



Dear readers,

The year 2015 started on a high note with Heidelberg University climbing into the world's top 40 universities in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Ranking 2015, the scientists at Heidelberg University making several outstanding discoveries and being bestowed prestigious research awards and prizes. Year 2015 become further significant with Heidelberg University opening office in Kyoto to foster cooperation and contacts in East Asia and with Prof. Michaels' organized Summer School attracting attention of scholars and students from across the world.

The first half of 2015 was replete with significant activities and events in India including India visit of Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Beatrix Busse and Head Communications and Marketing, Mrs. Fuhrmann-Koch, 4th Heidelberg Lecture by Prof. Andreas Kruse, signing of MoU with School of Planning and Architecture, scientists and researchers at Heidelberg getting into research collaborations with Indian research institutes, Indo-German joint events such as conferences, winter schools with structured student exchange programme, Indo-German joint teaching, The German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) organised Art Meets Science and higher education and research fairs at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pondicherry, Kanpur and the Research and Education Workshop at Mumbai, HCSA scholarships awarded to scientists Dr. V.K.Kapoor and Dr. Lipi Thukral and finalisation of Baden Wuerttemberg - UGC Fellow selections for 2016.

HCSA saw a change in Representative, with Dr. Elvira Graner completing her term and Mr. Radu Carciumaru coming on board from January 2015. He is fellow of the German National Academic Foundation and Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, is Lecturer and PhD Researcher, Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute. [[read more](#)].



Prof. Dr Axel Michaels
Head Coordinator HCSA



Mr. Radu Carciumaru
Resident Representative



Mr. SuboorBakht
Deputy Director

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HCSA News & Events

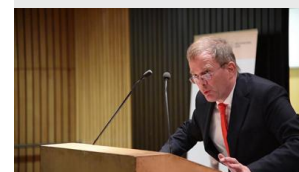
DAAD Cofunded Heidelberg Alumni National Meeting

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. [\[read more\]](#)



4th Heidelberg lecture by Prof. Andreas Kruse

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andreas Kruse has strongly contributed to research in the field of Active Ageing and has been conferred numerous coveted awards and positions internationally. He delivered a distinctive and stimulating lecture, 'Contemporary Images of Age and Ageing: Vulnerability, Strengths and Developmental Potentials' in New Delhi, India. [\[read more\]](#)



MoU signing with School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Teaching, Heidelberg University and Prof. Dr. Chetan Vaidya, Director, SPA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 24th 2015 to enhance relations between the two universities in the areas of education, research to enhance interdisciplinary cooperation and internationalization of the respective universities. [\[read more\]](#).



Press conference, New Delhi

Heidelberg University organised a successful press conference on 24th February to announce its New Programmes, Internationalisation and Scholarships. The panel was shared by Pro Vice Chancellor Student Affairs and Teaching, Prof. Beatrix Busse, Head, Communications and Marketing, Mrs. Fuhrmann-Koch, Director, Institute of Gerontology, Prof. Andreas Kruse, Head, Department of Classical Indology & Head Coordinator, Heidelberg Centre South Asia, Prof. Axel Michaels.



HCSA News & Events

HCSA Scholarships 2015

This year's scholarships were awarded to two outstanding Indian scientists, Dr. V.K.Kapoor, Senior Professor, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow for initiating collaboration with Prof. Justo Lorenzo Bermejo, Institute of Medical Biometry and Informatics (IMBI), University Hospital Heidelberg. They would be collaborating on Gall Bladder Cancer: Serum microRNA panel as a potential biomarker for early diagnosis of gall bladder cancer—a step towards 'personalized prevention'.

The second scholarship was awarded to Dr. LipiThukral, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology for initiating collaboration with Prof. Frauke Grater, Molecular Biomechanics group, Heidelberg stress transmission through protein membrane systems.

HCSA awards two scholarships every year to Indian scientists for promoting Indo-German research collaborations and exchange programmes.

