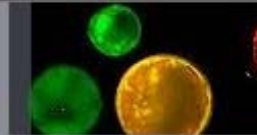
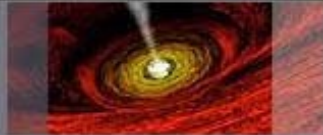




German Embassy  
New Delhi



May 2010

Indo German Science Circle

Science Circle Newsletter



Science Circle Newsletter – May 2010

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## **8th Indo German Science and Technology Committee Meeting; Visit of the Parliamentary State Secretary of BMBF, Thomas Rachel, to New Delhi, March 10-12, 2010**

The Indo German Science and Technology Committee meets every 18 months alternately in Germany and in India. The 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee meeting was organised on March 12, 2010, in New Delhi. Both sides were represented by the State Secretaries and their respective delegations comprising of officials and scientists. The meeting took stock of the progress on ongoing activities and those in the pipeline and decided on future areas of activities. Besides representing Germany at this meeting, Mr. Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, also had bilateral meetings with senior officials from the Indian S&T Ministry.

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## **EU-India Joint Steering Committee Meeting, March 10, 2010, New Delhi**

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU-India S&T Cooperation agreement took place in New Delhi on March 10, 2010. The two delegations were led by Dr T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Mr Jose Manuel Silva Rodriguez, Director General for research at the European Commission. The meeting involved participation from 7 Ministries / Departments on the Indian side (DST, DBT, ICMR, MAE, DAE, DIT, MSME), and three Directorate Generals on the European side (DG RTD, DG INFSO and DG ENTR).

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## **First Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Indo-German Science Centre for Infectious Diseases (IG-SCID), April 7, 2010**

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Helmholtz Association (HGF), Germany , a virtual Indo-German Centre for Infectious Diseases (IG-SCID) was inaugurated on April 3, 2007. The first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee, responsible for coordination and development of the activities of this centre, and a project progress seminar was held on April 7, 2010. The German Delegation was headed by Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wehland, Head of the Division of Cell Biology and Immunology at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Braunschweig.

[Agenda of the meeting](#)

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## **Fraunhofer Delegation visits India, March 2010**

A high ranking German delegation led by Prof Hans Joerg Bullinger, President Fraunhofer Society, visited India during the last two weeks of March 2010. Organised jointly by Ms Anandi Iyer, Fraunhofer-Representative and Senior Advisor in India and the Ex-Board Member Dr. Dirk-Meints Polter, the Delegation consisting of Board members, officers from Fraunhofer Headquarters and Institute representatives met several industry captains, senior government officials and opinion makers. The Indian Automobile Industry was the centerpoint of the interactions. The Delegation

visited Volkswagen, Daimler, Tata, Bharat Forge, Aditya Birla und several suppliers as well as world leaders in production of waterpumps. A highlight of the visit was the signing of an MoU between Fraunhofer, ACMA (Automotive Components Manufacturers' Association) NATriP and SIAM ( Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers) to support the Indian Industry achieve greater heights in R&D. Projects to the tune of about a million Euros were concluded and some to the tune of multiple million Euros are in the stage of discussions.

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## **2010 call for nominations for Max Planck India Partner Groups and Max Planck India Fellowships**

India is a special focus of the Max Planck Society in its international collaborations. The Max Planck Society therefore provides additional strategic measures to support you in enhancing cooperation with partners in India. In 2010, the Max Planck Society once again offers the opportunity to intensify research ties between Max Planck Institutes and research partners in India by issuing a call for nominating candidates for Heads of Max Planck Partner Groups and for Max Planck-India Fellowships.

This call is open to Indian scientists who are currently at Max Planck Institutes and will be returning to India in the foreseeable future and to researchers who may already have returned to India. Partner Groups and Fellowships are also of interest to Indian post-docs who, following their research stay at a Max Planck Institute, moved to a third country and may be considering returning to India.

**Deadline for applications: September 2, 2010**

[More details on Max Planck India Partner Groups](#)  
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## **Call for Proposals for Research Groups in IMPECS (Application Deadline: June 30, 2010)**

The Indo-German Max-Planck Center for Computer Science (IMPECS), inaugurated by the German President Horst Köhler and the Indian S&T Minister Prithviraj Chavan in February 2010, has been setup with the vision to perform top-quality basic research in Computer Science (CS) in cooperation between Indian and German computer scientists, to serve as a bridge between the Indian and German CS communities, and enhance scientific cooperation between them, and to act as a center of excellence in which faculty and students can build careers.

