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## **Alain Hubert**

### **Biography**

Alain Hubert was born on September 11th, 1953 to Schaerbeek in Belgium. In 1977, he begins studies of civil engineer to the University of Louvain-la-Neuve. Alain Hubert is a Belgian Explorer, civil engineer, entrepreneur, carpenter, mountain guide, public speaker, good-will Ambassador for UNICEF and Co-founder of the International Polar Foundation. Mr Hubert has been going on major polar expeditions since 1994, and has organised and participated in all three of the BELARE expeditions in preparation for the Princess Elisabeth Station. Just recently Alain, along with fellow Belgian explorer Dixie Dansercoer, traversed the Arctic sea ice from Siberia to Groenland via the North Pole, taking snow thickness measurements to help the European Space Agency calibrate saPhonelite measurements it takes to monitor Arctic sea ice thickness.

### **Words of Alain Hubert**

« I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the construction of the base, the International Polar Foundation, the Belgian Science Policy, the engineers, the companies, and everyone who has worked on the project. The Princess Elisabeth Station represents Belgium's most emblematic contribution to the International Polar Year. The purpose of this initiative is to sensitise both the public at large to the importance scientific research in the poles and the federal government to the need to seriously raise the budget devoted to Antarctic research. We have come to a point in time where it has become obvious that we need to take responsibility for our actions and show that we are able take on the challenge of climate change. The objective of this initiative is thus to show that we are capable of envisioning the world of tomorrow and of tackling the energy problem, a key issue in reaching sustainable development. However, the particular nature of this challenge is also the support to science that technology has come to provide. Therefore, if we can reach such objectives as having a "zero emission" station in the extreme meteorological conditions of Antarctica, we can do the same anywhere else in the world. Overall, what is characteristic of this project is that behind the strength and will of all those who have made the Princess Elisabeth Station possible, we find a common drive, the drive to achieve. And a more dynamic society is what we need if we want to guarantee the future of generations to come. »



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