Indo-German joint teaching

Professor Dr. Guido Kanschat, Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing (IWR), Heidelberg held a one-week intensive course on Scientific Computing at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram. The course was on Deal.II finite element library for solving problems of multiphysics and engineering sciences. It saw participation from research students and engineering graduates from IIST. The undergraduate students at IIST are using these library for their projects.

MCBR4 (Indo-German meetings on "Modeling of Chemical and Biological (Re)Activity")

Held in Heidelberg, organized by Prof. Peter Combait included participants from Japan and had three modules. MCBR4 was extended by a school to give German and Indian students the chance to concentrate one week to learn new technologies from top scientists and, most importantly, that MCBR was extended by the student exchange programme. It is an incentive for some research groups to start a collaboration. The other important point about exchanging young scientists between India and Germany is that the students are confronted with a new and different culture, including the scientific culture, the way scientists work, and this may help enormously.



“Research and Education Workshop” 11th Stuttgart meets Mumbai festival

German Research Foundation – DFG India office and German House for Research and Innovation – DWIH New Delhi participated in the “Research and Education workshop” conducted on the side lines of the 11th annual "Stuttgart meets Mumbai" intercultural get-together and wine festival at Taj Lands End, Mumbai on 23rd & 24th January 2015 that was organized by the Indian Honorary Consulate & Lapp group.[\[read more\]](#)



DWIH Horizon: Art meets Science Exhibition opens its doors in Puducherry

The German House for Research and Innovation (DeutschesWissenschafts- und InnovationsHaus – DWIH New Delhi) organised the DWIH Horizon: Art Meets Science exhibition at Alliance Française Pondichéry from 21st to 26th February. The weeklong event included a Higher Education and Research Fair as well as a Photo Exhibition to capture the essence of Art and Science under one roof.[\[read more\]](#)



DWIH German Higher Education and Research Session on National Science Day, 28th of February 2015 at IIT-BHU, Varanasi

DWIH, New Delhi organised a German Higher Education and Research Session on 28th of February 2015 at Swatantrata Bhawan, IIT-BHU, Varanasi on the eve of Technex 2015 - the annual student techfest of IIT-BHU. The event included panel discussions, lectures, info sessions on Higher Education and Research in Germany and possibilities of scientific collaborations for established researchers.[\[read more\]](#)



DWIH Horizon: Art meets Science Exhibition at Kolkata

The German House for Research and Innovation - DWIH New Delhi organised “DWIH Horizon: Art Meets Science” exhibition in Kolkata from 10th to 15th March, 2015. The weeklong event included a Higher Education and Research Fair (10th & 11th March) as well as a Photo Exhibition (10th to 15th March) displaying a cultural highlight combined with ample first-hand information on research and innovation in Germany.[\[read more\]](#)



DAAD Guest Professor 2015

In Summer 2015, Amit Prakash stayed as Guest Professor at the South Asia Institute. He held lectures at the Department of Political Science as stand-in for Prof. em. Subrata K. Mitra. Amit Prakash is Professor and Chairperson of the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. This was funded by DAAD Programme.



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Heidelberg Alumni India (HAIN)

Welcome to HAIN!

Join the network of former students, teachers, fellows and friends of Heidelberg University in India on the new online platform on [HAINet](http://hainet.uni-heidelberg.de) [\[click here to register\]](http://hainet.uni-heidelberg.de)

If you would like to become an active member of HAIN, please don't hesitate to contact us today at: hain@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de.

