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1. Who was your supervising tutor when you visited the University of Würzburg?

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kreft and Prof. Dr. Werner Goebel, Lehrstuhl für Mikrobiologie, Biozentrum. (2002-2004)

2. We would be happy to get to know something about your academic/ professional career and it would be nice if you could describe your professional work in a few words.

During my stay as postdoctoral fellow, I was exposed to newer techniques in molecular biology which I had not been used to. I started to work on different aspects of infectious diseases, of microbiological food safety and of anti-infectives and these topics are in the focus of my scientific research since then. My experience in Germany has made me a confident person today which has enabled me to get funding from various organizations, to establish my own research group and to secure a faculty position at the University of Mysore.

3. What's your image from the EU? Do you have any experiences with the cultural differences of your home country and the EU? What do you find most fascinating about it? Do you have any experience regarding a scientific or economic exchange between India and the European Union?

The European Union is becoming a more and more important partner for India, however, contacts and cooperation could and should be intensified. Of course, there are still a lot of cultural differences, even in daily life and in the way of thinking. For example, the extended family is still of great importance for Indians whereas Europeans mostly live in nuclear families.

My experience with Indo-EU scientific exchange started with the initial year as a DAAD research fellow, this stay was kindly extended by the DAAD for one year in order to complete my tenure as post-doctoral fellow. After my return to India I soon got an Indo-German research project which was co-funded by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and the International Bureau of the German Ministry for Education and Research (IB-BMBF). This project was very successful, with a number of publications resulting from it. Furthermore, the project allowed several shorter research stays for me and also for one of my doctoral students in Würzburg and for the German principal investigator in India. So over the years we could establish a very intensive scientific collaboration. At present we are writing a further Indo-German grant proposal together with another colleague from Würzburg.

4. What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academic and economic exchange?

The Alumni association is very important to keep in touch with Germany and the recent developments there, with the fellow mates and to discuss the transition from student to present profession. From the academic point of view, alumni exchange provides opportunities to find new collaborators and to identify future prospects in scientific research.