

SEMAINE ALPINE 2008
INNOVER [DANS] LES ALPES

ALPENWOCHE
NEUES DENKEN-NEUES DENKEN [IN DEN ALPEN]

SETTIMANA ALPINA
INNOVARE [NEL] LE ALPI

ALPSKI TEDEN
INOVACIJE [V] ALP[AH]

ALP WEEK
INNOVATING [IN] THE ALPS

L'ARGENTIÈRE-LA-BESSÉE / F
11-14.06.2008

– Media Release No. 2 – 24.01.2008



11 - 14 JUNE 2008 – ALP WEEK – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE HEART OF THE ALPS

**Innovating:
today's challenge for us all
for the Alps of tomorrow**

The focus at AlpWeek 2008 is on innovation as the motor for change which needs to be triggered by the people living in the Alps – in the face of climate change especially – and also on the innovations that are necessary if we are to find sustainable solutions to the problems of urbanisation, the decline of agriculture, the increasing frequency of natural hazards, and the impacts of mass tourism, road transport, etc.

AlpWeek will be held on 11 to 14 June 2008 in L'Argentière-la-Bessée, France. Representatives of the scientific community, local authorities, NGOs and protected areas, as well as mountain sports enthusiasts and interested individuals from the eight countries of the Alps will come together to discuss and analyse ways of innovating and to study the best practices that have already been established in many places in the Alps.

The conference will be organised around five main themes and will present numerous examples of innovation and potential solutions to the problems confronting mountain populations today.

In this context, innovation cannot simply be about technology and technical solutions. What is important is change at the level of our thinking and the need to think things through to their logical conclusions, as the following two examples illustrate:

- There is a tendency today to give priority to all forms of renewable energy. But it is often forgotten that all the renewable energy sources combined will never be able to meet our total energy requirements. That means we must first find ways of saving energy before we address the problem of energy production. In other words, before solar panels are installed on the roof, the building must be properly insulated!
- Institutional investors normally concentrate on the infrastructure, e.g. roads and railways. But in terms of sustainability it would be more meaningful to seek to optimise the use of the existing infrastructure through improved networking and a fast and effective supply of information.

One of the main sections in the programme, with several excursions for participants, will focus on innovation in the Pays des Ecrins as the host of this year's AlpWeek (see the enclosed provisional programme).

COSALP – THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR ALP WEEK

International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR)

ISCAR represents research organisations located in various countries of the Alps. It is one of the official observers of the Alpine Convention and supports the bodies of the Alpine Convention in an advisory capacity.

International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

Founded in 1952, CIPRA is the international umbrella for seven national associations, one regional association and over a hundred member organisations active in the field of sustainable development.

Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities

Alliance in the Alps has now been operating for ten years as a network for municipalities in seven countries of the Alps. The Alpine Convention serves as a guideline for sustainable development and the basis of their work for the 250 municipalities now affiliated to the Alliance.

Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC)

The network comprises about a thousand large protected areas (more than 100 ha) created throughout the Alpine Arc for the protection of the flora and fauna and their biotopes, the promotion of sustainable development, visitor management and research. This network has now been working for twelve years on typical problems relating to big nature parks, nature conservation areas, biosphere reserves, quiet zones and other forms of protected area. Its activities are co-ordinated by the Protected Area Task Force at the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

Club Arc Alpin (CAA)

Club Arc Alpin is an international federation of all Alpine clubs. It is also an official observer of the Alpine Convention.

FORTHCOMING PRESS RELEASES

- Media Release no. 3, March 2008: Innovation as a dynamic factor
Who should innovate and how? Why? Some examples from the Alps, from Slovenia to France...

- Media Release no. 4, April 2008: Innovation in the Pays des Ecrins, an example of good practice
Fifteen years ago a process of structural change began in the Pays des Ecrins, leading to recognition as a "Pôle d'excellence rurale".

- Media Release no. 5, May 2008: 11 – 14 June: AlpWeek Highlights
An overview of the event.

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ALP WEEK 2008
INNOVATING [IN] THE ALPS
L'ARGENTIERE-LA-BESSEE / F
11 - 14 JUNE 2008

Provisional programme for AlpWeek 2008

11 - 14 JUNE 2008 – ALP WEEK – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE HEART OF THE ALPS

Innovating: today's challenge for us all for the Alps of tomorrow

Knowledge sharing with regard to **innovations that have already emerged** and learning how to benefit from them, and **working together to solve problems and build on the know-how that already exists** in various places – those are the objectives of **AlpWeek 2008**, which will be held on **11 - 14 June 2008** for representatives of the **scientific community, local authorities, NGOs and protected areas**, as well as **mountain sports enthusiasts and interested individuals from the eight countries of the Alps**.

