

BITO donates multi-purpose containers for glacier expedition organised by the University of Mainz

Local commitment for global challenge

The topic stirs great interest: together with their professor Hans-Joachim Fuchs, 27 geography students of the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität at Mainz went on an eleven-day expedition to the Swiss canton Wallis. With the help of a method developed at Mainz University, they intend to slow down the dramatic deglaciation of more than 10 cm a day of the Rhône glacier. BITO-Lagertechnik Bittmann GmbH, headquartered at Meisenheim/Germany supported this enterprise by donating several plastic containers with hinged lid which were required to safely transport expensive measuring equipment and materials to an altitude of 2.300 metres.

With the help of metal poles and canvas covers, the students built a 15 m wide and 3 m high test airscoop at the glacier foot tapering off in a flat tongue in order to dam in the cold downslope winds which are to cool the ice. Compared to the problem of global warming, this solution seems to be rather insignificant and has been smiled at by ice and glacier experts. However, this does not bother the students who have successfully simulated this technique in the laboratory. Regardless of wind and weather conditions, the students have recorded some 16.000 temperature data a day which are presently analysed at the University of Mainz.

Several local companies have supported the expedition. Fund raising was part of the course which had no budget for the required materials. After all, apart from professional competence, the students were to train their ability to manage projects in their later career. And perhaps, at least this is the hope of the participants, this project will contribute to preserving glaciers for future generations.

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Picture underlines:



In any weather, the students recorded some 16.000 temperature data a day.



In multi-purpose containers from BITO, the students safely transported damageable measuring equipment to an altitude of 2.300 metres.

Photos: University of Mainz

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