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Indo German Science Circle

Science Circle Newsletter



Science Circle Newsletter – February 2010

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Visit of the German President Köhler to India: Inauguration of the Indo-German Max Planck Centre for Computer Science (IMPECS)

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Horst Köhler arrived in India on February 1st for a six-day state visit covering three cities. The President met up with top political leaders, held discussions on the financial crisis with the RBI Governor and met key industry representatives as well as Indian intellectuals.

The key objective of President Köhler’s visit was to open up new avenues for Germany and India to work together in developing a 21st-century world policy based on mutual cooperation. An important programme point was the inauguration of the Indo-German Max Planck Centre for Computer Science in Delhi on February 03, 2010, together with the Indian S&T Minister Prithviraj Chavan. The Centre comprises of six Indo German research groups, four more are due to be

added after a period of 12 months. In the coming five years, these groups will receive a total funding of almost 4 million euros.

The President's first official visit to India underlined the increasing importance of the strategic partnership between Germany and India. It is expected to further strengthen bilateral ties, including the forthcoming 'Year of Germany in India 2011 – 2012', which will showcase areas of mutual interest.

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3rd Indo-German sustainability conference on water and waste management in Delhi, February 3-4, 2010

The third Indo-German conference on Science for Sustainability hosted at IIT Delhi organised by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) , Indian Department for Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations University, Germany focussed on water and waste management. The goal of this Indo-German Conference was to define strategic common areas between India and Germany in the fields of water and waste management- research and development and to build a network between key actors. The networks are expected to generate research, development and innovation alliances for the better use of scientific and technological knowledge.

The two-day event consisted of talks and discussions on various aspects of water and waste management such as water quality, water efficiency, irrigation, sustainable agriculture practises, impact of climate change on availability of water, ground water issues in India, water leakage and biological waste management. Leading scientists and academicians from universities in Germany and India participated in the conference.

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International Conference & Humboldt Kolleg “Frontiers of Environmental & Health Sciences Useful to Mankind: A Multidisciplinary Approach”, February 25 - 27, 2010 organised by University of Lucknow & Humboldt Academy Lucknow

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation aims to strengthen regional and professional networking between its alumni as well as to spark junior researchers' interest in Alexander von Humboldt Foundation programmes and in Germany as a research location. The very idea of holding the Humboldt-Kolleg is that it provides a platform, where young researchers and

experienced scientists from different disciplines can interact, discuss and find out commonalities among their research interests. The Humboldt Kolleg to be organised in Lucknow from February 25-27, 2010, will focus on Environmental and Health Sciences.

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Call for proposal: INDIGO's Networking Pilot Programme (Application Deadline: March 8, 2010)

New INDIGO is a consortium of European and Indian S & T organisations involved in promoting research cooperation between Europe and India. It is intended to strengthen the international dimension of the European Research Area (ERA) by providing a networking platform for Indian and European S & T organisations. Proposals are invited in the field of Biotechnology and Health focusing on Biomarkers and Diagnostics, Bioinformatics for Health and Structural Biology for Health.

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Science Circle Lectures organised by the German Embassy

The German Embassy organised its 15th and 16th Science Circle Lectures in New Delhi. On December 7th, 2009, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wolf, Director at the Max Planck Institute in Florenz gave a talk on "Mediterranean Art Histories in a transcultural perspective. The Case of Medieval Sicily". On November 13th, 2009, a talk on "Liberty versus Security in the Fight against Terrorism and Organized Crime - International Developments and German Criminal Policy", was delivered by Prof. Ulrich Sieber, Director, MPI for Foreign & International Criminal Law. Both lectures were very well received by the Indian audience comprising of academicians and laymen.

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