



**INDIA AND GERMANY:
STRENGTHENING SKILLS**

CII – KAS Webinar Proceedings

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Key Takeaways	2
Introductory Remarks by Mr. Pankaj Madan.....	5
Remarks by the Chair, Mr. Sanjay C Kirloskar	7
Keynote Address by Mr. Arunkumar Pillai.....	9
Remarks by Ms. Nathalie Gminder.....	11
Remarks by Mr. Rajachandran Madhan.....	14
Remarks by Dr. Rodney Reviere	15
Presentation by Prof. Dr. Thomas Gries.....	18
Discussion	19

Copyright 2022 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS). All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), in part or full in any manner whatsoever, or translated into any language, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners. CII has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information and material presented in this document. Nonetheless, all information, estimates and opinions contained in this publication are subject to change without notice, and do not constitute professional advice in any manner. Neither CII or KAS nor any of their office bearers or analysts or employees accept or assume any responsibility or liability in respect of the information provided herein. However, any discrepancy, error, etc. found in this publication may please be brought to the notice of CII for appropriate correction.

Introduction

India and Germany have been strong partners in the field of development cooperation.

Skill enhancement has become a core focus area for the Indian Government and many initiatives and interventions have been undertaken in this direction to make Indian workers globally competitive. The Skill India Mission was launched in India in 2015, with the objective of transforming the training eco-system and imparting diverse skills to Indian workers with the help of vocational training and certification. Germany has been one of India's most proactive partners in this area.

Germany's dual system of Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a simple, cost-effective and inclusive model that has been one of the pivotal factors behind the country's competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. Therefore, India could learn a lot from Germany's dual system of VET.

India and Germany have shared complementarities and enhanced cooperation between the two sides in the field of skill development, and vocational education and training stands to be of tremendous mutual value. Both countries have immense potential in the field of skill enhancement and while considerable progress has been achieved in the past, efforts must be undertaken to strengthen and intensify collaboration in this area.

Given this backdrop, a webinar was recently held on "India and Germany: Strengthening Skills" on March 10, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the India Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Foundation.

Mr. Pankaj Madan, Deputy Head – India Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. delivered the Introductory Remarks and the session was chaired by Mr. Sanjay C Kirloskar, Chairman, CII National Committee on Skill Development & Livelihood and Chairman and Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.

The webinar was addressed by eminent experts and specialists in the field including Mr. Arunkumar Pillai, Chief Strategy Officer, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); Ms. Nathalie Gminder, First Secretary & Counsellor for Industry Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in India; Mr. Rajachandran Madhan, Director, Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC); Dr. Rodney Reviere, Project Head, Indo-German Programme for Vocational Education and Training (IGVET), GIZ and Prof. Dr. Thomas Gries, Professor, Aachen University.

Key Takeaways

- Skill enhancement has become the Indian Government's core focus, with establishment of an increasing number of universities for vocational education and training to ensure that the objectives of the Skill India mission continue and are reinforced.
- Skill development and vocational education and training are critical areas identified by India and Germany for furthering the developmental agenda and benefiting both countries.
- India's demographic dividend complements the emerging shape of shrinking workforces in major economies. Cooperation between India and Germany on skill development could help create a ready cohort of workers that is empowered to meet global requirements of the future.
- Germany's dual system of vocational education and training (VET) is a very simple, cost-effective and inclusive model. It is largely owing to the dual system that Germany has the lowest youth unemployment rate in the European Union. With 328 vocational training occupations, it provides the youth with a broad range of opportunities.
- With shared complementarities between both sides, India and Germany have high potential for collaboration and should find definitive models for strengthening cooperation in the field of Skill Development, with a focus on gaining significantly from increased cooperation on science and technology, and research and development.
- In 2015, an MoU was signed on the Cooperation in the field of Skill Development and Vocational Education and Training between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, and Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. Germany imparts theoretical and practical training in schools to support overall social and economic development.
- Some of the challenges facing the success of the Skill India Mission include the sheer large number of young people entering the workforce: an estimated 12 million each year; mismatch of demand and supply, lack of qualified trainers; and lack of digital tools and access during the pandemic to a large section of the population.
- Integration of education and skills is critical to the success of any model.

