



DAAD Co-funded Heidelberg Alumni International National Meeting (HAIN) 2015, New Delhi, India

Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI) is the central alumni initiative of Heidelberg University – the worldwide network for all former and current students, researchers, administrative and teaching staff. HAI was founded in 1996 within the International Relations Office. The focus was on the international alumni work. As one of the first alumni initiatives in Germany, HAI set standards in many areas and realised innovative projects. Since 2010 HAI is part of the Rector's Office and now in charge of the national and professional alumni work.

Heidelberg Alumni Indien (HAIN) is the alumni initiative for all alumni of Heidelberg University who live and work in India and neighbouring countries. Those who have spent time as a student, researcher, professor or university employee in Heidelberg qualify to join HAIN.

The goal of HAIN is to establish and promote academic, scientific, cultural and also social exchanges in the South Asia region, to keep the alumni updated on developments and



Team HAI



Teams HAI and HCSA



Team HAIN



Researcher Alumni working groups



Researcher Alumni working groups

activities in Heidelberg and to organise alumni meetings, where we can all stroll down memory lane together and build the alumni initiative, HAIN.

This year from 23rd to 24th February, Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI), Heidelberg Center South Asia (HCSA) and Heidelberg Alumni India (HAIN) organised the second National Meeting of Heidelberg Alumni Indien (HAIN). The event was co-funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for participating DAAD alumni. The two-day meeting saw participation from alumni and researchers not only across India but also from other countries like Canada and Indonesia and it covered different aspects to promote Indo-German collaboration, exchange programmes and joint activities. The meticulously conceptualized programme included activities:

- **HAIN – Past, Present & Future:** Alumni working groups: discussion & exchange of ideas on HAIN
- **Study and Research in Germany: presentations by alumni:** Achievements, Best practices & Suggestions
- **Indo-German exchange:** Funding opportunities and possibilities by DAAD representative

Presentations at HAIN Meet 2015



Dr. Konkimalla



Prof. Ganesan



Prof. Desai



Dr. Thukral



Prof. Kapoor



Prof. Bhattacharya



Prof. Raina



Prof. Tandon



Mr. Ali

- **HCSA Scholarships:** Offers for students, researchers and scientists
- **Honouring alumni** for contributions to Indo-German collaborations, achievements in research and contributions to HAI work
- **Visit to National Museum Institute**
- **4th Heidelberg Lecture 2015**

The event was graced by full two-day presence of HAI Director, Mrs. Silke Rodenberg and HAI Deputy Director, Ms. Jella Friedrich, presence of South Asia Institute (SAI) Executive Secretary, Dr. Martin Gieselmann, Director, Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Prof. Axel Michaels, who launched 'HCSA Scholarships' and DAAD Representatives, Mrs. Shikha Sinha and Mrs. Manisha Mudgil gave a well-received presentation and interactive session on funding opportunities.

The HAIN Meeting was a success as it not only had about 60 participants over a span of two days (of which 35 were DAAD Alumni) but it also had the alumni present/share their research and achievements. This led to intense discussions within alumni and had tangible outputs such as identification of opportunities for Indo-German research collaborations, exchange programmes, joint activities like internship and 'Guest Faculty Programmes' and also brought up offers from the alumni to partly fund internships. Above all



Dr. Agnihotri



Prof. Agrawal



Dr. Gupta



Informal Interactions, Bonding and Lunch



Mrs. Sinha, DAAD presenting 'Funding Opportunities'
 Ms. Friedrich announcing the Alumni Anniversary celebrations in Heidelberg in 2016
 Prof. Michaels announcing 'HCSA Scholarships'

the alumni pledged to promote Heidelberg University in their home university(ies) and institute(s) by virtue of 'Student Seminars', Info-stands on Heidelberg University, updates dissemination on Heidelberg University through central teams, mobilizing funding within their university(ies) and institute(s) for joint events and to establish innovative programmes like 'Guest Professorship Programme' and Internships.

Towards the end of first day's programme Mrs. Silke Rodenberg and Mr. Bakht honoured the alumni for outstanding contribution to HAI work, announced applications to 'HAIreconnect' and Ms. Friedrich announced the Alumni Anniversary celebrations in Heidelberg in 2016.

Five alumni viz. Dr. Madhavi Ganesan, Dr. Archana Agnihotri, Prof. Swapna Bhattacharya Dr. Lipi Thukral and Dr. Jairaj Behari were honoured for contribution to HAI work.

Prof. Kalidas Sen was awarded the first HAIN Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to promoting Indo-German collaborations, exchange programmes and joint events between Heidelberg University and his university, University of Hyderabad. He was conferred the honour by hands of Prof. Axel Michaels.



Q & A Session



HAI awardees



Prof. Sen Receiving 'Achievement Award'

The second day of the Meeting started with a visit to National Museum Institute (NMI) organised by Heidelberg Alumna, Prof. Anupa Pande. The event was graced by Prof. Anupa Pande and team from Heidelberg comprising of Mrs. Rodenberg, Ms. Friedrich, Dr. Gieselmann and Mr. Carciumaru, the resident representative of Heidelberg University in India.

The two-day HAIN Meeting concluded with 4th Heidelberg Lecture by Prof. Andreas Kruse, who delivered a distinctive and stimulating lecture, 'Contemporary Images of Age and Ageing: Vulnerability, Strengths and Developmental Potentials' at India International Centre, New Delhi, India to a strong gathering of more than 400 students, researchers, scientists, faculty, professionals, Heidelberg Alumni, Cluster Conference participants, personnel from international organisations, Indian government bodies, old age homes and NGOs [[read more](#)]



Mrs. Rodenberg receiving memento from Dean, National Museum Institute(NMI), Prof. Pande
Dr. Gieselmann lighting the lamp
Representative from NMI delivering his speech



Prof. Kruse delivering Heidelberg Lecture
'Housefull' Audience
Prof. Kruse Playing The Grand Piano

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