

## Surina Ayanna - REPORT 23/05/2012

Four months back when I set foot in Germany, I was overwhelmed by the order and perfection in the way things are done here. Meticulousness is seen in every discipline. Now coming from a country where chaos in every part of life is no surprise, it took me a while to get along with the German way of life. Not so long before, I've started to love it. Everything here has order, you plan it and you see it happen. But life in India is such that spontaneity is necessary; for things change in a 'Drop of a hat'. But nonetheless, 100 days of life here has taught me one thing – a balance between a disciplined way of working and my natural spontaneity in ideas which I carry from back home.

My work for the final semester project was on Printed Electronics under the title "Flexibility". I was put under Dr. Georg Schmidt, who guided me through the whole period of my stay. Since printed electronics was a new subject for me, I really appreciated the patience with which I was taught and corrected in every step. Be it the experimental procedures, lab maintenance, method of teaching or writing the report, there was a difference in everything we did compared to back home; and I am glad it was. Labs were very sophisticated and I was very happy for getting the opportunity to work there. Since there was a stark difference, I could learn something new and carry it back home. I loved the way how everything was organized when it came to my work. Ample time was given to study the subject, and then a discussion was held to see my understanding, where my guide could assess understanding and instruct me for further work. A detailed plan was made for the next three and a half months and I am very happy to say that the work was completed on schedule in co-ordination with everyone who helped me to do it. I had to give my presentation a week before my last date and evaluation procedures were also completed.

My work was basically to prepare Organic Field Effect Transistors. I was given clear guidelines to prepare it and the work began immediately after. The lab assistants were very helpful and my results obtained were decent. Along the way, i.e. the preparation of my first batch, I've learnt a lot of things, made mistakes, corrected them, observed new behaviour in performance, compared results with different samples and so on. Second batch onwards, I managed to obtain the results that were expected. It was indeed a completely new experience, as this was new to me and having made so many samples, which I saw working, makes me feel very good.

One of the major highlights of my trip was drupa 2012. This was definitely a farfetched dream, which I assumed, I might have seen after a couple of years. The college organized everything to visit the international exhibition and it was very convenient for us to interact and a very good amount of time was given to see what we aspired to see. drupa was truly an “eye-opener” for a student like me. I am very lucky to say that I’ve visited this fest within the completion of my engineering as I could witness everything I’ve learnt put into play, built new contacts and learnt a lot of new things.

In the past four months, I also travelled a lot. Since the weekends were free, I had enough time to travel around and learn a lot about the German cities and culture. I went to 10 different cities in Germany, near and far and to a couple of neighbouring countries; out of which I really like the Bavarian places. The culture there was very much indigenous and typical to Germany. I visited lots of Museums, documentation centres and architecturally beautiful buildings. Berlin was overwhelming and personally my favourite, be it the uniqueness in the culture or the international feel it had to itself. German cars had always been a fascination, and a dream to be owned. It was a complete jaw-dropping experience to see the BMW, Mercedes and Porsche museums in Munich and Stuttgart. I love the German cities because it has a very warm feel to it. Be it the street performers, or the musicians or the beautifully ornate buildings, or bridges; it all had a uniqueness that got really close to my heart. And talking about food, lots of Indians face problems when it comes to food, but since I am not a fan of spicy food, I loved the food here in Germany. The Currywurst, steaks, and Schnitzel were amazing. It pretty much pulled me through four months straight without Indian food. Learning German was very gruelling as in most of the places people spoke in German which was a completely new thing for me. I regret for not having learnt beforehand. But nonetheless, I could manage with a little broken German here and there. Thanks to my German room-mate I managed to learn a lot of useful German sentences and with her help, I understood a lot of German culture and the way of life.

One more thing I want to include about my experience is the Paten Program, a programme for exchange students at the university. They have been really good to us, and helped us all through. My student buddy has been very supportive and helped me with all the necessary things I needed to know. Through her, I made a lot of German friends. Overall, my experience here has been fabulous and one to carry on for ages. This happens to be one of the best experiences in my life and I would like to credit it to our Indian correspondent from Chemnitz, Ms. Rebekka and Ms. Sylvia, to the HOD Dr. Arved C. Hübler and my HOD from India Dr. Prakash Shetty for having given me this wonderful opportunity which I will cherish for the rest of my life.