

Professor Vijay Jindal



Governing Council member of the three new Nanotechnology centres at the Universities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Madras, India

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

Prof. Wolfgang Kiefer from Physikalische Chemie

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.

Dr. V.K. Jindal served as Professor at the Department of Physics in Panjab University. Prof. Jindal has been the recipient of prestigious international fellowships, viz Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship of Germany, Fulbright Fellowship of USA and Third World Academy of Sciences grant of Italy. In addition he has been awarded senior research professor positions from the Ministry of German Research & Technology (BMFT) as well as at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

He was the Coordinator of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology program at Panjab University, and has been selected by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) under its Emeritus Scientists Program. CSIR provides financial assistance to superannuated outstanding scientists to pursue research in their respective fields of specializations especially in those which are of relevance to the programmes and activities of CSIR. He is presently also a Governing Council member of the three new Nanotechnology centres at the Universities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Madras. He has been on the monitoring committee for overseeing progress of nanotechnology in these three Universities for quite some time. He is a member of National Selection Committee for Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral and Professional Research Fellowships., member of DRDO research funding board under ARMREB and Executive Member Neutron Scattering Society of India (INSS). His main research work has been on condensed matter physics for phonon calculations and measurements in molecular crystals and micellar solutions using small angle neutron scattering experiments, before shifting to study of fullerenes and carbon nanotubes during the last dozen years.

3. Do you have any experiences with the cultural differences of your home country and the EU?

India has an aspiring manpower who are always keen to look forward to highly developed German or also European standards of education and research. Most of Indians who visit Germany in particular grow very well in their professional careers. The habit of work culture as well as human behavior is the key difference between India and Europe. The cultural differences are surely there, but the visits carried out by educated Indians most often enjoy this change. The openness of the society, the uncomplicated approach, the parity between individuals whether in a so called low job or high job and their love for adventure and curiosity for nature always fascinate me. The friends I made in 1980 are still my friends!

I had several experiences of research exchange with Germans, and Italy. We were on the verge of clinching a Euro-India project, which somehow could not be clinched for want of sufficient time.

4. What do you think about the importance of Almuni in terms of the cultural, academical and economical exchange?

I presume that Alumni is going to provide us a common platform inviting mutual discussions which eventually might result in developing a collaborative research proposal of benefit to both parties. If that happens, it would be wonderful. I love to visit Germany and I like to re-energise myself from a visit to Germany.