Address to AAVSO Participants

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On behalf of the Institut Kurt Bösch (IKB) Foundation Committee, I have the pleasure of welcoming you to Sion for the 1997 AAVSO Spring Meeting in Switzerland.

The IKB is a private institute dedicated primarily to inter- and transdisciplinary research and education at the university level. The Institute is ten years old, and is the result of a sponsor and an idea. The sponsor, Mr. Kurt Bösch, a Swiss manufacturer living in Augsburg, Germany, proposed to finance an education center in Valais as a counterpart of his involvement in the creation of the Augsburg University. The idea was the product of a long brainstorming session conducted by the Education Department of the Canton Valais to enter the university world and cooperate with Swiss and European universities in a double perspective of complementarity and subsidiarity. Short or long courses, seminars and colloquia in medicine, gerontology, palliative care, quality management, alpine researches, systemics, and children's rights, among other subjects, are organized in three- to five-day modules. Each topic includes a variable number (3 to 18) of modules spread over one, two, or three years.

It is an honor to host the AAVSO Spring Meeting in Sion. We hope that this event will trigger astronomy and astronomy teaching at all levels of education.