



## ***Plenary Session 1:*** **Interactions Metropoles – Alps**

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Moderator: Axel Borsdorf (A-Innsbruck)

### **Concept:**

During the International Year of the Mountains, in 2002, Jack Ives asked for a better recognition and understanding of interactions between highlands and lowlands. A very specific form of interaction takes place in the Alps between the mountain regions and their forelands between the mountain regions, which is characterised by primary production, tourism industry and the absence of metropolisation in the mountains and metropoles like Munich, Vienna, Milano, Torino, Marseille and Lyon in the forelands.

Session 1 of Forum Alpinum 2010 will outline the reverse structure of the larger alpine region and some kinds of interactions between mountains and lowlands. Mountains play an important role providing ecosystem services (water, energy, fresh air, biodiversity, leisure amenities and more) to the metropolitan population. The peri-alpine metropolises offer jobs (outside agriculture and tourism), a prime retail trade offer, services, access to the international air traffic and other benefits to the alpine population. This structure can be complementary and well-balanced, but it can also develop in a un-balanced way that weakens the mountain locations. Regional planning and regional policy therefore is necessary to avoid "alpine fallows" and to enhance sustainable developments in mountains and lowlands.

The topic will be dealt in a plenary session with six presentations of 15 min each and an introduction of about 20 min. After the coffee break four workshops will discuss the main topics and problems. They are prepared by a workshop leader, who will start the workshop with an impulse of no longer than 15 min.