



Dear readers,

The latter half of 2015 Heidelberg University continued its ascend by ranking 37th in the Times Higher Education World University and Best Global Universities Rankings and its library taking the top spot in BIX Library Index for sixth consecutive year. The university took second place in the Funding Atlas 2015 of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The scientific research excellence continued with the scientists at Heidelberg University making several outstanding discoveries and being bestowed prestigious research awards and prizes, among whom Prof. Michaels got the coveted awards, "Lautenschläger Research Prize" and "Höffmann-Academic Award for Intercultural Competence 2015".

In India the activities were multiple, diverse and intense. HCSA expanded Indo-German research collaborations and exchange programme networks in India, organised Indo-German events of significance, secured financial gains with four successful proposals to DWIH and one with DAAD, completed selection of Baden Wuerttemberg Fellows 2016, participated in DWIH Higher Education Fairs, introduced initiatives to improve visibility and awareness for Heidelberg University in India and embarked on strengthening the Heidelberg alumni network through an innovative contest. The upward trend continued with eight scientific delegation visits from Heidelberg to India, expansion of existing 'Guest lecturer Programme' in India with three scientists from Heidelberg accepting to teach in India, HCSA Scholarship 2015 holders completing scientific exchange visits to Heidelberg productively and HCSA moving into new prestigious office premises, "The German House". Last but not the least, HCSA started exploring Sri Lanka as a potential expansion point.



**Prof. Dr Axel Michaels**  
Head Coordinator HCSA



**Mr. Radu Carciumaru**  
Resident Representative



**Mr. Suboor Bakht**  
Deputy Director

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## HCSA News & Events

### DWIH "Higher Education and Research Opportunities in Germany" fair in Chandigarh & Mohali : August 21-22

The German House for Research and Innovation - DWIH New Delhi organised "Presentations on Higher Education and Research Opportunities in Germany" in Panjab University, Chandigarh and IISER, Mohali. The event included two days of presentations and interactions by representatives DWIH Consortium Members informing young Indian scientists and researchers about opportunities. [\[read more\]](#)



### Heidelberg University Day at Jamia Millia Islamia University: September 14

Heidelberg Center South Asia organised its first Heidelberg University Day on 14th September 2015 at the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia University. Professor Dr. Badrul Alam, Head Political Science Department coordinated the event organisation at Jamia Millia Islamia University. [\[read more\]](#)



### International Workshop on "Sustainable water resource management: Perspectives from Europe and South Asia": New Delhi, September 28 - 29

Heidelberg University jointly with Free University Berlin and in partnership with TERI University and Kashmir University organized a two day event on "Sustainable Water Resource Management: Perspective from Europe and South Asia", which took place between September 28-29, at the German House for Research and Innovation, DWIH, New Delhi. [\[read more\]](#).



### Solo Cities: Representations of the 'Single' in Urban Spaces: New Delhi, October 6 - 8

This international workshop sought to interrogate the contested notion of singleness in the city, focusing on Delhi and Shanghai. Through presentations, panel discussions, performance and film screenings, it highlighted that gendered imaginaries of emancipation are contested in the light of a variety of cultural practices that impact the multiple life-worlds of women and cities that invite, produce and restrict singleness.



## HCSA News & Events

### DWIH Higher Education and Research Session organized at IIT Gandhinagar, October 14

The German House for Research and Innovation - DWIH New Delhi organized an Info-Session titled “Explore Opportunities of Higher Education & Research in Germany” on 10th October 2015 at IIT Gandhinagar (Palaj Campus). The 1-day info-session saw participation from leading German institutions under the umbrella of DWIH New Delhi on one hand side as well as nearly 150 students and faculty members of IIT Gandhinagar. [[read more](#)]



### Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education: New Delhi, October 14

The series of symposia ‘Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education’, an initiative supported by DWIH New Delhi, brought together Indian and German decision makers and leading experts in the education sector, to jointly and comprehensively discuss the multifaceted and all-encompassing aspects of excellence in teaching and research, to exchange ideas and experiences. [[read more](#)]



### MCBR5 (Indo-German meetings on “Modeling of Chemical and Biological (Re)Activity”): IIT Delhi, November 7

Held in New Delhi, organized by Prof. Peter Comba and IIT Delhi it included participants from India and Germany. MCBR5 conference marked the start of the student exchange programme. It represents an incentive for 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, i.e. the way scientists work, which might help enormously in ushering in indepth collaborations.



