

Kongress „Graubünden forscht „Young Scientists in Contest“

## **Grussbotschaft der Gemeinde Davos**

Cyrell Ackermann, Vizepräsident Grosser Landrat, Davos

Sehr geehrter Herr Regierungsrat Jäger,

Dear Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to this year's conference "Graubünden forscht". I am pleased to address a few words to you, also in the name of the Mayor of Davos, Tarzisius Caviezel.

In Davos, research has a long and excellent tradition. It all started over a hundred years ago under the title of health and climate. In 1907, the natural scientist Carl Dorno founded the PMOD, Physikalisch-Meteorologisches Observatorium Davos. He was driven by the question of how the climate of Davos, and particularly solar radiation, influenced the human health and diseases like tuberculosis. Already in 1905, the German physician Karl Turban proposed the establishment of an institute for medical research in Davos. This led to the founding of an institute for research on tuberculosis in 1922. Today, its successor, the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research, focuses on the understanding and the treatment of allergic diseases.

Furthermore, snow and ice were the second common origin for two research institutes in Davos. In 1936, the SLF, WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research started its research on snow, avalanches and mountain ecology. In the wintertime, its twice-daily avalanche bulletin helps winter tourists to avoid alpine hazards.

Since 1958, the AO Foundation has been developing new methods and instruments for the healing and regeneration of bone fractures and joint injuries in Davos. This research was to a certain degree inspired by snow and mountain accidents. This illustrates how typical phenomena of an alpine environment, such as altitude, strong radiation, healthy air, snow and mountain accidents were the source for research in this area.

Finally, ten years ago, the Global Risk Forum GRF Davos and CK-CARE, the Christine Kuehne-Center for Allergy Research and Education, emerged in Davos. All six institutes enjoy an excellent national and international scientific reputation.

Today, research plays an important scientific, economic, and social role in Davos. In total, around four-hundred-eighty highly skilled people work at the research institutes. These jobs provide a livelihood for numerous people. The scientists and their families, who have come and still come to Davos, are a valuable asset not only for the institutes, but also for the schools in the valley, the public and cultural life, and the community finances. Without them, Davos would be poorer in many ways.

The city of Davos acknowledges the importance of research for the thriving of our community and the whole region of the Rhaetian Alps. We are happy that this conference takes place in our valley and we thank you for your commitment. I wish you all the best in your search for new knowledge and that it may serve the people. Your research can provide solutions to current and future challenges of our society.

The writer Bertolt Brecht once said:

„Ich halte dafür, dass das einzige Ziel der Wissenschaft darin besteht, die Mühseligkeiten der menschlichen Existenz zu erleichtern.“

In English: „I think that the only aim of science is to alleviate the hardships of human existence“.

With this hope, I wish you all an enjoyable stay in Davos. Thank you for your attention.