

Internship report

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Bachelor Thesis: Requirements of a training and research lab in India

As part of the Indo-German-Cooperation of pmIndia I got the opportunity of a scholarship to spend four months in the Indian university town Manipal located in the southwest of India. The aim was to write my bachelor thesis on the upcoming project of a printing manufacturer to establish a training and research center at the Department of Printing and Media Engineering.

Before I left to India, fears and doubts of this decision were a part of my daily life. As I knew, India is special and not comparable to the life in western countries. This led me being very excited till my departure from Munich on the 1st of April. By sitting in the plane suddenly my fears were gone and I started looking forward to what was waiting for me.

After over 24 hours of travel I finally arrived in Manipal where I got a warm welcome by the Indian and my German fellow students, who were at the time studying abroad at the Manipal University as part of the double-degree master's program. On the same day I also met Mr. Dr. Prof. Prakash Shetty, the Head of the Department and most of the staff members, especially my supervisor Mr. Nagaraj Kamath. With the help of the department and the students, I finished all the organizational matters at the University very fast.

The communication was never a problem. Everybody at the university was able to speak and to understand English proper. In January 2010 I made a 5-week long language course of Hindi at the Chemnitz University of Technology. With this knowledge I also was able to understand people a little bit and also to introduce myself to people who do not knew English very well. Hindi is not necessary in Manipal for a foreigner, but it will be very helpful in some situation.

Soon I could focus on my bachelor thesis by doing the first disposal and time schedule of the project in accordance with my Indian supervisor and my German supervisor Ms. Conny Schuhmann. After this I started to research for literature. I was also able to join the library of the Manipal Institute of Technology as well as the own library of the Department of Printing and Media Engineering.

As the time schedule of the project was a bit behind the original plan, I was not able to meet someone who was directly involved in the project during my time in Manipal. My supervisor Mr. Nagaraj Kamath, however, was helping me as much as possible and with his support I always knew about the current status of the project.

After finishing the literature research and working into my topic, I started analyzing the printing market, in connection with demands and possibilities of an upcoming training center in India as well as the needs of the project. In comparison to the printing market I searched for possible competitors and already existing similar projects in India. Apart of this I made a rating of the location in and around of Manipal, by estimate the infrastructure, the climate and other conditions of the Department of Printing and Media Engineering.

Later I started analyzing the possible premises in the building of the Department, made measurements, created layout plans and made possible concepts of arranging the equipment for the rooms of pre press, press and post press. In the end I compared the different scenarios and gave recommendations of realizing this project in Manipal and gave advices for the future of the training center.

In July I got the opportunity to attend a training course at the Print Media Academy of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG in the city of Chennai. This one-week course gave me some new knowledge, a lot of practical experience and was helpful for my bachelor-thesis by seeing a training center in perfection.

The week in Chennai also showed me that Manipal is different to most of the big Indian cities. Manipal is a very clean and calm place to stay. The city, which is a university town, has a great infrastructure with nice hostels in and flats around the campus. There are many restaurants with a wide range of tasty dishes, and there are also beautiful places to hang out. For example, the beach is just 10 km far away from Manipal and good accessible by bus. All in all traveling in India with bus and train is not as complicated as I expected. There are a lot more places worth seeing in and outside of Manipal. The auto rickshaw, a three-wheeler and a good option to an expensive taxi became my best friend by travelling small distances in a city.

As a result of organized by myself and the steady progress of my bachelor-thesis I got some spare time at the end of my stay. I took the chance to see some of the popular places in the North of India, before I left on the 1st of August 2010 back to Germany.

All in all I'll never regret my decision to come to Manipal. India is an incredible country with nice and friendly people, a great countryside and so much contrast to a country like Germany. It was a very good experience and made me see life in a different way now. I would give everybody the advice to do something like this, whenever they got the option to go to India.