HAIN Regional Chapters

HAIN is the Heidelberg alumni initiative for all alumni of the Ruprecht-Karls-University who live and work in India and neighbouring countries. The goal of the Heidelberg alumni initiative in India is to establish and promote academic, scientific, cultural and also social exchanges in the region. [\[read more\]](#)

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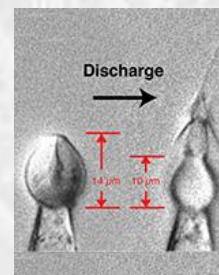
Heidelberg University News

Humboldt Prize for Simon Partner to join HCTS

Simon Partner of Duke University received a prestigious Humboldt Prize to spend a year of research at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). Prof. Harald Fuess nominated Prof. Partner, who is one of the most influential historians of Japan in the United States, to conduct research on the early history of the treaty port of Yokohama during his expected stay at Heidelberg from summer 2015 to spring 2016. [\[read more\]](#)

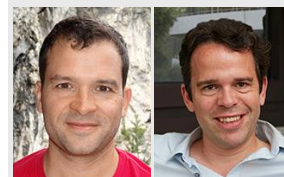
Heidelberg Researchers Find Unusually Elastic Protein

Scientists at Heidelberg University have discovered an unusually elastic protein in one of the most ancient groups of animals, the over 600-million-year-old cnidarians. The protein is a part of the "weapons system" that the cnidarians use: a kind of harpoon launched from their body at extremely high speed. [\[read more\]](#)



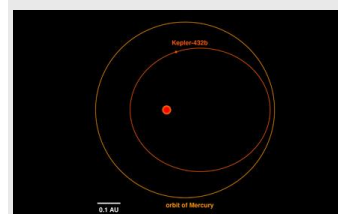
Chica and Heinz Schaller Research Award for Two Outstanding Researchers

Brian Luke and Jan Korb each receive C.H.S. Foundation award of 100,000 euros research funding. The C.H.S. Foundation will recognize their outstanding biomedical research with research funding in the amount of 100,000 euros each. [\[read more\]](#)



Heidelberg Astronomers Discover Rare Planet

Two research groups of Heidelberg astronomers have independently of each other discovered a rare planet. The celestial body, called Kepler-432b, is one of the most dense and massive planets known so far. The teams, one led by Mauricio Ortiz of the Centre for Astronomy of Heidelberg University (ZAH) and the other by Simona Ciceri of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg. [\[read more\]](#)



Excellent Placement in THE Reputation Ranking 2015

Heidelberg University climbs into the world's top 40 universities in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Ranking 2015. This year the university placed 38th, jumping over 20 ranks. The ranking measures the reputation of the university through surveys of top researchers. [\[read more\]](#)



Partners sign new agreement for joint catalysis laboratory "CaRLa" in Heidelberg

BASF and Heidelberg University have signed a new agreement for their joint catalysis laboratory "Catalysis Research Laboratory" (CaRLa). The research cooperation at Heidelberg site ongoing since 2006 has been extended to October 2017. [\[read more\]](#)



Universität Heidelberg Opens Liaison Office in Japan

By establishing a new liaison office in Japan, Heidelberg University aims to intensify its international research contacts, set up new cooperations and extend exchange with partners in East Asia. The Heidelberg University Office in Kyoto will officially start its work at the beginning of the summer semester. [\[read more\]](#)



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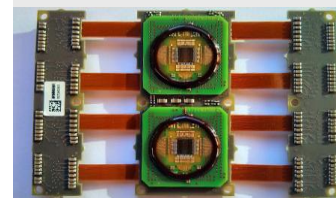
Distinction for Ten Young Scholars

Ten young scholars from China, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States are to receive the “Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise” in appreciation of outstanding dissertations or other publications on the topic of “God and spirituality”. The awardees also include Dr. Hanna Reichel, who will be honoured for her dissertation on Karl Barth and the Heidelberg Catechism, which she completed at the Faculty of Theology of Heidelberg University. [\[read more\]](#)



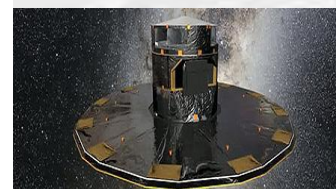
Ruperto Carola Receives Research Training Group to Develop Novel Particle Detectors

Research and development of novel detector technologies to identify and measure elementary particles is the topic of a new Research Training Group (RTG) that will be established at the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy of Heidelberg University. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). [\[read more\]](#)



