Centre of Competence in Research – Climate, the network for Swiss climate research. Last autumn, with the support of insurance company Mobiliar, we founded an endowed chair in the area of research into climate consequences in the Alpine region.

The University of Bern has, for many years, occupied a leading place in climate research worldwide. And it has been richly rewarded for it, with a Nobel prize and an Oscar. Only indirectly, of course. Thus, Bernese climate researchers participated in the work for which the IPCC earned the 2007 Nobel peace prize. And the documentary “An Inconvenient Truth”, for which Al Gore won an Oscar, was supported by data from climate research done in Bern.

In addition, in 2007 we created the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research. The named donor, Hans Oeschger, was a pioneer in climate research and world famous for the examination of ice cores from the Antarctic and Greenland. In 1963, he founded the Department for Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern. Hans Oeschger was thus in at the beginning of Bern’s highly respected climate research.

Today, the Oeschger Centre provides information for a further large project concerning climate research at the University of Bern, namely the Jungfrau Climate Guide. We are pleased to inaugurate these climate paths in this, our anniversary year. For these paths, we are making the latest state of research accessible to you on site via a satellite-assisted iPhone and in a generally understandable way, and are thus making climate change come alive. With this project, we are once again showing our competence in the field of climate research.

As you will see today, more has come out of our original climate-path idea. The project has led to a political initiative and a climate charter. An association has even been founded today. For this Jungfrau Climate Co2operation, the University has started the ball rolling. Today's climate day shows in an exemplary way what developments can be triggered by science. It will create something durable and linked to long-term aims. Thus, the seven climate paths will survive well beyond the University of Bern's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The University can, of course, only realize such a large project with the support of numerous partners. At this point, I would particularly like to thank our principle partner, BKW FMB Energie AG, and the representatives of the Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen municipalities as well as the tourist organizations. Our thanks also go to Jungfrau Region Marketing AG, which will take care of and organize the operating phase of the Jungfrau Climate Guide.

It is impossible to enumerate all the participants who supported this project or collaborated for countless working hours in its realization – there are simply too many. They have all made it possible for us to inaugurate these fabulous climate paths today.

Thank you very much for your attention.