



Press release

Date: August 20, 2014

Reappointment of the Eawag Director

On application of the ETH Board, the Federal Council has reappointed the Director of Eawag, Janet Hering, for another four years. Her third term of office will start on 1 January 2015.

Under Janet Hering's leadership, Eawag has consolidated its position as one of the world's leading water research institutes. Eawag's scientific excellence manifests itself in the very high regard in which its publications about issues like water contamination with chemicals, the removal of contaminants or potable water supply are held. In Switzerland, Janet Hering reinforced Eawag's networking links with actors in the field of water protection. Numerous cooperation ventures with firms, water suppliers, sewage plants and cantonal and federal offices testify to this. The "Swiss Watercourses" programme and various projects around Lake Geneva are cases in point. Eawag combines natural, engineering and social sciences in order to conduct comprehensive research into water and bodies of water. The insights thus gained promote the balance between the demands made by man and by nature.

Janet Hering is a chemist and a reputable researcher in the field of water treatment processes for the conversion of contaminated water into potable water and in the field of the biochemical behaviour of trace metals. She obtained a doctorate in oceanography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1988 and worked as a Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) from 1996. In 2007, she was appointed Director of Eawag in combination with a Chair of Environmental Biogeochemistry at ETH Zurich. From 2007 to 2010, she represented the ETH Domain's four research institutes (PSI, WSL, Empa and Eawag) on the ETH Board. Since 2010, she has also been Professor of Environmental Chemistry at EPFL. Janet Hering is a member of various renowned national and international bodies in the field of water.

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