

*Speech of Mr. Alexander Kara at the inauguration of the new facility of the German School Chennai on 24th of July 2011*

Dear Guest,

I am pleased to talk at the inauguration of the new building of the German International School in my role as chairman of the advisory board of the school.

Germany has a long history with India in the area of cooperation in higher education. In 1956 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited Germany and assistance was offered to him by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany in setting up a higher technological institute in India. This resulted in signing the first Indo-German Agreement in Bonn in 1956, for the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology at Madras. The Indian Institute of Technology at Madras was formally inaugurated in 1959. Today, the IIT Madras is one of the elite technical institutes in India and my unit in Chennai/Bangalore and other ABB units in India recruit engineers from this top class institute.

One and a half year ago Thomas A. Pallushek and Melanie Rolf successfully opened the doors of the German School Chennai. The school is closing the gap of a preliminary sustainable education leading to an admission at the university. ABB is readily undertaking social responsibility to support education because it is a children's right, a human right in general and education is the basis for a sustainable human development. In addition to "just" education, the German International School provides the development of 'life skills' and cross cultural understanding, which is promoted by having kids from different nationalities from Europe, Korea, India and others in school.

I am convinced that kids, who receive their education in the German International School will learn faster with fun and they will be open-minded and have a better cultural understanding than kids which visit e.g. a local school in Germany or another international school in Chennai. Students of the

German School Chennai will have the ability to build quality relationships with other children from very different backgrounds and creeds and they can become the leaders of tomorrow's world. The school provides education that orientates to the presence of our century and can be applied to the 'real world 'of diversity and differences. The school follows the Thuringian Curriculum which is the best in Germany. The learning methodology of the school is unique.

All those advantages have been well recognized by the Tamil Nadu federal ministers and an initial approach has been made from both sides to come together. The educational landscape of international schools in Chennai needs competition in order to make progress. For me as the chairman of the advisory board of the German School Chennai it is a special delight to announce that the school will be able to count on governmental support when it comes to Phase III, the build-up of an own campus from next year on.

I wish the kids a successful school year with a lot of fun and the principals and team the most possible success for the further growth of the German School Chennai.