- GIZ is working closely with the Government of India, as well as the private sector through the Cluster Approach, supporting 40 industry clusters in India which would conclude in mid-2023.
- GIZ is working with Tech Mahindra under a public-private partnership model to enhance the skills of 10,000 workers in the areas of healthcare, logistics, and digital technologies using Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality to enhance the blended model.
- GIZ is not looking to replicate what is being done successfully in Germany, but to take key elements of what is working well in Germany, and to adapt and apply those models in India.
- SMEs form a large and important part of supply chains in Germany and are key in production sectors, and they take on large number of apprentices and trainees. The dual system of training in which a part of the curriculum is implemented in the workplace has been very successful because the quality of apprenticeships and training is very good.
- GIZ is also working to inculcate the system of training in SMEs in India.
- As India copes with the huge number of workers entering the labor market annually, certain aspects of the German dual system of VET could be anchored even stronger in India.
- In the face of rapid technological progress, the teaching and learning system needs to be constantly innovated to prepare workforces around the world to meet the specialized demands of the labor market.
- With industry being the final beneficiary of skilled workers, joint funding of education and training would allow an Indian model of VET to be very much feasible and will assure good quality, as companies would look to maximize return on their investments.
- India's New Education Policy 2020 recommends incorporation of vocational skills into school and higher education curricula to attain 50% vocational education exposure for children by 2025.
- Experience and expertise from Germany where education and skills are well integrated through embedded apprenticeship programs would be useful for NEP initiatives.
- NSDC is setting up DESH or Digital Ecosystem for Skills & Livelihood, which was announced by the Indian Finance Minister in the recent budget. DESH is expected to reduce the friction in skill development ecosystem.

- Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) encourages young researchers towards applied research through their Industrial Fellowships programme.
- RWTH & IIT Madras jointly coordinate the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS). A summer school in Germany and a winter school in India is held twice a year.

Suggestions

- Certain aspects of the German Dual System of Vocational Education & Training (VET) must be anchored in India even more strongly than available currently, to ensure an even more skilled workforce.
- More cooperative programmes are required in advance fields such as robotics, electronics and automation.
- Engaging in greater dialogue and understanding between India and Germany would be critical for enhanced cooperation between both sides.
- Cooperation must be expanded in the five critical areas of demand led skilling, integration of education and skills, blended delivery models, mobility of Indian workforce to Germany and digital ecosystem for skilling and livelihood.
- There is a need for upscaling efforts to strengthen demand led skilling and increasing cluster-based skilling initiatives.
- The two countries should work with regulatory agencies for harmonization of qualifications, design of bridge courses, etc.

Mr. Pankaj Madan



Mr. Pankaj Madan is currently the Deputy Head of the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Mr. Pankaj Madan has been active with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, India since February 1991. At this juncture he is Team Leader- Programmes of KAS, India Office and deputises for the Resident Representative to India as and when needed. During his long experience with KAS he has not only been curating KAS programmes including political delegations to Europe but has also been responsible for building, maintaining and enhancing old partnerships while forming new ones with political parties, think tanks, institutions and personages of repute.

Introductory Remarks by Mr. Pankaj Madan

Opening the discussion, Mr. Madan noted that the higher education system in India has gone through a veritable transformation, with the Government of India undertaking major efforts to internationalize the system to make a growing number of higher education institutions globally competitive. In this process, skill enhancement has become the core focus with the Central and State governments, he added, with the focus being on establishing an increasing number of separate universities for vocational education and training in the country. This, in turn, has ensured that the objectives of the Skill India Mission and other similar initiatives continue and are reinforced at even greater scale.

Mr. Madan emphasized that as India has to cope with 12 million workers entering the labour market annually, certain aspects of the German Dual System of vocational education & training (VET) must be anchored even more strongly in India to ensure an even more skilled workforce and a prosperous society.

He further noted that enhanced cooperation between India and Germany in the field of skill development and vocational education and training stands to be of tremendous mutual value.

He added that current professional industry requirements and specialized demands of the labour markets require greater emphasis. The education system needs to be largely steered by the industry and trade unions and must be ideally suited to meet the ever-changing demands of the current workforce, as companies are keen to constantly upgrade and modify their training modules in order to absorb new generation of workers.

Mr. Madan stressed on joint funding of education and training, which in turn would allow an Indian model of vocational education and training and assure good quality. Further, in addition to new and more relevant skills, existing skills would need to be improved as well. Upskilling as well as reskilling is therefore an imperative as introduction of automation and AI will usher in a major skill shift and would increase the demand for technological, social, and emotional skills.

Vocational training integrated with formal education would help students before they enter the market and aid workers align their skills with industry standards, Mr. Madan noted. He added that more cooperative programmes in advanced fields such as robotics, electronics and automation will be paramount for the future quality of India's and Germany's workforce.

He concluded by observing that adapting a model to India's needs on the lines of VET would be key to developing India's human capital. Thus, engaging in dialogue and understanding would be imperative to enhance cooperation between the two sides.

The education system needs to be largely steered by the industry and trade unions, and must be ideally suited to meet the ever-changing demands of the current workforce.

Mr. Sanjay C. Kirloskar



Sanjay C. Kirloskar is Chairman, CII National Committee on Skill Development & Livelihood and Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL). Established in 1888, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. is one of India's oldest manufacturing companies. It is India's largest centrifugal pump manufacturer and exporter, and has manufacturing facilities in the Netherlands, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Remarks by the Chair, Mr. Sanjay C Kirloskar

As the Chair of the seminar, Mr. Sanjay C. Kirloskar noted that skill development and VET is a critical area identified by both countries for furthering the development agenda that would benefit both countries. He observed that India's demographic dividend complements the emerging shape of the shrinking workforces of major economies and thus, cooperation between the two sides on skill development could help create a ready cohort of workers that is empowered to meet the global requirements of the future.

