

**Rectors and Vice Chancellors from 20 German Universities brought together by Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service) visited IIT Hyderabad to expand academic and research collaborations**

**IIT Hyderabad and DAAD strengthen Indo-German Academic Collaborations**

**Highlights:**

- *A high-profile delegation from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service) visited IIT Hyderabad on March 17, 2025, to discuss academic and research collaborations..*
- *A 20-member German delegation visited India for seven days, covering Delhi and Hyderabad visiting various Higher Education Institutions.*
- *Focused on fostering Indo-German academic partnerships, student and faculty mobility, and collaborative research.*

**Hyderabad, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) welcomed a delegation from the “Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst” (DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service) to discuss potential academic and research collaborations.

Twenty German University leaders visited India as a part of “Information visit for heads of German universities to India”, organized by DAAD. The programme includes visits to various higher education institutions in Hyderabad and New Delhi. As a part of this program, the team visited IIT Hyderabad today. The visit focused on investigating and developing bilateral partnerships with Indian higher education institutions. The discussions were led by Dr. Kai Sicks, General Secretary, DAAD, Ms. Kathrin Misera-Lang, Consul General, German Consulate Chennai and Prof. B S Murty, Director, IITH.

**The main intended outcomes for this delegation of German education leaders to visit IIT Hyderabad are:**

- Research collaborations in areas of mutual interest
- Faculty and student exchange programs
- Joint supervision and dual-degree programs
- Identification of common research priorities
- Joint workshops, virtual brainstorming sessions, and collaborative research proposals

**Delegation members including DAAD Regional Office New Delhi:**

1. Dr. Kai Sicks, General Secretary, DAAD
2. Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, Consul General, German Consulate Chennai
3. Ms. Alema Ljumanovic-Hück, Director, iDA/DAAD
4. Dr. Katja Lasch, Director - DAAD India & DWIH New Delhi
5. Ms. Nishka Thukral, Executive Assistant to the Director, DAAD India
6. Ms. Shikha Sinha, Senior Advisor - International Cooperation, DAAD India
7. Ms. Amita Desai, Honorary Consul, Germany Honorary Consul in Hyderabad
8. Prof. Dr. Gesine Grande, Cottbus University
9. Prof. Ulf Richter, Universität Duisburg-Essen

10. Dr. Christian Josef Zens, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
11. Dr. Valérie Schüller, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
12. Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
13. Dr. Martin Hecht, Universität Hamburg
14. Prof. Dr. Andreas Marx, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
15. Prof. Dr. Oliver Frör, Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau
16. Prof. Dr. Eva Inés Obergfell, Universität Leipzig
17. Prof. Dr. Evelyn Korn, Philipps-Universität Marburg
18. Prof. Dr. Juliane Winkelmann, Technische Universität München
19. Prof. Dr. Johannes Wessels, Universität Münster
20. Dr. Achim Dilling, Universität Passau
21. Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D., Universität Potsdam
22. Prof. Dr. Michael Weber, Universität Ulm
23. Prof. Dr. Martin Paul, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum
24. Prof. Dr. Angela Ittel, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Braunschweig
25. Prof. Dr. h. c. Michael Hoch, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Bonn
26. Mr. Niels Helle-Meyer, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin
27. Prof. Dr. Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin

**IIT Hyderabad Representatives:**

- Prof. BS Murty, Director
- Prof. Tarun Kanti Panda, Dean (International Relations)
- Prof. Prem Pal, Dean (Administration)
- Dr. Mayur Vaidya, Assistant Professor, MSME Department

**Dr Kai Sicks, General Secretary, DAAD mentioned** *"The German Academic Exchange Service is proud to have brought together such a big group of rectors and vice-chancellors of distinguished German Universities to India. A big Thank you to Prof Murty, Prof. Panda and colleagues from IIT Hyderabad for the exciting program and for your hospitality! "*

**Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, Consul General, German Consulate Chennai said** *"Germany and India are currently expanding their partnership in many fields. Closer academic cooperation holds a lot of potential. As German Consulate General in Chennai, we stand ready to support all initiatives in this regard."*

**Prof. B S Murty, Director, IITH, emphasized the importance of international collaborations in advancing research and education. He stated,** *"IIT Hyderabad is committed to fostering global partnerships that drive innovation and academic excellence. The visit of the DAAD delegation and esteemed German university leaders marks a significant milestone in strengthening Indo-German ties in higher education and research. We look forward to establishing deeper partnerships through joint research, faculty and student exchange programs, and the creation of a Centre of Excellence that will benefit both Nations. This collaboration aligns with our vision of making IIT Hyderabad a global hub for cutting-edge research and innovation."*

This delegation visit represents a significant milestone in Indo-German academic relations, reinforcing IIT Hyderabad’s dedication to fostering international partnerships in research and higher education.

**About DAAD:**

The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), or German Academic Exchange Service, is the world’s largest funding organization dedicated to the international exchange of students and researchers. Founded in 1925, the DAAD has supported approximately 3 million scholars in Germany and abroad. As a registered association, its members include German institutions of higher education and student bodies. Beyond awarding grants and scholarships, the DAAD plays a pivotal role in internationalizing German universities, promoting German studies and language worldwide, assisting developing countries in enhancing their higher education systems, and advising policymakers on education, foreign science, and development matters. The organization’s funding primarily comes from federal sources, notably the German Federal Foreign Office, as well as the European Union and various enterprises, organizations, and foreign governments. Headquartered in Bonn, with an office in Berlin, the DAAD operates a global network of regional offices, information centres, and points to maintain international partnerships. In 2023 alone, the DAAD funded over 140,000 German and international scholars, offering a diverse range of programs from undergraduate exchanges to doctoral support and institutional collaborations.

To know more, please visit <https://www.daad.de/en/>

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**About IIT Hyderabad:**

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and Startups in the short span of 16 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3rd in Innovation and 8<sup>th</sup> among Engineering institutes in India.

It has 325+ full-time faculty, 5,300+ students (PG+PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with ~4400 projects with Rs. 1400+ Cr of R&D funding (Rs. 250 Cr funding in 2023-24), 11,450+ publications, 2,15,000+ citations and h-index of 141; 490+ Patents (210 patents in 2024 and a commitment to “Patent a Day: Mission 365” for 2025 to earn 365 patents by the end of 2025), and about 260+ Startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr).

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