

## Research network journey supported by Humboldt Foundation

On the occasion of the 2nd Indo-German Frontiers of Engineering Symposium organized by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in June 2010, Dr. Heiko Kempa of pmTUC had the opportunity to meet well-known teachers and researchers from different Indian institutes. In September 2010, he was visiting some of them at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Mumbai as well as at the TATA Institute of Fundamental Research Mumbai during a journey, supported by the Humboldt Foundation. At these institutes a number of meetings took place to identify common scientific interests and to exchange details on scientific and technological capabilities in order to evaluate the potential for future collaborations. These objectives were extraordinarily successfully fulfilled, in some cases the expectations were even exceeded. Particularly strong overlap of research interests was identified with the groups in Kanpur and Mumbai, which are active in organic and printed electronics. There, an impressive level of expertise and equipment relevant for the field exists. Broad research on organic transistors and circuits, organic solar cells, material science and processing was presented. However, also in the other institutes visited, activities with great potential related to the field are ongoing. Hence, besides strengthening and establishment of personal relationships that cannot be overestimated in importance, many issues for collaborations could be identified, which will lead to new research cooperations in the near future. *HK*



companies as well as of HP India took the opportunity to give an overview on digital and other printing solutions available in India and beyond and to provide insights into their latest developments. Interesting talks on problems and solutions in packaging were delivered by speakers of Hindustan Unilever and Robatech India. As international guests, H.N. Dharavath and P. Schlosser of the University of Wisconsin-Stout (USA) were talking on colour management in digital printing. Within a track on printed electronics, talks on various aspects of this field were given by A. Hübler, H. Kempa and C. Schuhmann of the pmTUC as well as P.N. Hrisheeksha and R. Nayak of MIT. The conference was attended by delegates from the industry, members of MIT and a significant number of students, who were benefiting most from the large amount of information that was delivered. As usual at this kind of event, conversations beside the official programme were as interesting as the talks. Especially interactions of students with delegates from industry and academia were found to be useful. *HK*

## First double degree awarded

It was a premiere: Minu Karumanthra Peethambaran was the first to receive the double Master's degree from Chemnitz University of Technology in Germany and from the Indian Manipal University. The 23-year-old student



of Print Media Technology is the first to have completed the two-year double degree Master's programme in Manipal and Chemnitz. "The cooperation with Manipal University, one of the top technical universities in India, goes back to 2004 and is one of our most important contacts abroad", says Prof. Dr. Hübler, director of the Institute for Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University. "We have been offering the double degree programme for two years now. Those students who choose this option spend their 2nd semester at our Indian partner university. Students from Manipal spend their 3rd and 4th semester in Chemnitz and also write their Master's thesis here." The study period abroad gives students from both countries insights into different teaching and research approaches

## Kodak digit'10 Print Congress in Manipal



Kodak digit'10 Print Congress was a three-day international conference on digital printing held on 29th, 30th September and 1st of October, 2010 at Manipal University. The event was jointly organised by Manipal Institute of Technology - Printing and Media Department, Manipal Press Ltd. and the Institute for Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University of Technology and sponsored by Kodak India, Ricoh India and Heidelberg India. Speakers of the sponsoring

as well as into a different culture. "It was one of the best decisions of my life to opt for the double degree programme. Chemnitz University enjoys an outstanding reputation in the field of printing technology. Here I got the opportunity to contribute to future-oriented research. My German-Indian degree will certainly pay off in the course of my career", says Minu Karumanthra Peethambaran about her year in Germany: Prof. Hübler agrees that graduates can score with a double degree: "This is a qualification much asked for, especially in companies that are operating on a global scale. After all, India's economic importance is growing considerably and German companies are more and more in need of staff that has experience with the country, its inhabitants and culture."

On September 17th, 2010, Minu Karumanthra Peethambaran has solemnly been awarded her degrees during the 1st India Opportunity Seminar at Chemnitz University of Technology. Two professors from Manipal, Prof. Radhakrishna S. Aithal and Prof. Prakash Shetty, also joined the event. Apart from the celebration of the first double degree graduate, the seminar entitled "Indian High Potentials - Germany's Future?" also included presentations by German and Indian partners, referring to the topical issue of shortage of skilled labour in Germany. "The demographic development in Germany, and especially in Saxony, will lead to serious social and economic problems in the foreseeable future due to the lack of a large-enough generation of young people. In order to counter this development it will be necessary to also recruit foreign experts", explains Hübler about the background of the seminar. "Our double degree programme is certainly a step in the right direction." SS



## Delegation journey to Delhi & Mumbai

Between 20th and 26th September 2010, Mrs. Schuhmann and Mr. Prayagi, coordinators of the pmIndia activities, took part



in a German delegation trip organised by iMove, an initiative of the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) dealing with international marketing of vocational training. The focus of the trip was on the Indian education and training system. The group visited a wide range of decision makers such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), discussing the objectives of India's education & training policy and possibilities of cooperation. The German delegation also got an insight into state-of-the-art vocational training system at an Industrial Training Institute in New Delhi as well as Don Bosco. During the last two days of the journey, the participants went to the "World Didac India 2010" fair in Mumbai. Here they got the possibility to meet further companies and discuss their products at the German pavilion. All attendees got a lot of new ideas and are well prepared to go for further cooperation.

Background: At the moment India's total capacity in skill development is around 4 million people, but more than 12 million young people enter the job market every year. To meet the future demands, an eight-fold increase in capacity is required until 2022 (source: NSDC). Therefore, India is looking for cooperation in the skill development sector. CS

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