

December  
2010

A publication of the INDIGO PhD network

## SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY ON THE MOVE

### INDIGO II

#### INDIGO enters the next round

The DAAD-funding of the INDIGO graduate school, which is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Burkhard König (Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Regensburg), was initially planned for three years (2008-2010) and has now been extended until 2013. For the new funding period the programme invites other German industry partners, who wish to establish academic contacts to India's best addresses with little financial and organizational effort, to join. The stay abroad of the young Indian scientists is organized by the INDIGO graduate school; the industry partners account for a fellowship of 1.000 EUR per month during the stay of the students in Germany.

Two of the recently founded Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER Pune und IISER Bhopal) were admitted as partners for the new project duration. It is planned to work out a structured mutual Indian-German graduate programme with the IISER's.

Since the start of the project in fall 2008, already nine students from India and seven students from Germany have participated in the programme successfully. During two conferences (March 2009 in Hyderabad and October 2010 in Regensburg) supervisors, PhD fellows and industry partners were able to make new contacts for promising co-operations and presented their results from ongoing research collaborations. The next meetings are already planned: In spring 2012 the third INDIGO conference will take place in India, close to Chennai. In fall 2013 the fourth INDIGO conference, including an excursion to BASF in Ludwigshafen, will then be in Germany again.

#### The INDIGO II - partners in Germany

University of Regensburg, TU München.

#### The INDIGO II - partners in India

IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, ILS Hyderabad, University of Hyderabad, University of Pune, NCL Pune, IISER Pune, IISER Bhopal, CDRI Lucknow.

### PEOPLE

#### One more Indian scientist on research mission in Germany

The ninth young Indian scientist with funding of the INDIGO programme arrived in Germany in August 2010. Mr. **Sandip Bhowmik** from the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) in Bangalore stays in the group of Prof. Burkhard König at the University of Regensburg until the end of December 2010. There, he works on vesicular biosensors for sugars. In January, he will move on to Ludwigshafen to do a one-month research internship with BASF SE.



Prof. Burkhard König and Sandip Bhowmik at the campus of the University of Regensburg

## REPORT

### Second INDIGO PhD research conference in Germany

From October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 the second INDIGO research conference took place in Donaustauf near Regensburg, Germany. Representatives of the two initiating German chemistry departments (University of Regensburg and TU München) and professors and PhD students of the participating Indian research institutes came together for a symposium to present the results of the established co-operations and joint projects. From the Indian side representatives of the following institutions were present:

Indian Institute of Sciences Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Institute of Life Sciences Hyderabad, National Chemical Laboratory Pune, Central Drug Research Institute Lucknow, University of Hyderabad, University of Pune, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal.

Besides the presentations of the different working groups by the PIs in the areas of natural product and drug synthesis, catalysis, functional materials and chemosensors, the active participation of the German and Indian PhD students with short presentations about their co-operation projects was a crucial part of the conference programme.

A second aspect of the INDIGO project – besides intensifying the scientific exchange between India and Germany – is the establishment of the topic of sustainable chemistry in postgraduate education. In his lecture Peter Walther (BASF) illustrated how the chemical industry prepares for the shortage of oil as raw material and which other sources come into consideration to prepare starting materials for chemical syntheses. In two training sessions, held by Horst Kisch (University of Erlangen) and Michael Meier (University of Potsdam), the students could increase their knowledge about semi-conductor photocatalysis and about sustainable chemistry starting from plant oils. The lectures of Goverdhan Mehta (University of Hyderabad) and Henning Hopf (TU Braunschweig) explained the challenges in the synthesis of active compounds and compounds with special molecular properties.

In addition to the presentations and lectures, the meeting offered ample possibilities to make contacts for new co-operations within the network. Altogether 44 participants followed the invitation of the network co-ordinator Burkhard König (Regensburg).

In spring 2012 the third INDIGO conference will take place again in India, hosted by the IIT Madras.



Detailed information and latest news about the project at:

[www.sustainable-chemistry.de/INDIGO](http://www.sustainable-chemistry.de/INDIGO)



Chemistry

INDIGO