### International Conference “Global environmental change in the Himalayan Region: Controversies, Impacts, Futures”: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, November 6 -9

Heidelberg University, jointly with Freie Universität Berlin and in partnership with TERI University, organized a three-day international conference on “Global environmental change in the Himalayan Region: Controversies, Impacts, Futures” at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The conference was a part of the regular activities organized by the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in India. [[read more](#)]





## Indo-German Dialogue on Excellence in Research and Education: Industry Academia Cooperation as a Key Impulse, Bengaluru, November 21

The second symposium in the series took place on the 20th of November 2015 at the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Bangalore. The theme for the half-day event was 'Industry Academia Cooperation as a Key Impulse for Excellence'. After the welcome speeches by Mr Christoph Bertrams, Director, Goethe-Institut and Ms Heike Mock, Director, German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD Regional Office New Delhi, the event was inaugurated by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bengaluru Mr Jörn Rohde. [\[read more\]](#)



## International Conference: Scientification and Scientism in the Humanities, New Delhi, November 25

A joint conference was organized by Prof. Christoph Wulf from FU Berlin and Prof. Axel Michaels from Heidelberg University at JNU on 25th November 2015. The topic of the conference is of central importance in the controversial discussion in India, if Sanskrit knowledge could 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. [\[read more\]](#)



## The Embassy Science Circle Lecture by Prof. Dr. Roland Eils, New Delhi, December 1

Professor Dr. Roland Eils held a highly acclaimed lecture entitled "Big Data in Life Sciences and Health: Challenges for Cancer Research and Patient Care" in the German House New Delhi on December 1st. The event under the banner of the "Science Circle Lecture" series was jointly organized by German Embassy, the Heidelberg Center South Asia of the University of Heidelberg (HCSA) and the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH New Delhi). [\[read more\]](#)



## India Visit of Prof. Ekkehard Felder

Prof. Felder, German Studies, Heidelberg University visited Mumbai University, Jawahar Lal Nehru University and Delhi University. The purpose of his visit was to be introduced to the Indian scientific community, understand their work areas, launch 'Guest Lecturer Programme' at Mumbai University. Other goals were to explore opportunities of scientific research collaboration and exchange programmes. During his visit he also delivered talks and chaired Doktoranden Kolloquiums.



## Prof. Comba as distinguished professor at IIT Mumbai

Prof. Peter Comba, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Heidelberg University has been invited to join Department of Chemistry, IIT Bombay (IITB) as a distinguished visiting professor for the year 2016-2017. He is expected to visit IITB later this year to spend two months at IIT Bombay. During his stay at IITB, he will be delivering a series of lectures on coordination chemistry to IITB graduates students. He will also deliver several research seminars and will foster his scientific collaboration with various groups in IITB.



## Dr. Roos Gerritsen as Guest Lecturer at IGCS, IIT Madras

Dr. Gerritsen, Institute for Ethnology, Heidelberg University will join Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), IIT Madras as a visiting lecturer attached to the Department for Humanities and Social Sciences. She will offer a course (topics and details to be worked out) for Humanities students and also conduct research. Her research is going to focus on "foodscapes in Chennai" contributing to the research field of urban sustainable consumption and lifestyles at IGCS. Her stay commences in February and ends in July.



## Research and collaboration opportunities with Sri Lanka

Mr. Carciumaru, Resident Representative, HCSA has started discussions with representatives of Colombo University to explore research and funding opportunities and to establish a joint MA in South Asian Studies. The second level of discussions with Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia, First Secretary, Indian High Commission and other decision makers were held. It was decided to submit two applications for collaborative research projects. In addition to these Heidelberg University Day was organised.



