

**INDIGO****Chemistry****Indian-German Graduate School**

of Advanced Organic Synthesis for a Sustainable Future

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A publication of the INDIGO PhD network

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY ON THE MOVE

INDIGO started its activities this fall

New Graduate School on Sustainable Chemistry between India and Germany

Together with the leading Indian research institutes (IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IICT Hyderabad, IIT Kharagpur, University of Pune, NCL Pune), the chemistry departments of the University of Regensburg and the Technical University of Munich in Germany have launched the inter-national graduate school INDIGO. The abbreviation INDIGO stands for „Indian-German Graduate School of Advanced Organic Synthesis for a Sustainable Future“. The aim is – by the exchange of PhD students – to intensify the scientific transfer between the two participating countries in the field of Sustainable Chemistry. The project is supported by the two industrial partners BASF SE and Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories, who provide fellowships for the Indian PhD-students on their missions to Germany; the German Academic Exchange Service (**D**eutscher **A**kademischer **A**ustausch **D**ienst) accounts for coordination, training and travel costs.

The new graduate school INDIGO is aligned for three years in the first instance. It offers 15 Indian PhD students the possibility to do research in the course of their post-graduate studies in Germany at the chemistry departments in Regensburg or Munich for six months. After this stay, the Indian guests will complete a two months internship at BASF SE in Ludwigshafen, Germany. In addition to the exchange programme, a yearly research conference is planned, which will take place alternating in Germany and India. An intensive course on Sustainable Chemistry will be held right after the conference.

The senior advisory board supporting the INDIGO graduate school consists of three

chemists with outstanding reputation: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Wolfgang Herrmann (Technical University of Munich), Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Henri Brunner (University of Regensburg), and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Goverdhan Mehta (Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore).

First young Indian scientists on research mission in Germany

The first young Indian scientists with funding of the INDIGO programme, Mr. **Sai Sudhir Venkatesh**, from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore, and Mr. **Rajendra S. Mane**, from the University of Pune in India, arrived in Regensburg, Germany, this fall. Currently they are working on research projects in the group of Prof. Dr. Oliver Reiser focusing on diversity oriented synthesis employing furan derived cyclopropane building blocks and the synthesis and biological study of Zwittermicin A and analogues from D-glucose.



The third Indian fellow selected for a research stay at the University of Regensburg is Mr. **Praveen Kumar Gajula** from Hyderabad (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)). He will arrive in Germany in February 2009 and is going to work in the group of Prof. Achim Wagenknecht at the Institute of Organic Chemistry.

FOCUS

INDIGO Partners

The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore** is one of the INDIGO Partners. It was started in 1909 through the pioneering vision of J.N. Tata. Since then, it has grown into a premier institution of research and advanced instruction, with more than 2000 active researchers working in almost all frontier areas of science and technology. IISc is an institute of higher learning and is constantly in pursuit of excellence. It is one of the oldest and finest centres of its kind in India, and has a very high international standing in the academic world as well.



In the next newsletters we will continue to introduce the other INDIGO partners with their short profiles.

PEOPLE

The network coordinator

The INDIGO PhD network is coordinated by Prof. Burkhard König, who is professor of chemistry at the University of Regensburg, one of the two German network partner institutions.



König studied chemistry in Hamburg. He was a postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Martin Bennet at the research school of chemistry, ANU, in Canberra, Australia, and with Prof. Barry Trost at Stanford University in the US.

He returned to Germany as an assistant professor at the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany, and moved in 2000 to his current position as a full professor to the University of Regensburg. His research interests focus on intermolecular interactions, ligand-receptor interactions and their application to biological targets.

The network coordinator Prof. Burkhard König visited Bangalore (IISc) and Madras (IITM) in February 2008 to discuss with the faculty members and establish official contacts.

The administrative coordinator

Dr. Petra Hilgers has studied Chemistry in Stuttgart, gained several years of experience in industrial research before joining the faculty in Regensburg in 2006. She helps scientists to prepare their missions within the network and supports all administrative tasks.



First fellows nominated to go to India

The first two young scientists from Germany are preparing their research stay in India. **Susanna Schmidbauer** and **Andreas Hohenleutner** from the University of Regensburg will start their research mission with the networks research conference in March 2009. After attending the conference they will move on to Bangalore, where they are going to work on research projects at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) with Prof. Uday Maitra.

CALENDAR

INDIGO PhD research conference in Hyderabad

The preparations for the network's first PhD research conference and short course meeting at the Aalankrita Resort near Hyderabad in India (March 1st to 4th 2009) have started. Sustainable Chemistry will be the major topic. The full programme is available early 2009 on the networks web pages.

Detailed information and latest news about the project at:

www.sustainable-chemistry.de/INDIGO



INDIGO

Chemistry

