



REGIERUNG
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTERIUM FÜR
INFRASTRUKTUR, WIRTSCHAFT UND SPORT

Grussworte von Regierungschef-Stellvertreter Dr. Daniel Risch

Jugendweltmeisterschaft im Eisklettern

5. Januar 2018

Malbun

Geschätzte nationale Delegationen

Sehr geehrte Präsidentin des Liechtensteiner Alpenvereins

Liebes Organisationsteam

Liebe Athletinnen und Athleten

Geschätzte Damen und Herren

Wir eröffnen heute die erste Jugend-Weltmeisterschaft im Eisklettern in Malbun. Und ich freue mich sehr, die Delegationen aus 13 Nationen begrüßen zu dürfen. Es erfordert viel Arbeit, so eine Weltmeisterschaft auf die Beine zu stellen. Deshalb im Vorfeld ein grosses Dankeschön an den Liechtensteiner Alpenverein – speziell an das Team des Ressorts “Eisturm Malbun”, das den Eiskletterturm in vielen ehrenamtlichen Stunden unterhält und gemeinsam mit der Internationalen Union der Alpinismusvereinigungen (UIAA) die Durchführung dieser Weltmeisterschaft ermöglicht hat. Euer Freiwilligen-Engagement ist von grossem Wert. Ganz herzlichen Dank dafür.

Da rund 80 Sportlerinnen und Sportler aus der ganzen Welt hier versammelt sind, werde ich nun ins Englisch wechseln. NOCH ist der Liechtensteiner Dialekt ja keine Weltsprache.

Dear representatives of the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)

Dear national delegations,

Dear athletes, Dear guests

Welcome to Liechtenstein – or as we say in these parts, “Hoi metanand”! It is wonderful that so many young sports enthusiasts from around the world have found their way to our beautiful Malbun. This evening we are opening not only the first Youth World Championships in ice climbing, but indeed the very first Youth World Championships in Liechtenstein. It is a great pleasure for me as Minister of Sports to welcome so many young athletes to this historic event.

Few of you will have heard much about Liechtenstein and, for most of you, it will be your first time here. But, when you return home after these next few days, brimming with enthusiasm, I hope that it will not be your last visit to our lovely country.

As you might know: Liechtenstein only covers 160 km² and has about 37,000 inhabitants. This makes us the sixth smallest nation in the world.

But our geographical size is deceptive. For what our country lacks in size, it makes up for in its rich sports scene. And our athletes are also out to prove their skills on the international stage. If you follow skiing closely, you'll no doubt already have heard, for example, of our speed specialist Tina Weirather, to mention just one name among many.

That said, I am not here today to talk about skiing, but about your passion: ice climbing. This is a fledgling sport, particularly in Liechtenstein. The first ice climbing tower was inaugurated in Malbun, in December 2008. At the time, the initiators of the Liechtenstein Alpine Association wedged tree trunks into each other to create the ten-metre tall scaffolding. But because of great interest on the part of the general public, it soon became clear that the ice climbing tower had to be higher. So the scaffolding was replaced – first by a 20-metre high crane boom, and then by a solid metal construction in the autumn of 2015. The ice climbing tower was supplemented by a new wooden dry tooling wall and a so-called “gibbet” – a steel beam with climbing elements. The “dizzy wing wall” now enables you to enjoy even more challenging dry tooling routes.

To be ready for staging the World Junior Championship on the ice climbing tower, the Liechtenstein Alpine Association enlarged the wooden construction and added intermediate securing points last September. The result you can now see in front of you: an impressive ice climbing tower, which offers up to nine climbing routes and additional challenges thanks to its 3D climbing elements.

This ice climbing tower has already been the centre of various events, starting from the Swiss Cup in ice climbing and the Ice Nights in Malbun right through to an aerial acrobatics show at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympic World Winter Games. Now it faces its biggest event: the World Youth Championships in ice climbing. And you are the stars of this weekend, ladies and gentlemen. May the coming days be filled with the spirit of fairness and respect!

When I look up to the 20 metres of the ice climbing tower, I must say, I admire your courage and your skill. I'm very much looking forward to seeing how you master the challenges. And I'm certain that you will dazzle me with your skills. So now I wish you the best of success for the upcoming competitions – and above all, the required degree of reason and calm.

For as German sport climbing pioneer and expedition climber Wolfgang Güllich once said:
“The most important muscle in climbing is your brain!”

I hope you have an exciting and eventful stay in Liechtenstein. All the best.

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.