Asteroid Research Benefits From Gaia Satellite Mission

Astronomical research on asteroids, i.e. minor planets, is also benefiting from the large-scale Gaia mission of the European Space Agency (ESA). Even though the astrometry satellite’s main purpose is to precisely measure nearly one billion stars in the Milky Way, it has tracked down a multitude of minor planets in our solar system. [\[read more\]](#)



Universität Heidelberg Presents James W.C. Pennington Award

Literary scholar Prof. William L. Andrews, PhD, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA) will receive the James W.C. Pennington Award of Heidelberg University on 9 June 2015. The prize pays tribute to the African-American churchman and former slave James W.C. Pennington. In 1849, Pennington received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University. [\[read more\]](#)



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Upcoming HCSA Events

Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA), is organising a series of events in collaboration with the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in Delhi. Two conferences focusing on environmental changes in Europe and India will be held in September and November. In October and November, two further events will focus on scientific discourses on research and education in Germany and India.

International Workshop on "Sustainable water resource management Perspectives from Europe and South Asia"

The workshop is organised by HCSA and SAI in cooperation with FU Berlin, Kashmir University and TERI University, partners: BayIND, GIZ, Göttingen University, Friedrich Naumann Foundation and TUM. [\[read more\]](#)

International Conference: "Global environmental change in the Himalayas: Controversies, Impacts, Futures"

Organized by SAI and HSCA in cooperation with FU Berlin, TERI University and JamiaMillialIslamia and partnering with both international and regional institutions. The conference will start with a unique exhibition of Professor Marcus Nüsser's "Environmental Change on a Himalayan scale over the last 150 years" followed by a keynote by him. [\[read more\]](#)

Symposium "Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education"

Organized by DAAD, in cooperation with HCSA the symposium aims at bringing together Indian and German decision makers and leading experts in education sector to comprehensively discuss the multifaceted and all-encompassing aspect of excellence in teaching and research, to exchange ideas and experiences with regard to the challenges and opportunities it requires, to identify areas of mutual interest and effort. [\[read more\]](#)

International conference on "Scientification and Scientism in the Humanities in South Asia and Europe"

Organized by FU Berlin ,Professor Christoph Wulf and Heidelberg University Professor Axel Michaels. The topic of the conference is of central importance in the heated discussion in 'India if Sanskrit Knowledge can be considered as an early form of scientific knowledge. In politics, quite a few people assume that Sanskrit knowledge is a preform of scientific knowledge and use the label "scientific" to postulate continuity between Indian cultural traditions and modern sciences.

German House for Research
and Innovation - New Delhi



Germany
Land of Ideas



Cluster conference : Solo-cities: Representations of the 'Single' in Urban Spaces

As cultural contact zones, cities throughout Asia are shaping and being shaped by global, regional and national flows that are implicated in the unravelling of 'traditional' social contracts. New forms of economic production, migration, and a growing leisure and consumer society, for example, are said to erode institutions such as 'the family'. Yet the emerging subjectivities from within this urban flux are precarious.[\[read more\]](#)



Heidelberg University Day at different Universities

HCSA has introduced the initiative, "Heidelberg University Day" at various universities in India. In this the Resident Representative and the Deputy Director will give two presentations, one on research and study possibilities in Germany and one on funding opportunities followed by an interaction with students and members of the faculty. The idea is to create visibility for Heidelberg University among quality and ranked Indian universities and to encourage students to look at Heidelberg as an option to do research and for the faculty as an option to collaborate for research. First such "Day" will be organised at JamiaMilliaIslamia, New Delhi.



An active presence on social media both Facebook and twitter (#hcsadelhi)

As a step towards increasing visibility and awareness on Heidelberg University in India Facebook and Twitter accounts have been setup. The Social Media tools will be replete with latest news, events and offerings from Heidelberg University for the students, researchers and faculty members in India. Visit us @ hcsadelhi (Twitter) and Heidelberg Center South Asia (Facebook).



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