



T a p a s y a

ICFAI UNIVERSITY NAGALAND

"...a quest for knowledge..."

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Message from the Issue Editor



As we begin another new academic year, it is time for each and every one of us to develop strong

determination to achieve our aims rather than making decisions which may change in due course of time in our hard work that is to be put forth in the day-to-day learning activities in the University since it determines everyone's future. We, in the learning process invest time, money and energy which will convert us from human capital to human resource. Here, we are united by the single ultimate objective of scaling success in life. This is possible through systematic learning. Our best teachers are our friends. We learn faster when our friends teach us. Therefore, let us start to learn with our friends and classmates. This learning system in education is called **Team Learning**.

Team Learning focuses on the abilities of a group working together. It involves the interaction of people learning from each other as well as from the task at hand. This learning takes place through the transfer of skills by observing others in action, collective problem-solving and experimentation, questioning assumptions and reviewing outcomes as a group. Team Learning helps a person to share prior skills, knowledge and experience enhancing the learning experience for the team. Here team members are forced to be participants to present, promote and negotiate their views leading to better retention. It allows the team members direct the learning within the group making the training more enjoyable, relevant and effective. Team Learning creates co-operative working practices and builds better links with one another. The team learning is **360° learning with 360° thinking**. Therefore, let us decide today to work hard and challenge the future.

To the students, these two or three years of learning will mould you to be an independent

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responsible citizen of the society. And with the Faculty Team, you can shape the future every single day in ICFAI University Nagaland.

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

— *Phil Jackson*

Mr. V. T. Vasagan
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Department of Management,
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INDIA – GERMANY, EXPOSURE PROGRAMME, 2014: An Experience of a Lifetime

Ms. Sensangla Chang, MBA 3rd Semester

I started my trip on the 12th of May, 2014 from Nagaland to go and participate in an exchange programme which was held from 18th to 31st of May, 2014 in Germany. Representing the Northeast region, I was accompanied by ten other Indian students and two senior friends to go to ESG, Bonn, Germany. Before we departed for Germany, we underwent an orientation from 12th to 16th of May at *Student Christian Mission House*. And thanks to Nora Klein, a German volunteer, we were introduced to some important aspects of Germany in terms of language, culture, tradition and students' lives. This two-week programme was organised by *SCM* under the leadership of Dr. Coorilos, *SCMI* Chairperson, Rev. Raj Bharath, *SCMI* General Secretary, and Rev. Michael Pues, Student Pastor of *Evangelische Studierenden Gemeinde (ESG)*. This was my first international trip to experience the life in Germany with the ESG, Bonn students.



From Bangalore to Colombo, and Colombo to Frankfurt, we landed in our destination in high spirits. The exchange program started on 18th May with a short introduction of the Student Christian Movement of India (*SCMI*) and the ESG students which was moderated by Rev. Michael Pues. Around 22 Students from ESG, Bonn accompanied the *SCMI* students to visit the historic places in Frankfurt, Bonn, Koln and Dusseldorf. The historic places visited were Münster Palace built by the Romans in the 1st century A D, the Gothic-structured Koln Cathedral, the Carmelites Monastery, and the museum which was established in the memory of the Second World War; Karl Marx's residence, ancient places now used as educational institutions, Bayer, the world wide medical research centre, different industries and some other important places.



We also visited the University of Bonn and made enquiries about the possibilities of studying there. The admission and scholarship process was well introduced by Miss Sandra Groeger, the international student advisor of the Bonn University. We had a meeting at the International Office, where Miss Groeger provided information on possibilities to study at the University of Bonn. It was a wonderful experience to attend the lectures on Physics and Ecumenical studies at the University of Bonn which was completely different from Indian lectures.

Then, we met Miss de Wildt at the Münster. To start with, we had an introduction to the development of Christianity in Germany and then walked through the Münster Palace to answer a questionnaire. The discussion afterwards provided new information and insights into the Catholic faith and symbolism. We were all invited to the *University of Applied Science* in St. Augustin by the international office. The people there organized an interesting programme for us. They first introduced us and the staff who were responsible for our visit. Each of the group said a few

words. The staff from the international office explained what happens during the visit. One student studying there, from Pakistan, gave us a short insight on what it is like to be in Germany and how important it is to have good language skills in German if one is interested to study in Germany. We realized that, even if the courses were completely in English for the everyday communication, knowledge of the German language is necessary. Later on, we were shown different sections and the facilities provided, and met the students, got to know their projects and the robotic functions. After that, we were taken to their university canteen for a lunch to experience a normal student lifestyle in Germany.

