

## **Bilateral Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Governments of Germany and India**

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The basis for the long lasting cooperation in science and technology between India and Germany is the governmental agreement of 1974, as well as the concerted foundation of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in 1958. Ever since the cooperation has been constantly developed and deepened. Today the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research works in close cooperation with Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) on selected technology fields. This cooperation focuses on biotechnology, health research, information technology, environmental technology, sustainability research, material science, space research, energy research, production technology, and disaster- and security research. Besides a regular exchange of students and scientists, there is an increasing amount of bilateral research projects and university cooperation. And – as a newer trend – more and more companies become engaged in research projects with academic institutions. India is one of the most important strategic partners of the BMBF in Asia. Hitherto there are a variety of specific concerted programs to support research cooperation between the two states. The mobility funding programs allow visits as well as short-term residencies in research institutions.

Within the ongoing campaign “India and Germany – Strategic Partners for Innovation” the BMBF has selected 20 projects of companies and research institutions and universities to highlight Germany’s innovation potential with the aim to stimulate more mutually beneficial R&D collaborations between German and Indian research institutions and companies. The campaign was launched on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with a kick-off event in New Delhi, which was attended by the research ministers and high-ranking representatives from both countries. Other sector-specific events organized by German research and technology establishments will give interested partners in India the opportunity to establish contacts with German research establishments and strong technological companies before the “Techno Germa” in New Delhi in March 2010. Currently, workshops, multiplier events, partnering events, lectures, and presentations at conferences and meetings are being organized. They are aimed at scientists at universities and research institutions, scientists and decision-makers at R&D-oriented companies, junior scientists, multipliers and investors.

The Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) is the biggest and most expensive project within the Indo-German collaboration ever. Both governments will spend up to 2 million Euros per annum each until 2012. IGSTC aims especially at intensifying research projects between industry and academia. Therefore the participation of at least one German and one Indian research institution as well as one German and one Indian industry partner is a prerequisite for funding. Research projects in the area of applied research and development within the fields of biotechnology, health research, production and energy technology as well as environmental technology will be executed within the IGSTC. It is expected that the selected projects will produce new insights and exploitable research results in the above mentioned fields. More than 45 grant proposals have been submitted within the

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first call, underlining the great interest as well as the solid basis of Indo-German cooperation in science and technology.

The midterm goal of both governments and in the centre of their international commitments nowadays is to tackle global challenges: global challenges with regards to security, nutrition, peace and welfare of the people. Within this framework Germany and India, their governments, their researchers, their entrepreneurs are seeking an ever closer cooperation with each other and with other countries capable to meet these challenges. The German government accommodates these aims with the High-Tech Strategy for Germany, and also the Internationalization Strategy. This conference is but a small part of this endeavour in this task, but a very important one.