Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems

**CATCOS Project**

**Objective**

Improve decision-making to mitigate and adapt to climate change based on high-quality and long-term climate observations.

**Approach**

Strengthen climate observation capacities through close collaboration between Swiss and national partners from developing and emerging countries to fill gaps in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

**Duration**

Phase 1       September 2011 - March 2014
Phase 2       April 2014 - December 2016

**Swiss Partners**

Funding: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Coordination: Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss
Implementing partners: Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), University of Fribourg (UFR), University of Zurich (UZH)

**International Partner**

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Strengthen Climate Observation Capacities**

CATCOS develops capacities to monitor the essential climate variables aerosols, greenhouse gases and glaciers in ten countries by providing tailor-made measuring equipment and training to local operators and scientists. The resulting high-quality data are made freely available at the designated international data centers.

**Enhance Regional Cooperation**

CATCOS supports regional cooperation through three workshops organized in the context of the GFCS. These engage providers and users in strategic discussions regarding the use and benefit of climate services, with a particular focus on the requirements for high quality climate observations.

**Promote the Use of Climate Data**

To support the sustainable continuation of the measurements, targeted communication on local, regional, and global scale makes key users in partner countries aware of the use and benefits of high-quality climate data. An innovative mobile application allows easy access to glacier information in support of the decision-making process.