

I stepped into Germany, the land of ideas on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It was my first trip abroad, the excitement that rushed inside me was enough to overcome my tiredness, jet lag etc. Susan Feist, my buddy through Patent programme welcomed me to Chemnitz – the city of modernity and made me comfortable in Zietenstraße 70, my home for the next two months. I could not have asked for a better start – The people I met in pmTUC were extremely friendly, it helped me throw away all my inhibitions of being in a new place. Mrs. Conny Schumann and my buddy Susan guided me with all the initial formalities – city registration, travel pass, Mensa card etc. The first meeting with my guide Mr. Zillger was one of the most interesting discussions I have ever had. Since I was from a chemical engineering background, Mr. Zillger patiently took time to explain the concepts of printing technology and introduce me to the topic of my project – “Semiconductor formulation for Printed Photovoltaic Cells”.

Adapting to the new place, food and exploring Chemnitz kept me occupied during the first week. Thanks to Susan and her friends, the long conversations and barbecues with them were unending fun.



I loved the project I was working upon, my hard work, resources from TU Chemnitz library and Mr. Zillger’s guidance helped me put up a good show in every weekly review . The lab practices, rules to be followed were extremely different; nevertheless I enjoyed my work the most due to these changes. My project deliverables progressed in a rapid pace, this gave me a boost to aim higher and perform better, I would say these were my best two months at work.

Weekends were all the more enjoyable – I visited Dresden, Leipzig, Prague (Czech Republic) and so many other places with my Indian friends. A few glimpses from those trips:



Prague, Central



Saxony Swiss, Dresden



Near Prague Castle

As the end of my internship was approaching, my work schedule became all the more hectic. Nonetheless, I was able to bring my project to a complete closure and with Mr. Zillger's words of appreciation on my last day of work, I gathered my internship was a highly successful one. Professor Hübler spared his time to give me a few tips on my career and this I would call one of my best take aways from pmTUC.

I wished for a longer stay. But, even this short span of two months away from my home country had taught me a lot – I learnt to manage money, people, crisis and change. I landed in Chennai airport as a better independent confident individual with hopes of visiting my teacher Germany many more times in future.