Hochschulbüro für Internationales

International Office

A New Passage to India

A DAAD funded program

The project "A New Passage to India" (ANPtI), generously funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), marked a significant milestone in the academic collaboration between Leibniz University Hannover and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore. The project originally ran from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2023 and was later extended until 31 December 2023 due to the challenges posed by Covid-19.

With the aim of enriching the academic experiences of students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs and university faculty, the project emphasised the promotion of intercultural understanding. The main objective was to strengthen the India-related competences of the German participants and at the same time promote the Germany-related competences of their Indian counterparts. In addition, the project aimed to promote study and research opportunities in line with international standards. The focus was on strengthening the employability of the graduates and preparing them specifically for the challenges of a globalised world.
The long-term goal of the project was to create lasting connections by developing innovative and sustainable forms of collaboration. Joint educational initiatives for graduates and doctoral students as well as joint research projects were emphasised to facilitate a dynamic exchange of ideas and expertise.

The success of the project was closely linked to the collaborative efforts of a wide range of professors, students, institutes and the International Offices of Leibniz Universität Hannover and IIT Indore. This collaboration, especially focussed on innovative and scientific research, was supported by active participation in a variety of institutes, including physics, mathematics, computer science, chemistry and biology.

The initiative was characterised by a dedication to interdisciplinary research, as both institutions worked together to research cutting-edge topics. Particularly notable were the joint projects in the field of materials research on graphene. This emphasised the project's commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and promoting a comprehensive and networked perspective in academic research. The collaboration has resulted in numerous publications, some of which are available in open access. Also noteworthy is the filing of a patent application for the early detection and treatment of prostate cancer.

Even the multi-year, mostly strict travel restrictions imposed by Covid-19 could not stop the project from achieving its goals. The funds were successfully reallocated to enable the institutes to procure the necessary hardware and software for their research projects. Where possible, virtual visits were also facilitated and supported.

In addition, the entire project group met twice in Hanover to present project results and discuss ongoing strategies. Unfortunately, a planned meeting in Indore had to be cancelled due to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these obstacles, the group continued to collaborate through virtual exchanges and resource reallocation, demonstrating resilience and innovative problem solving.

The collaboration with IIT Indore is to be further expanded. Even though follow-up funding is not yet in sight, several promising research proposals in the various disciplines are being prepared and submitted. Our common goal is to nurture and promote this collaboration in the long term to reach new levels of participation. This includes initiatives

such as fostering links with the respective regional industries and planning a possible trilateral partnership with MIT Atlantique (France).

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to the DAAD and all participants, professors, staff, students and everyone who helped to make this project possible. We look forward to utilising further opportunities like this to promote academic and cultural cooperation between the countries.