IMPECS has been set up for a duration of five years and is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF, Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and the Max-Planck Gesellschaft (MPG, Max-Planck Society). Under IMPECS, a Call for Proposals for 10 Research Groups has been announced. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2010.

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## **Call for Proposal 2011 for Indo-German cooperation projects in the field of health research (Application Deadline: June 30, 2010)**

The German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have announced a call for Indo-German cooperation projects in the field of health research.

The aim of this funding programme is to initiate enhanced cooperation between the two countries for example through common projects within the framework of the respective national development schemes. Selected projects will be funded in order to facilitate bilateral cooperation between Indian and German scientists through common research projects, bilateral workshops and seminars as well as scientist exchanges, guest research programmes, research delegation and visits by science and economic delegations.

This cooperation programme in medical and health research falls within the framework of the internationalisation strategy of the German government and is based on the Indo-German Science and Technology Agreement of 1974.

The funding programme will focus on research projects in oncology, infectious diseases, regenerative medicine and neurosciences.

Funding will be carried out by both countries for the exchange of experts and young scientists, conducting workshops and providing equipment. Applications are open till 30 June.

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## **Germany invites applications for the second international 'Green Talents' competition**

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is calling for talented young scientists from around the world specialising in the area of sustainable development to apply for the competition 'Green Talents – The International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development'. The 'Green Talents' award aims to recognise outstanding scientific minds in the field of environmental technology, and was granted for the first time in 2009.

Under the patronage of the German Federal Research Minister Professor Annette Schavan, the competition will give 15 exceptional young scientists the opportunity to meet and exchange views with today's leading experts in Germany. The winners of the competition will participate in a ten-day international science forum taking place in autumn 2010.

A special focus will be on the "Science Year 2010 – The Future of Energy", announced by the BMBF due to the global importance of this area. Touring through Germany, the 'Green Talents' will visit leading universities, research institutions and companies active in the field of sustainable development.

[More Details](#)

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## **17th Science Circle Lecture and 1st DFG-Leibniz Talk on „Roadmap for Ceramics 2025“ by Prof. Dr. Juergen Roedel, Germany**

Within the framework of the Science Circle Lecture Series, the German Embassy, New Delhi together with the German Research Foundation (DFG), organised the 17<sup>th</sup> Science Circle Lecture and the 1<sup>st</sup> Leibniz Talk on March 22, 2010, at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The talk on „Roadmap for Ceramics 2025“ by Prof. Dr. Juergen Roedel, Department of Materials and Earth Sciences at the Technical University Darmstadt was attended by students and scientists active in the field of Material Sciences.

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[Picture Gallery of the Lecture](#)

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## **Fraunhofer Truck on tour again**

With tons of knowledge on board the Fraunhofer-Truck is touring Germany and Europe from March 26, 2009 till the end of 2010. On the occasion of the Wissenschaftsjahr 2010 (German Science Year 2010), the exposition is dedicated to energy issues. On two floors 25 institutes present exciting innovations with many interesting exhibits.

Among other exhibits, Fraunhofer presents solar cells with an enormous degree of efficiency. Another exhibit shows how to generate energy out of body heat. Visitors can charge the battery of a mobile phone or a MP3 player by laying their hands on the device.

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## **Science Express concludes its third round**

Science Express is a unique, state-of-the-art science exhibition on a train. This 16-coach fully air conditioned train houses an exhibition which showcases cutting-edge research in science and technology. The exhibition strives to reveal the relevance of science in everyday life. It attempts to develop scientific temper among students and encourage them to pursue careers in science.

The train has so far covered the length and breadth of India in three phases. During the third phase, the train travelled to 56 locations and 18,000 km in the seven months after its launch. It halted at each location for a few days during which it remained open to visitors comprising mainly students.

The first phase, an Indo-German project, was flagged off by India's Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel. In its first two phases, it travelled to more than 100 cities, covering over 32,000 km across India.

This innovative exhibition has created four National Records and received unprecedented response at all the halts and over 50 lakh people, majority of them students visited it during the

three phases. The closing ceremony for the third phase was organised on April 27, 2010 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

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