The natural beauty of Bonn, Koln and Rhineland were splendid, well maintained by the help of the people and the government as well. The “Hiking” at “Drachengels” the Dorgan rock, boating to the Island where the Indian students presented the present scenario of caste system in India and its impact on the society, the visit to Seigburg, the countryside and a visit to a farmer where we were shown the modern German technique of farming were great experiences for us. We were surprised to learn that there was no employed labourer and this huge farm was managed by a single family. During the process, we also got the opportunity to witness the European German election on 25th May, 2014 where we accompanied our German friends to vote. We were impressed by their well organised election system.



ESG, Bonn arranged the visit to ESG, Dusseldorf where we worshipped in natural surroundings rather than surrounded by walls. We met some of the Indian communities in Bonn and Dusseldorf who are working and were involved in Church ministries. It was a pleasure to meet the Indian community and discuss the present scenario of India. Personally, I was inspired by their hospitality and friendly nature. The students there are very hard working and competitive. I found out that the Germans have amazing management skills and are very particular about punctuality. I also learnt that they are environmentally conscious and this is reflected in their lifestyle. There have separate paths for cyclists and almost everyone owns a bi-cycle (which they call ‘bike’). This way, pollution is reduced and also smooth traffic system is ensured. Besides learning many new things, I made a few friends from all around the world, such as from Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Slovakia, Austria, Indonesia and many from Germany.

During the process, I was faced with the constant challenges of living in a new culture. I became more aware of the differences in my home country like language, food, presenting myself and experienced what is often referred to as ‘cultural shock’. Cultural shock does not always happen quickly or have one single cause. It usually accumulates gradually from a series of events and experiences that constantly challenge your basic values and beliefs about what is ‘right’. The food tasted different; the Germans mostly eat bread, butter, jam and cheese unlike in India, where the food is spicy and colourful. I did miss home food but gradually in the end, some of the German food became my favourite. There are cultural differences in the way people interact and spend their time. In such a scenario, we become uncertain about how to deal with everyday situations, because we do not understand what is expected of us. Moreover, I had difficulty in understanding the language because people’s accents were unfamiliar and they spoke too quickly. Almost in all the shops I visited, I found it difficult to interact as the sales person could not understand English and the signs were displayed in German so we could not understand its

meaning. For example 'washrooms'- 'Male' and 'Female', 'entry', 'exit', etc. were all written in German. So, we always had a German translator with us. Finally, the most challenging part was introducing myself as an Indian. Every place I visited, they were surprised to see me introduce myself as an Indian because of my facial appearance which is different from the rest of the Indian group. And in such circumstances, I had to explain to everyone that there is a place called Nagaland in the North-east of India where people resemble the Chinese. One of my senior German friends genuinely told me that they did not expect people with facial appearance like me to be an Indian. But now, I can proudly say that a handful of Germans know about the Northeast of India and Nagaland.



The opportunity to travel overseas has given me greater awareness of my own national identity. It has also allowed me to widen my perspective and become self-sufficient. I am now always thinking about things from a broader point of view. My world has been expanded significantly and with it, I have developed as a person. I have become more aware of myself and already feel more confident and independent.

However, amidst these challenges, I thoroughly enjoyed my exchange programme and learnt a lot from it, not just seeing and meeting new people but learnt different skills and also a lot about myself and my life back home. The most important advice I can give is that everything in another country is different: nothing is better or worse, but everything is different, and it is important to be open to new ways of doing things. It was an experience that will stay with me for life.

The SCMI students landed in Bangalore on 1st June, 2014 enriched with immense knowledge and memories. We are looking forward to have a group of SCM-Bonn students to come to India in the early part of 2015.

My sincere thanks to the SCMI Chairperson Bishop Dr. Coorilos, SCMI General Secretary Rev. Raj Bharath and the student pastor of ESG-Bonn Rev. Michael Pues who organized the exchange programme.

I also extend my appreciation and gratitude to the ICFAI University, the Vice Chancellor Dr. (Col.) V. R. K. Prasad, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. C. P. Alexander and Registrar Mr. Makhan Chetia, the faculty, my family and friends for their support and encouragement which enabled me to participate in this international exchange programme.

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