

pmTUC launches Representative Office India in Mumbai

With more than 75 official guests from Germany and India, the Institute for Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University of Technology [pmTUC] opened its Representative Office India in Mumbai on 25th June 2010. Basically, the Office shall serve as a platform for cooperation projects and international activities of German and Indian companies of the print media sector. Additionally, it shall help to coordinate the Institute's own India projects more efficiently.

The pmTUC has been active on the Indian subcontinent since 2004. Since 2008 these activities are carried out under the name "pmIndia". In cooperation with Manipal University in Southern India, the institute has, for instance, established a double degree Master's programme as well as a scholarship programme for the exchange of German and Indian Bachelor students. Both projects are supported by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) with means from the BMBF (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research). Additionally, a bilateral research project on standardised planning concepts for Indian newspaper printing houses was completed successfully. Further projects with Indian participants are planned. "By now we have also gained a good reputation for the organisation of conferences in India," says Prof. Dr. Arved Hübler, director of the pmTUC and initiator of the India activities.

The good links that the pmTUC has established to the Indian printing industry and its broad network offer an enormous potential, which is also appreciated by the pmTUC's students. Sonja Grenz is convinced of the importance of international qualifications: "After graduation I worked in the industry for some time, but I soon decided to add the Indo-German Master offered by the pmTUC. My stay in India did not just improve my professional skills, but also helped me a lot on a personal level. Now, I feel much better prepared for the demands of the

globalised working world." The student added that she could even imagine to continue her career in India. "It is very fascinating to work in this seminal market," says Grenz.

According to Prof. Hübler the new Office shall not only be a contact point for potential students from India and Germany. It shall mainly serve as a central platform for economic contacts between German and Indian companies of the sector. The medium-sized company Chromasens GmbH with HQ in Constance, has already benefited from the numerous contacts of the pmIndia network. "Without the work of Chemnitz University we would not have been able to break into the Indian market so fast," explains Markus Schnitzlein, CEO of the German printing technology supplier. "Especially the conferences have been an effective platform to present Chromasens GmbH and get into contact with Indian partners."

Head of the Office is Kiran Prayagi, one of India's leading consultants for the printing industry. "With more than 20 years of experience in the sector and many contacts to industrial partners, education and research institutions, Mr. Prayagi is a very competent partner," states Prof. Dr. Arved Hübler. SS

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Indian interns from Manipal in Germany

From January to May 2010, two Bachelor students from Manipal University have been in Germany for a four-month industry internship. During their stay the students worked on their Bachelor Thesis. In this issue, you can find the report by Ashma Gupta, who was intern at manroland AG in Augsburg.

AWESOME was the first word that I said when I landed in Germany. It was not just for the fact that I was seeing snowfall for the first time in my life or the breathtaking view of the airport in the night, but also as it was the first time that I realized it was for real that I would be doing my internship at manroland.



A dream of all the printing students was coming true for me.

A lot of excitement and some apprehension marked the initial days of my stay. It wasn't a long time before I realized that I would not just survive, but I would enjoy my stay for 41/2 months as every person we met did their best to make us comfortable and help us in any possible manner. Despite the language barrier, I could not help myself admiring the people who gave time to figure out what we were trying to ask, be it simply the way to some place or understanding something. It was this feeling that made me comfortable in the foreign land.

And then as my internship began at manroland AG, Augsburg, I felt lucky to work under the guidance of highly professional and knowledgeable people, who I could feel loved what they were doing. It was the time for me to learn as much as I could from the experts and take full advantage of the opportunity that came my way.

With the one-month language course at Chemnitz University it was another good experience, as that was when I felt that there were many more like me who were struggling to learn the language. Even though it was just a basic course, it made me confident that with what I had learnt I could go around and be sure of finding my way back.

Apart from this, for a person like me who is fond of travelling but has never been out of India, this time was a lifetime opportunity to literally see the world. And I am happy that I made the best out of this. Seeing places in Germany and other neighbouring countries not only made me learn a lot about different cultures, but made me grow as an individual. India and Germany have a totally different culture, but what surprised me and at the same time made me feel proud, was the fact that everyone I met, knew before I could tell that I was from India. And it felt nice to be a part of good exchange of culture.

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I am thankful to everyone at Chemnitz University and manroland AG for not just the opportunity but also for making sure that my stay was a comfortable one. Even though I think it is really helpful to know the language and I wish that I knew the language, I nevertheless, because of the people here, did not only manage but managed it really well. AG

News

» Three students from Jadavpur University in Chemnitz

On 1st June 2010, three Bachelor students from Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India, started a two-month internship at the pmTUC. The interns are involved in different research projects in the field of printed electronics. Their stay is supported by the WISE programme of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Back home in India, they are studying Printing Engineering in their 6th semester. SS

» New contact person for pmIndia activities at the pmTUC

Since July 2010, Dr. Gert Schlegel has taken up a new position as junior professor at Bern University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. His responsibilities with regard to the pmIndia project have been taken over by Mrs. Conny Schuhmann. Mrs. Schuhmann has studied Business Engineering in Chemnitz. Since graduation in 2006 she is working as project manager at the pmTUC. SS



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