

Media Release

University of Magdeburg Delegation Visits IIT Hyderabad Campus

Highlight: The delegation appreciated India's depth of relations with Germany and showed interest in Academic and Research collaboration

Hyderabad, April 29, 2024:

A high-profile delegation from the University of Magdeburg and other esteemed German institutes recently convened at IIT Hyderabad (IITH) for a virtual meeting aimed at bolstering academic collaboration between India and Germany. The gathering, hosted by IITH, witnessed fruitful discussions and insightful deliberations among key stakeholders from both nations.

The visit of the delegation to IITH focused on achieving several outcomes, including:

- **Research Collaboration:** The delegation explored avenues for research collaboration in mutually beneficial areas of interest, aiming to foster innovation and knowledge exchange between Indian and German academia.
- **Exchange of Faculty and Students**: Discussions centered around promoting the exchange of faculty and students between Indian and German universities to facilitate cross-cultural learning and academic enrichment.
- **Joint Supervision & Joint Degree Programs:** Emphasis was placed on establishing joint supervision mechanisms and designing joint degree programs to offer students a comprehensive and globally relevant academic experience.
- **Identifying Mutual Areas of Interest in Research:** Participants engaged in identifying mutual areas of interest in research, with a focus on emerging fields and interdisciplinary studies that hold promise for impactful collaborations.
- **Joint Workshops and Virtual Brainstorming Sessions:** The delegation discussed the organization of joint workshops, virtual brainstorming sessions, and collaborative initiatives to nurture innovation and address pressing societal challenges.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee, Science Counsellor, EoI, who underscored the significance of Indo-German scientific cooperation and the potential for groundbreaking collaboration between the two nations.

Ambassador HE Mr. P Harish delivered a speech, welcoming all participants and emphasizing the strengthened engagement between India and Germany in recent years, particularly in green and sustainable initiatives.

Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Government of India, delivered inspiring speeches, highlighting the shared commitment to fostering bilateral ties and advancing academic excellence. Ms Prasad extended a warm welcome to the visiting universities, emphasizing the bilateral significance of educational collaboration. She highlighted India and Germany's strong history of academic cooperation, managed at institutional levels through ministries like DST etc. Ms. Prasad highlighted the potential for collaboration in semiconductor technology, citing India's digital economy and Germany's research excellence. She envisioned joint research projects fostering bilateral talent development and emphasized India's readiness for collaboration, offering various programs for German students and researchers. Ms. Prasad extended an invitation under the revamped Study in India program for German students and researchers, expressing confidence in fruitful outcomes from the visit of German universities to India.

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Dr. Praveen K Somasundaram, Head of the IC Division at the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, elaborated on the significance of Indo-German scientific collaboration and outlined various modes of cooperation, including joint research projects and mobility programs.

Prof. B.S. Murty, Director of IITH, expressed gratitude for the collaboration efforts and highlighted the institute's strong academic standing in areas such as Energy, Biomedical Engineering, AI, autonomous navigation, future telecom technologies and Semiconductor Technology. Prof. Murty expressed his gratitude for the strong Indo-German collaboration efforts through avenues such as DAAD, DFG, AvH, etc. Prof. Murty also mentioned about a new master's program on Lightweight Engineering at IITH in which Professor of Siegen University Germany showed interest to teach a few courses. He emphasized the role of IITH in leading the semiconductor program and other initiatives under the Empowered Committee for Industry and International Collaborations (ECIIC). Prof. Murty encouraged jointly supervised PhD programs and expressed optimism about the visit of German universities to India, which would strengthen collaboration efforts.

Prof. Chandra Shekhar, In-charge Principal of University College of Engineering at Osmania University, provided valuable insights into collaborative efforts between Indian and German universities, contributing to the enriching dialogue.

Representatives from the University of Magdeburg, including Prof. Jens Strackeljan, Rector, shared updates on developments at their university and emphasized the importance of exchange programs and joint degrees in facilitating collaboration. The visit was attended by following from the University of Magdeburg:

Prof. Jens Strackeljan, Rector, University of Magdeburg

Prof. Susanne Schmidt, Vice Rector for Studies and Teaching

Prof. Ulrike Steinmann, Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology

Prof. Ulf Kahlert, Head of Molecular and Experimental Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Andre Katterfeld, Vice Dean, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Prof. Franziska Scheffler, Dean, Studies of the Faculty of Process and Systems Engg.

Prof. Deeban Mathivanan, Contact for Indian Students in Magdeburg

The visit was attended by following from other German institutions:

Dr. Suboor Bakht, Heidelberg University office for South Asia, New Delhi

Dr. Amisha Jain, Office of the University of Cologne, New Delhi

Ms. Vibhuti Sukhramani, Office of the Freie Universitat, New Delhi

Dr. Benjamin Pfrang, Office of the RWTH Aachen, New Delhi (Online)

Mr. Netra Bhandari, Office of the University of Gottingen, New Delhi (Online)

The Indian representations was by following:

Mr. P Harish, Ambassador of India in Germany

Dr. Praveen K Somasundaram, Head IC Division, DST, Govt. of India

Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoE, Govt. of India

Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee, Science Counsellor, Eol

Dr. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad

Prof. K N. Satyanarayana, Director, IIT Tirupati

Prof. Chandra Shekhar, I/c Principal, University College of Engineering (A), Osmania University



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The meeting provided a platform for participants to discuss and explore opportunities for enhancing academic collaboration between India and Germany. The remarks from Prof. B. S. Murty, Prof. Satya Narayan, and Prof. Strackeljan highlighted the existing initiatives and potential areas for future collaboration. Ambassador HE Mr. P Harish's encouragement further underscored the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. The visit concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening academic collaboration between India and Germany, paving the way for enhanced research, innovation, and academic excellence.

About IIT Hyderabad:

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the eight IITs established by the Government of India in 2008. In a short span of **15** years, the institute has become one of the top-ranked institutions in the country and has received global recognition. It has **300+** full-time faculty, **~4,800** students, **18** Departments + **1** Centre for Interdisciplinary Programs, nearly **500+** state-of-the-art Research Facilities, and five research and entrepreneurship centres. The institute has a strong research focus with approx. **Rs. 1,000+ Cr** of sanctioned research funding, with PG+PhD students accounting for about **60**% of total student strength. IITH has more than **10,000+** research publications with **1,50,000+** Citations, **200+** Published Patents, **3,700+** sponsored/consultancy projects with **500+** running projects, and about **200+** startups that have generated **1,000+** jobs and a revenue of **Rs. 1,200+ Cr.** Follow us on <u>Instagram</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Koo</u>, and <u>YouTube</u> for the latest updates.

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