

## Conférence

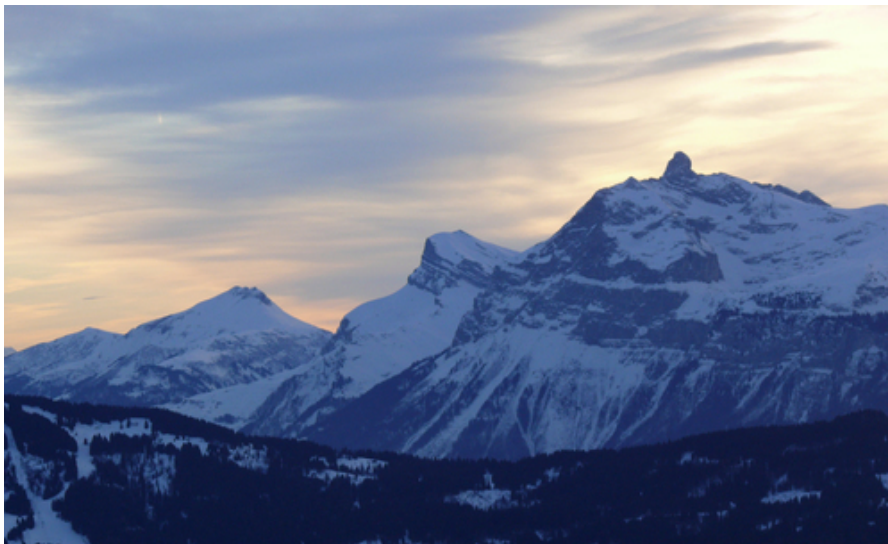
# **Mountains of the World and the Alps Research and Development in a time of Global Change**

**Prof. Bruno Messerli**

*Geographisches Institut, Universität Bern*

**Jeudi 3 décembre 2009, 13h30-15h**

Anthropole, salle 3148



### **La conférence**

In the 1960s national and international mountain research was based on individual initiatives. In the early 1970s started the first scientific international mountain programme which led in the 1980s to the first regional mountain centre in the Himalayas, to a close cooperation of the Alpine countries and to the foundation of an African and Andean Mountain Association. The Rio-Conference 1992 declared the so-called Agenda 21 with the chapter 13 "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development". This new global position was strengthened in a special UN-General Assembly 1997, in the "International Year of Mountains" 2002 and since then in about 6 UN - Mountain Resolutions about the high significance of mountains (climate change, water resources, hazards, biological and cultural diversity, land-use, recreation, etc.). The Alps played a pioneer role with the Alp Convention, followed by the Carpathian Convention, carefully observed in other parts of the world. Looking back: Who played the leading role - science or policy? Looking forward: What will be the role of science?

### **Le conférencier**

1968 full professor, 1978 Director Geographical Institute, President Swiss National Committee for the MAB-Programme, 1986 Rector University of Bern, Member of the Research Council SNF, Dr. h.c. Free Univ. of Berlin, 1996 Prof. em. and President International Geographical Union. Fieldwork in the Alps, Mountains around the Mediterranean Sea, Mountains of Africa until the Equator, Nepal-Himalaya, Atacama-Andes on glacial geomorphology, water resources, mountain hazards, land degradation, mountain ecology and development oriented interdisciplinary natural-social science projects.