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Installation of the Earth's highest located Climate Station Profiles

R. Lazar, D. Eckart, A. Kellerer-Pirklbauer

Institute of Geography and Regional Science, University of Graz, Austria
(david.eckart@uni-graz.at / Fax: +43-316-380-9886 / Phone: +43-316-380-8896)

Beginning with 2004 a network of climate stations has been installed in tropic and subtropic mountains by members of the Institute of Geography and Regional Science, University of Graz. The intention of this network is to reduce the deficit of reliable climate data from high-altitude areas in the lower latitudes. Each station consists of a temperature-humidity datalogger (ranges -55 to +85°C, 0 to 100%) protected by a radiation shield. Until summer 2007, five profiles have been set up, four in the Andes (Luillaillaco, Aconcagua, Nevado de Cachi and Parinacota) and one in the Indian Himalaya (Chamser Kangri). The first station was established at Luillaillaco (6739m asl, 24°43'S, 68°33'W) in February 2004. The highest elevated one was installed in February 2006 at Aconcagua (6955m asl, 32°39'S, 70°01'W). It consists of three stations located at the summit plateau, at 4360m asl (base camp) and at 5580m asl. A fourth station - run by local authorities - is located at 2900m asl. Thus, the profile extends over a vertical distance of 4000m within a horizontal distance of 20km. In August 2006 a profile on the west-facing slope of Chamser Kangri (6634m asl, 32°56'N, 78°27'E) in the East of Ladakh (India) was established with three stations at the summit, at 5700m asl. and at 4500 m asl. (Lake Tso Moriri). In 2007 another two profiles have been installed in South America; one at Nevado de Cachi in the Cordillera Oriental, Argentina (24°56'S, 66°23'W), consisting of the Hoygard summit station (6214m asl) and a slope station at 5000m asl. Due to bad weather conditions, the second one (at Parinacota, Bolivia/Chile, 6334 m asl, 18°10'S, 69°09'W) has not been finished. At the moment only one station is situated at 5700m asl. A station transfer to the summit of Parincota is planned for summer 2008. A final profile will be installed at El Misti

(5880m asl., 16°18'S, 71°25'W) in Peru in 2008.