## 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 [HAI-net](#) [\[click here to register\]](#)

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](mailto: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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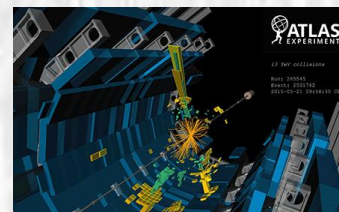
## Heidelberg University News

### Millions in Funding for Particle Physics in Heidelberg

Particle physicists at Heidelberg University have been awarded funding for their research at the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva. Over the next three years, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will provide more than nine million euros for work on the ATLAS, ALICE, and LHCb experiments at the LHC. [\[read more\]](#)

### Heidelberg University Library: Powerful, Efficient and Innovative

After multiple successes in past years, Heidelberg University has again ranked first in the BIX Library Index for 2015. In the offerings, usage, efficiency and development categories, Heidelberg is the only major academic university to place among the leaders – and for the sixth consecutive year. The expanded media offerings, high utilisation rates and highly effective workflows are rated excellent. [\[read more\]](#)



## New High Performance Computer Cluster One Of The World's Fastest Supercomputers

A new high-performance computer cluster, known as the bwForCluster MLS&WISO, qualified the University of Heidelberg and the University of Mannheim for inclusion in the list of the top 500 fastest supercomputers in the world. The bwForCluster MLS&WISO is used in the molecular life sciences (MLS) and the economic and social sciences (WISO); the production piece ranks 297th and the development piece 331st in the list. [\[read more\]](#)

## Center for Molecular Biology of Heidelberg University Celebrates 30 Years

The ZMBH commemorated its 30th anniversary from 17 to 18 September 2015 with a ceremony and an alumni forum. At this major research institution, scientists from a variety of disciplines investigate fundamental processes of molecular and cellular biology that frequently also touch on medical aspects. Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Theresia Bauer, attended the ceremony. [\[read more\]](#)

## Top Recipient of Public Funding

In the ranking list of the 40 highest publicly funded universities in Germany, Heidelberg University is in second place with a total of 274.7 million euros in DFG funds. The results were published today in the Funding Atlas 2015 of the German Research Foundation. The DFG reports that either Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich or RWTH Aachen has always been the recipient of the most DFG funds since the first ranking in 1997. [\[read more\]](#)

## THE Ranking: Heidelberg 37th in the World's Best 50 Universities

Having surged ahead by 33 spots compared to last year, Heidelberg University now ranks 37th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2015/2016. The university also asserted its strong position within Germany as well, moving up to second place from third. For the first time since the THE Ranking began being published in 2010 (when Heidelberg ranked 83rd). [\[read more\]](#)

## Award for Young Researcher: Excellence in Cancer Research

Heidelberg Biologist Dr. Sylvia Erhardt has been awarded the 2015 Hella Bühler Prize, which is endowed with 100,000 euros. The prize is aimed at young researchers at Ruperto Carola whose outstanding cancer research has garnered well-deserved attention. The prize monies are used to further





advance their innovative research. Dr. Erhardt leads a junior research group at the Centre for Molecular Biology of Heidelberg University (ZMBH) as part of the CellNetworks Cluster of Excellence. [\[read more\]](#)

## Indologist Axel Michaels Receives Lautenschläger Research Prize

Indologist Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels, director of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” and researcher at the South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University, will receive the Lautenschläger Research Prize endowed with 250,000 euros. The honour is bestowed on an “internationally recognised research personality who is the embodiment of outstanding achievement in research,” explains Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, the award's sponsor and honorary senator of Heidelberg University. [\[read more\]](#)



## Leibniz Science Campus for the Analysis of Digital Linguistic Data Officially Opens

The official opening ceremony of the new Leibniz ScienceCampus “Empirical Linguistics and Computational Language Modeling” – a research project of the Institute for the German Language (IDS) in Mannheim and the Department of Computational Linguistics at Heidelberg University – will be held on 18 November 2015. The four-year joint research project will focus on developing new methods, models and tools to compile and analyse digital language data. [\[read more\]](#)



