Introduction

The year 2004 was a year of changes in the organisation of Tarfala Research Station. In the spring the faculty of natural sciences at Stockholm University approved a strategic investment at Tarfala Research Station. We were allowed to expand the staff, make investments and increase the accessibility of data. This programme was launched on July 1. The new organisation included a deputy director, doc. Gunhild Rosqvist, a data coordinator, prof. Peter Jansson, a new economy administrator, Carina Henriksson, and a new superintendent. The new superintendentship was manned on August 16 by Henrik Törnberg. Mart Nyman who has been our technical supporter for many years ended his employment on September 30 and Månika Henkow who also has supported us for many years ended her administrative duties by June 30.

During the autumn 2004 Sara Frödin and Martial Duguay dug into old data and made them significantly more visible for the research community and soon available at our web site.

The scientific success this year was highlighted by the hydro-mechanical project described in this report and the two doctoral dissertations at Stockholm University extensively based on Tarfala data. Per Klingbjer on glaciers and climate, and Rickard Pettersson on radar applications in thermodynamic studies on glaciers.

To fulfill this year of changes I resigned from the directorship by the end of the year. The successive director is Gunhild Rosqvist. I will hereby use the opportunity to thank all contributors and friends to the success of Tarfala over years. I chaired the directorship in 1996 and the first five years were dominated by the build up of the Institute for Space and Environmental Research in Kiruna (MRI-CIRC), and on EU financed programmes. It was a period of expansion both in personnel and in research activities. The years 2000-2002 were dedicated to the renovation and expansion of the station. The most prominent changes were the construction of a fashionable high standard lecture hall and the expansion of the lab-facilities on the station. The last years have been focussed on finding a sustainable economic solution for the monitoring programme and for the maintenance of the station. This is a difficult task which is far from solved. But the work is initiated and the struggle was significantly promoted by the generous effort by our faculty. I will now go back to my own research projects but having spent about 30 field seasons at the station, and having current ongoing projects at Tarfala I will strongly support Tarfala also in the future. With these words I wish to say thank you and I wish the new crew all the best.