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Exploration. An Indo-German Partnership

DAAD

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1. Climate and Mobility Transitions

The Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Indian Institutes of Technology Bombay (IITB) and Kharagpur joined forces under the Indo-German Partnership (IGP) project in Nov. 2020[1]. This initiative, supported by the DAAD and the Indian University Grants Commission, aims to foster synergistic technical and policy solutions to the challenges of climate change, water management, transportation and mobility and sustainable development.

Research forums, doctoral exchanges, student competition, winter schools in India.

Picture: TUM x IITB Research Forum in Munich in November 2022.

2. TUM x IITB Research Forums

Online Research Forum December 17, 2021	Research forum in Munich Oct. 31, Nov. 3 & 4, 2022
Parliamentarians from India & Europe, TUM & IITB researchers, and professionals from BORDA & IWMI[1] held research presentations on Indo-German environmental cooperation, green hydrogen, solar energy in irrigation & urban sanitation[1].	Faculty members, administrators, researchers, and students of TUM & IITB held research presentations on coastal sustainability, flood and drought governance, electric vehicle grid integration, climate politics in Germany and India, and sustainable mobility[1].

3. Knowledge Partnership

TUM and IIT students collaborated in a competition for the best Climate Action projects in March 2022. IITB and TUM Profs. reviewed the projects; winning teams were awarded cash prizes. IITB doctoral researchers, Ms. Ayushi Jain and Ms. Prerna Yadav, visited the Chair of Environmental and Climate Policy at TUM in Nov. 2022.

At the IIT Kharagpur Campus researchers develop technologies for sustainable transport systems Photo: Arnab Moitra

TUM Prof. Antoniou and IIT Kharagpur Prof. Mukhopadhyay were guests on the TUM Global podcast discussing intelligent transportation systems.[2]

4. Winter Schools

IITB Prof. Narayanan and TUM Prof. Schreurs organized two Winter Schools (WS). The first, Localizing Climate Action on Floods and Droughts, was held in Dec. 2022. It included online and on-site lectures and a week-long field visit to the Kuttanad region in Kerala. Eleven students each from TUM and IITB participated in conducting flood safety surveys in Kuttanad, with support from local community volunteers and NGOs. Diverse disciplines were represented: social sciences, engineering, bioeconomy, and architecture[3]. Policy relevant recommendations were presented to local decision-makers.

Picture: IGP WS participants conducting field work in Kuttanad December 2022.

The next WS, Localizing climate action: water, energy, and climate policies in India, was held in Dec. 2023. Over 10 days participants attended lectures on WASH, energy, and climate challenges, and subsequently conducted field research in Alibagh[3]. Fifteen students each from TUM and IITB, from diverse backgrounds, participated in conducting household surveys on sanitation infrastructure, water quality, energy, and disaster management, with support from local community volunteers and NGOs[4]. Findings of the survey were presented to the District Magistrate and officials of the district administration in Alibagh.

Picture: IGP Winter School participants in Mumbai in December 2023.

5. Future Plans

Given the unique learning possibilities and overwhelmingly positive response from students, continuing the collaboration will be highly beneficial for both universities.

References:

1. IGP webpage TUM - https://www.international.tum.de/en/global/indo-german-partnership/
2. https://open.spotify.com/episode/537eTL7FAp2PltXjKWSYKB?si=yO-Er7T0Q0yJJDwQBpQ8Tw
3. IGP WS 2022 article - https://www.international.tum.de/en/global/news/igp-winter-school-a-memorable-indian-experience-for-tum-students/
4. IGP WS 2023 article - https://www.international.tum.de/en/global/tum-global-news/news-single-view-en/article/second-batch-of-tum-students-experience-an-igp-winter-school/