Report

Sonja Grenz, double degree Master student at Chemnitz University Exchange student at Manipal University, Manipal, India, 01.02.2010-31.06.2010

"The semester in India was one of the best decisions I have ever taken. Beside the job-related advantages I also made a lot of experiences regarding humanity, respect and life in the midst of all kind of cultures and religions. It was enrichment in every sense."



From February till July 2010 we were studying Print- and Media Technology at the University Manipal in India. Excited and with a lot of expectations we were starting at the last day of January to our joint adventure to the other side of the world. The University Manipal and our Indian fellow students were exceeded all our expectations. We were having a lot of fun and experienced several adventures together. I remember with a smile the Cricket training lessons, ginger tea at the Manipal River, sunset at the Manipal Endpoint or pizza-picknick at the Hanging Bridge.

The University was always exerted to fulfil all our needs. All teacher and students were more than friendly and we were getting all help we needed. The hostels were ok and we could eat all kind of food in Manipal without any problems. Beside the classes

it was also possible to do sports or to visit different cultural events organized by the University Manipal. Compared to the rest of India is Manipal a very sheltered and modern location in India. That was a good preparation for our further trips through India.

After the semester ends we started to a round trip through India. Well prepared and acclimatized we were going by train and bus through south India and later we extended the trip to north India. On this trip we were making different experiences. We were having funny encounters with friendly and nosy people and also we met unfriendly and sceptic people. We learned how to ride busses and trains which are totally crowded and learned how to live with the aggressive bagging and the ubiquitously try to cheat tourists.

Never mind we were visiting a lot of wonderful places, beautiful tea plantations in the mountains, impressive temples and forts, gigantic statues of gods, palaces and beaches. My personal favourite was the visit of the Taj Mahal in Delhi. This wonderful place sends out a kind of mystic flair of a long-forgotten time.

All things considered was the trip to India one of my most intensive experiences in life. Living in a total foreign country, culture and religion demanded a lot of respect and tolerance, things which we forget to often. The semester in India was one of the best decisions I have ever taken.