## Prize for Heidelberg Molecular Life Sciences endowed with 100,000 Euros

Prof. Dr. Thomas Holstein will receive this year's HMLS Investigator Award for his groundbreaking work in combining zoology and plant science at Heidelberg University into an interdisciplinary area of organismal research. The prize jury praised the biologist for his significant contributions to the development of Heidelberg as a research location as well as his dedication to teaching. [\[read more\]](#)



## SAI HelpNepal Contributes to International Photofestival

SAI HelpNepal is proud to announce its association with Photo Kathmandu, the first international photography festival in Nepal. The festival ran from 3-9 November 2015 and was widely attributed to the importance and rebuilding of vernacular heritage sites in the historic city of Patan. The curators are Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius, Chitrakar and Shakya. [\[read more\]](#)



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## Upcoming HCSA Events

### **Participation at the Panel discussion: “Two for Tango: R&D and Sustainability”, within the World Cities Conference, Stuttgart meets Mumbai Event, Mumbai, January 22**

HCSA was part of the DWIH delegation to Stuttgart meets Mumbai event, which took part in Mumbai, between January 22-23, 2016. The focus of this years' event was on sustainable, smart, green and inclusive cities. HCSA took part in the expert panel “Two for Tango: R&D and Sustainability”, showcasing the interaction between the University and the City of Heidelberg as well as the impact of R&D on the City of Heidelberg.

### **Visit to IIT Mumbai and TISS (TATA Institute of Social Sciences), interaction with members of faculty and students, Mumbai, January 23**

HCSA visited one of India's leading institutions and had a fruitful exchange with IITB faculty members, consisting primarily of heads of departments and decision makers. The introductory presentation made by the Dean of Research and Development, in charge of the academic programme, was followed by a lively discussion on academic exchange opportunities and funding possibilities. The visit concluded with an interaction with IITB students, who pursue their post graduate studies in Germany.

### **Participation at the education fair, visits to Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT); IISER Trivandrum, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Goethe-Zentrum Kerala, February 9-14**

HCSA will participate in The German House for Research and Innovation - DWIH New Delhi organized Education Fair and Info-Session in Kerala. These events increase awareness, visibility and give an opportunity to interact with a larger group of students and faculty members.

### **Heidelberg University Day at Amity University, February 17**

Heidelberg Center South Asia would organise Heidelberg University Day Amity University. It would consist of an info desk followed by two presentations, one on “Research and Study Possibilities in Heidelberg” and one on “Funding Opportunities”. The presentations would be followed by an interaction with the students and members of the faculty. This would generate awareness and create interest among students and the members of faculty regarding study and research opportunities at Heidelberg University.

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## 5th Heidelberg Lecture by Prof. Bock, IWR: New Delhi, April 11

Prof. Dr. Georg Bock, Director, Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing (IWR) would be visiting India from 11<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 as a part of delegation from IWR and Mathcomp. In India he would be delivering 5<sup>th</sup> Heidelberg Science Lecture, conduct a workshop and explore opportunities for Indo-German research collaboration and exchange programmes.

## Workshops with IWR and HGS Mathcomp: New Delhi, April 12

A delegation from IWR and Mathcomp and Heidelberg Collaboratory of Images (HCI), Heidelberg University is scheduled to visit India from 11<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup> April and during the period would conduct three workshops in New Delhi. The idea behind these workshops is to get exposure to Indian research landscape, know the scientists, students and to exchange ideas to work together.

## Heidelberg University Day with IWR, MathComp and HCI: New Delhi, April 13

The delegation from IWR and Mathcomp and HCI would conduct student seminar at universities in Delhi and create awareness on the internationalised master's course offered at IWR and Mathcomp. The members would also conduct an interview session for students who intend to go abroad for their master's education. Dr. Winckler would lead this initiative.

## 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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