

# 30th Anniversary of IDHEAP

Lausanne, July 5, 2011

Dr. Dr. h. c. Barbara Haering, President

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Madame la Conseillère d'Etat,  
Mister President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

For thirty years IDHEAP stuck to its mission to improve the quality of public administrations. The training we offer master students as well as civil servants, the research projects we work on, and the consulting we deliver support this overarching mission. Our passion for the public sector is deliberate and there is a clear vision behind it.

It's the vision of a public sector that serves and supports the individual citizen, private companies, cultural organizations, and, thus, our country taken as a whole to develop in a sustainable way.

Based on my own experience as a former politician but also as a researcher and consultant, I know that whenever I'm looking for experts working on grand challenges, such as environmental or social security issues with a long-term perspective and a comprehensive view, I will find them in public administrations – in spite of short-term excitements of politics or immediate shareholders' interests expressed by the economic sector. The quality of public administrations, therefore, is decisive for the development of a country. Ladies and gentlemen, that's our vision behind our mission.

The fact that Switzerland has just been rated world-champion in innovation is really a credit to good governance and to the performance of Swiss administrations on the local, cantonal, and national level. Moreover, the

way public administrations serve our citizens is crucial for the cohesion of our small but multicultural country facing global challenges.

Throughout the last thirty years, IDHEAP has deepened its insights, enlarged its scope of activities, and sharpened its profile – striving to become a leading competence centre for research, consulting, and training of public administrations. Dear colleagues: you succeeded! Congratulations!

However, ladies and gentlemen, IDHEAP is more than simply a renown university institute. "Més que un club" as they would say in Barcelona. IDHEAP stands by its vision and mission. Moreover, IDHEAP is not only concerned with measuring its scientific output by the science citation index, but also with the impact of research findings and trainings in practice.

Therefore, IDHEAP is a point of reference for public administrations in Switzerland and beyond. I'm honoured to serve as your president and it's my responsibility to contribute also in the years to come to the successful future of the School!

Happy birthday! And thank you for your attention,

Barbara Haering