With its central location in Europe, the Alpine Arc will be one of the regions that will be affected most by the consequences of climate change in combination with the depletion of our reserves of fossil fuels. From trade and industry to biodiversity, from the landscapes to our ways of life, the impacts on the Alps will be significant. May local actors and representatives are now aware of the threat and see the importance of taking measures today to establish best practice solutions for tomorrow and shaping a future characterised by a better sense of equilibrium and consideration for the needs of future generations.

During the last century the Alps have been the scene of numerous inventions and achievements, which have shaped and changed the region. And today there are many men and women working in the framework of various initiatives from one end of the Alpine chain to the other to shape the future for and in the Alps.

It is fitting that this international event should take place in L'Argentière-la-Bessée. This small town in the Hautes-Alpes and the surrounding region of Pays des Ecrins have been working for some fifteen years on an innovative process of structural change with a twin focus on tourism and the natural environment and a commitment to sustainable development in partnership with the Les Ecrins National Park.

Based on the principles of the Alpine Convention, AlpWeek 2008 is a follow-up event to the first AlpWeek, which was held in Kranjska Gora in Slovenia in 2004. AlpWeek 2008 is being organised jointly by five pan-Alpine organisations: the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR), the Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) and Club Arc Alpin. The conference is being held under the patronage of the French Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning and is an official event of the French presidency of the Alpine Convention.

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The programme comprises five blocks of presentations and discussion sessions. Each block will be chaired by one of the AlpWeek organisers and an external observer. They will provide an introduction to the subject and generally ensure focussed working. There will be a final round table session, where the observers will pool the proposals and recommendations made in the various programme blocks. The definitive programme for AlpWeek 2008 will be sent out on **4 February 2008**. Registration for the event opens on **17 March 2008**. **Make a note in your diary so that you do not miss it. The conference is a must for anyone with an interest in the future of the Alps!**

Provisional programme for AlpWeek 2008

***** Official opening *****

Wednesday, 11.06.2008, 17.00-19.00 h

Block 1: Innovation: creating and shaping change

- How can we tackle innovation?
- The subject of innovation in an Alpine and European context (trade and industry, climate change, governance...)

Thursday, 12.06.2008, 8.30-10.30 h

Block 2: What can we learn from innovation in the past?

1. Winter sport holidays and white gold

- *What have been the impacts of this innovation on the landscape and the environment?*
- *What have been the benefits for the economy and the social and cultural development of mountain regions?*

2. Establishment of populated protected areas: methods and objectives

- *What nature protection goals were pursued with the introduction of the first instruments of protection in Switzerland?*
- *What innovations were triggered through the creation of national models for nature protection designed to strike a balance between the needs of the natural environment and local development – the case of France*

3. Industrialisation and energy

- *How has industry developed in the Valais and on the basis of which technical innovations?*
- *What have been the impacts of the paper industry on the Département Isère?*

Thursday, 12.06.2008, 11.00-16.30 h

Block 3: Current innovations – mechanisms, applications, challenges

1. What are the challenges to innovation?

- *What innovative strategies are available in response to climate change?*
- *How to overcome the gap between town and country?*
- *How can ecological networks contribute to biodiversity?*

2. Innovation mechanisms – Who ? How ? In which fields?

- *Case studies of innovation-friendly structures*
- *Poster sessions*

Thursday, 12.06.2008, 17.00-19.00 h
Block 4: The local level – innovation in the Pays des Ecrins

1. **An internal view: the local situation in L'Argentière-La-Bessée**
2. **An external view: the local situation in Pays des Ecrins and Hautes-Alpes**
3. **Presentations and interviews with local actors for innovation**

Friday, 13.06.2008, 8.30-12.30 h
Block 5: The measures needed to support and apply sustainable innovations

1. **Investing in software or hardware?**
 - *The balance between hardware and software in the field of transport*
 - *New environment-friendly technologies for mountain huts in the Alps*
 - *Build more power stations or reduce energy consumption?*
 - *Networking, management and the transfer of know-how for territorial intelligence*
2. **ROUND TABLE: Criteria for innovation in support of sustainable development**
 - *What innovations are possible in the use of natural resources and natural spaces?*
 - *Is a different economy the key to sustainable development in the Alps?*
 - *Which social and cultural factors are decisive for sustainable innovation?*

***** Closing remarks *****

<u>Languages</u>	<i>French, Italian, German, Slovene (simultaneous translation)</i>
<u>Venue</u>	<i>L'Argentière-la-Bessée, plenary sessions in the Foyer Culturel</i>
<u>Date</u>	<i>Afternoon of Wednesday, 11 June to Saturday, 14 June 2008</i>
<u>Meals</u>	<i>Lunch and dinner in the Castle, breaks in the Foyer</i>
<u>Accommodation</u>	<i>Bookings and payment via the central reservation office for Pays des Ecrins</i>

