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It all started as a dream when I registered in Manipal University for my B.E in printing technology and came to know about this wonderful scholarship opportunity. Germany is a country well-known and recommended for its technical expertise, some exceptional scientists and sophisticated machinery. And the best of it all, I was going to be a part of this and much more: new experiences like making new friends and coming to terms with the German way of living. It wasn't easy though, and I had to strain everything out of my nerves to get this coveted opportunity. Now, I don't repent any bit of it. Coming to Germany made me realize one truly important thing – to stay organized and punctual in all walks of life. It's an experience that has been influential in making me understand some things which I hadn't even thought of before in my life, at both levels –professional and personal. The spotlessly clean environment, the timely arrival of trams etc., spot on punctuality among people and unmatched way of organization of almost everything! Top of it all was the wonderful student life here. Initially, it wasn't easy to get to know many people as there were holidays for students but once I've shifted to the mixed community living, everything changed – for the best. I made many friends, enjoyed partying in student clubs and went for trips and places that would have been unknown to me, had it not been for these people. It was one of the best mixes of working and enjoying life that I had seen here.

One of the major highlights for this trip, and for which I consider myself very lucky, was getting the chance to visit DRUPA – 2012 at Düsseldorf. It was here that I got amazed with what printing is all about. I knew for long that drupa is a landmark event for everyone related with printing industry and they give their best shot at displaying what the newer technologies have to offer. However, visiting drupa on my own now made me realize that everything, what I had heard about the event, was indeed true. The biggest names of them all – Heidelberg, Komori, KBA, Manroland, Kodak and a lot more coming together and showcasing what innovation is all about. Our own Chemnitz University booth was also filled with people amazed to see loudspeakers printed on paper playing some really good music! And there was a whole tree with leaves made of printed organic solar cells generating 25 volts of potential! It has rightly been said in their tagline 'one world – one drupa' because it is one unique exposure for the whole world to experience.

I would like to thank Chemnitz University for providing me a wonderful stay here and giving me the professional exposure like nowhere else and all my German mates who didn't make me feel lonely for even a single day and put up with me despite having the language barrier. All in all, I had the time of my life and made memories, which I know, I will cherish throughout my lifetime.