OCCR Flash – News from the Oeschger Centre

The interdisciplinary approach of the Oeschger Centre is proving to be successful again and again. Two major Sinergia projects were just approved for funding by the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF. The first one studies economically viable adaptation strategies and the second one deals with climate, land use, fire, and vegetation.

A closer look at the July 2014 flood events

How exceptional were the flood events of this summer? This was one of the questions raised and discussed at a public event on 13 November 2014 at the University of Bern. It was organized by the *Mobiliar Lab for Natural Risks*, a research institution created by the OCCR and the Swiss Mobiliar insurance company in 2013. The event included talks on a possible rise of extreme flood events due to climate change as well as on lessons learned from the July 2014 events for the regulation of lake levels.

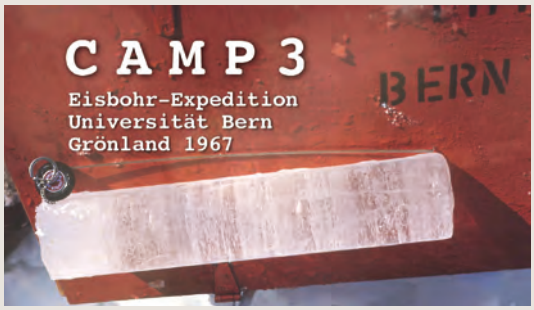
Two new Sinergia projects within the OCCR

As many as five OCCR groups are involved in a project called *Climate Change Extremes and Adaptation Strategies considering Uncertainty and Federalism*. In a common approach, economists, hydrologists, climatologists and political scientists are developing tools and methods to characterize climate change adaptation from an economic and policy analysis perspective. This know-how is then applied to the specific case of flood events in Switzerland. The project develops a theoretical basis of adaptation which will be used in Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models for evaluating feasible adaptation strategies. Both theory development and application, are based on a prediction of climate impacts on hydrological extremes in Switzerland and take into account political barriers to adaptation due to strategic interaction between different levels of Switzerland's federalist structure.

The Sinergia project *Paleo fires from high-alpine ice cores* involves four OCCR groups. They aim at a better understanding of the complex systemic linkages between climate, land use, fire, and vegetation. In the project, regional paleo fire histories are established from multi-proxy high-alpine ice core records, then the atmospheric footprint of the ice cores is determined and finally quantitative transfer functions are developed through identification of single fire events using satellite data.

The OCCR puts climate science in the limelight

More than 8000 people attended the Science Night at the University of Bern on 6 September 2014. The Oeschger Centre was part of this major outreach event with a *Climate and weather* exhibition. Among many other activities, a special show was dedicated to 50 years of polar ice core drilling at the University of Bern. Part of this celebration was a documentary on Hans Oeschger's Greenland expedition 1967. The short film can be viewed on **www.oeschger.unibe.ch** > about > Hans Oeschger



The short documentary *Camp 3* tells the story of the first, rather improvised, ice core drilling expedition of the University of Bern to Greenland in 1967.

The OCCR hosts the Nano-Camp 2014

For over 10 years the science program *Nano* of the TV broadcaster 3sat has been organizing summer camps for high school students. This summer, for the first time in its history, the *Nano-Camp* took place in Switzerland. The OCCR was the scientific partner of the camp and allowed 12 students from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland to get a hands-on experience of doing climate research in different fields. 3sat is a joint production of the public broadcasting companies in the German speaking countries. The TV program on the *Nano-Camp* can be viewed on **www.oeschger.unibe.ch** > about > News > «Research above the clouds»

New premises for the Oeschger Centre

The OCCR has moved. Our new address is:
Oeschger Centre, Falkenplatz 16, 3012 Bern