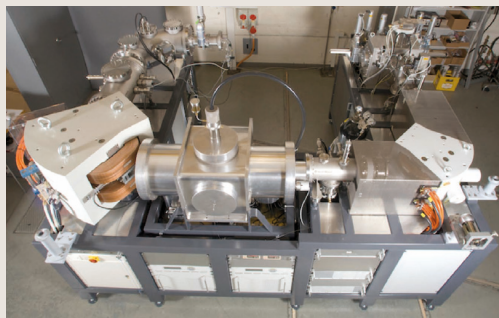


OCCR Flash – News from the Oeschger Centre

The Oeschger Centre has been active co-organizing conferences – and there is more to come. After a successful Conference on Environmental History, upcoming events include the «Day of Hydrology» (4–6 April 2013), the meeting of the IGBP Science Committee (17–19 April 2013), a scientific symposium on ^{14}C measurements (3 May 2013), and a conference on isotopes (26–28 August 2013).

A High-Tech Replacement for the Oeschger Counter

More than 50 years ago, Hans Oeschger made science history with his invention of a device for ^{14}C measurements at the University of Bern. Now, a new radiocarbon dating system that was initiated by the research centre that carries Oeschger's name by will be inaugurated. The Oeschger Centre was the driving force behind a new facility that will focus on exploring ultra-small samples. It aims taking analytical possibilities to new heights. The key device of the new laboratory is the accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) system called MICADAS. This device was built in a collaboration of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the University of Bern and the Laboratory of Ion Beam Physics of ETH Zurich. The new facility – a 1.8-million-Swiss-franc project – will perform ^{14}C analyses for OCCR groups and external customers. The ^{14}C -AMS laboratory is officially inaugurated with a scientific symposium on 3 May 2013. For a detailed programme and registration see www.oeschger.unibe.ch -> events -> conferences



The new MIni radioCARbon Dating System (MICADAS) in Bern will be used for radiocarbon dating, tracing of environmental radioactivity and analysis of fossil CO_2 emissions. (Photo: ETH Zurich)

Climate and beyond – Knowledge Production about Planet Earth

The conference «Climate and beyond» that was co-organized by the OCCR between 23 and 25 January 2013 in Bern brought together about 60 historians of the earth sciences, environmental historians and natural scientists. Under the general theme «Knowledge Production about Planet Earth and the Global Environment as Indicators of Social Change», the social, cultural and political changes induced by earth scientists were discussed. The participants came from 15 different countries and included prominent researchers such as Naomi Oreskes (University of California, San Diego). In a public talk, the author of the widely noted book «Merchants of Doubt – How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming» argued that common mis-

conceptions on Climate Change are neither due to poor science nor to bad communication. The problem, she said, is an ideological one: The severe regulations that are needed to tackle Climate Change provoke a general anti-state reaction with many climate sceptics.

OCCR Young Researchers Meeting now open to all Young Climate Scientists

For more than ten years the two-day young researchers meeting has been a trademark of the NCCR Climate. Now, as the programme has come to its close, the Oeschger Centre has taken over this event and opens it to all PhD students and PostDocs working in Switzerland. The 12th Young Researchers' Meeting will take place on 6 and 7 June 2013 at Centre Loewenberg near Murten. The focus of the meeting is on career planning, marketing yourself and other soft skills. Besides workshops, there will be ample time for informal exchange of ideas between young climate researchers. For detailed information and registration see www.oeschger.unibe.ch -> education

For an overview of OCCR activities and events see www.oeschger.unibe.ch

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