

Internship report

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We landed in Germany on a cold rainy day with a lot of hopes, excitement, expectations and palpitations. One of the first sights we saw was that of a number of tall chimneys spewing out smoke and we knew that we were in the Land of Technology. On the train journey to Chemnitz, the breathtaking view of the countryside, the dense forests, the little towns perched halfway up hillocks, looked exactly like the fairytale land we had only imagined. Germany could easily be called the pinnacle of the printing industry, the place every printing engineer aspires to be, and we were here!

The first time in a foreign country, we had our share of hesitations and apprehensions. Once we got down at the tiny station at Chemnitz, our excitement as well as apprehension was heightened, but very soon we were greeted and helped by extremely nice people. The first week of our stay was taken up learning to adjust to life in Chemnitz. But in every step we were helped extremely by the people around us and especially from the Institute. In fact, people nearly went out of their way to make us comfortable. The language gap was a problem, for in many places like the Mensa, supermarkets, etc. where communication with English was difficult, but everyone put a lot of effort to help us get around it.



Then our internship began at the Institute. We felt lucky to be working under the guidance of extremely knowledgeable and professional people who put a lot of effort to make us feel comfortable. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn as well as work with some of the best people and in the extremely exciting field of printed electronics, so we tried to take advantage of this time to learn as much as we could. The projects we were working on were very interesting, and we were soon given much responsibility and we soon felt as an integral part of the project. We did learn a lot about the work culture in Germany, and were especially impressed by importance stressed on punctuality and cleanliness. We also learnt working result-oriented and were encouraged to come up with new ideas about the work.

But life in Chemnitz was not all work, and we had a great time in our 2-month stay. We made a lot of friends inside as well as outside the Institute. We were very lucky to be part of a very unique traditional event of the Institute, the Gauchfest. We also caught football fever during Germany's great run in the World Cup. Also that now we were in Europe, we travelled around a bit. The sights of Paris, the sounds of Salzburg, the beauty of the Sächsische Schweiz, the culture of Berlin, are all things we will never forget. We are carrying back some of our best memories with us.

We are very thankful to the Institute for Print and Media Technology, Chemnitz University of Technology, for giving us this great opportunity and making us feel at home during our stay. We are thankful to our project supervisors for helping us throughout the internship and to Ms. Sylvia Strauss, without whom it would not have been possible.