

50 years of the NVE's Glaciology Office Oslo, Norway, 12 January 2012



Olav Dybwadskog, Randi Pytte, Wibjørn Karlén and Gunnar Østrem attacking the cake.



Olav Dybwadskog, Liss Andreassen, Bjarne Kjøllmoen and Kjetil Melvold at the poster exhibition.

The 50th anniversary of Brekontoret was celebrated on 12 January 2012 at the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) in Oslo. Brekontoret ('the Glaciology Office') was established in 1962 by Professor Gunnar Østrem. Its mission was to collect and analyse data from Norwegian glaciers in order to plan the hydropower development in the Jostedalbreen area as well as to carry out glaciological research in Jotunheimen. The office is now called Section for Glaciers, Ice and Snow and employs 16 professionals.

The Section for Glaciers, Ice and Snow at NVE operates a long-term national glaciological observation programme, which includes mass balance observations at 15 glaciers, front variations at about 40 glaciers and area change for all glaciers on mainland Norway. Measurements and assessments of ice elevation, displacement, thickness and melt, as well as glacier lake outburst floods, are also carried out. Glaciological research is a main pillar of the Section, including operations of the Svartisen Subglacial Laboratory.



Gunnar Østrem cutting the cake.



Rune Engeset and Bjørn Wold giving a presentation.

The laboratory is the only place worldwide where scientists are able to carry out observations and experiments underneath a glacier 200 m thick. The Section is a partner in the top-level research centre SVALI (Stability and Variations of Arctic Land Ice). The glaciological activities at the Section are not restricted to glaciers: It is responsible for developing a Norwegian avalanche-forecasting centre, snow hydrology for flood forecasting and hydropower production, lake-ice warnings, lake-ice mapping and temperature observations in the Norwegian rivers and lakes.

The anniversary was celebrated by more than 50 invited participants with a series of presentations, a poster exhibition and a dinner with joyful speeches and anecdotes from the past 50 years. Presentations were given by Michael Zemp (WGMS), Magnús Magnússon (IGS), Jack Kohler (NPI) and Olav Dybwadskog, as well as Randi Pytte Asvall, Jim Bogen, Morten Johnsrud and Rune Engeset from NVE.

The event was organised by Liss Andreassen, Bjarne Kjøllmoen, Nils Haakensen, Rigmor Hagunn and Gunnar Østrem.



Magnús Magnússon and Jack Kohler comparing ties at the dinner.

Rune Engeset
Head of Section for Glaciers, Ice and Snow