He mentioned that the importance of cooperation in these fields was underscored by the signing of the Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of skill development between the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and the German Chancellor H.E. Angela Merkel in 2019, during the 5th inter-governmental consultation in New Delhi. This reflected the desire of both sides for furthering cooperation on skill development, as well as increasing the employability of trainees and apprentices. Both sides also agreed on progressive steps to facilitate education, research cooperation and greater student exchanges.

India launched the Skill India Mission to transform the training eco-system and Germany is one of India's proactive partners in this area. India could learn from Germany's dual system of VET – one of the major reasons for Germany's competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. Germany's dual system of VET training is a simple, cost-effective and inclusive model. It is largely due to this system that Germany has the lowest youth unemployment rate in the EU. With 328 vocational training occupations, it provides the youth a broad range of opportunities.

With shared complementarities, India and Germany have high potential for collaboration and should find definitive models to strengthen cooperation in the field of skill development, with a focus on gaining significantly from increasing cooperation in the fields of developing science & technology and research & development.

India's demographic dividend complements the emerging shape of the shrinking workforces of major economies and thus, cooperation between the two sides on skill development could help create a ready cohort of workers that is empowered to meet the global requirements of the future.

Mr. Arunkumar Pillai



Arunkumar Pillai is the Chief Strategy Officer of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). He plays a key role in the new initiatives undertaken by NSDC. He is responsible for the overall corporate strategy as well as NSDC's engagements in Funding, International Collaborations, Information Technology, WorldSkills and Advisory Services.

Arun has over 24 years of work experience across various sectors including 15 years in School and Higher Education as well as Skill Development. He has worked with the government in formulation and implementation of the PPP policy in skill development. He has also held leadership roles in management consulting, education, skill development and healthcare companies. He was a partner in Ernst & Young's Government Practice prior to his current role at NSDC.

An Electrical Engineer by graduation, he holds an MBA from IIM, Bangalore.

Keynote Address by Mr. Arunkumar Pillai

Delivering the keynote speech, Mr. Arunkumar Pillai observed that over the decades, Germany has been one of India's most valuable partners, particularly in the space of skill development.

He highlighted five key areas where collaboration between the two sides could be fruitful, including demand led skilling; integration of education and skills; blended delivery models; mobility of Indian workforce to Germany; and Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH).

Mr. Pillai mentioned that the German Dual Education system has become a benchmark model for Indian institutions. He added that several Centres of Excellence in India have been supported by various German companies including Siemens and Festo.

In terms of going forward, there is a need for upscaling efforts to strengthen demand led skilling and increase cluster-based skilling initiatives, added Mr. Pillai. He

emphasized that it is important to look at different models of demand, beyond purely wage employment models, for example, gig employment and entrepreneurship, and that there is a need to increase skilling for each of these initiatives.

He highlighted the importance of decentralization of skilling and building capacities of district level skill committees for district level skill planning, for addressing the problem of demand supply mismatch. Mr. Pillai also underscored the importance of skilling in new areas of demand such as Industry 4.0, drone technology, etc.

With regard to integration of education and skills, Mr. Pillai highlighted three significant initiatives which were implemented over the last 6-8 months, including the Academic Bank of Credits for creating vertical and horizontal pathways for students, shared infrastructure of skilling and general education for delivering skill training and common IT platforms for skill development such as the Skill India Platform.

He added that as Germany is well integrated through its apprentice programmes, India can draw on its rich experience and expertise.

He observed that Covid has increased the acceptability of digital tools for skilling and therefore Blended Delivery Models for skilling are critical. However, several challenges remain such as digital access issues and less acceptability on employers' side, which need to be addressed.

Commenting on the mobility of skilled Indian workforce to Germany, Mr. Pillai added that NSDC International has been set up as a 100% subsidiary to enable mobility of skilled Indian workforce to global markets with focus sectors such as technology, healthcare, hospitality and engineering.

He added that the DESH Stack is essentially a digital common, being set up by NSDC, which is expected to reduce friction in the skill development ecosystem.

It is important to look at different models of demand, beyond purely wage employment models, for example, gig employment and entrepreneurship and there is a need to increase skilling for each of these initiatives.

Ms. Nathalie Gminder



Ms. Nathalie Gminder is the First Secretary and Counsellor for Industry Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in India, in New Delhi, since 2019. Previously, she gained 10 years of experience in the automotive industry, working for Bosch, ZF and other automotive suppliers in Brussels, the heart of Europe. She holds degrees from both University of Tübingen and Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Strasbourg in Political Sciences. She speaks English, French, Spanish, Dutch and has been making attempts at learning Hindi for the last two years.

Remarks by Ms. Nathalie Gminder

Ms. Nathalie Gminder noted that India's particular challenge is the huge number of young people entering the workforce, which is estimated at around 12 million annually.

She observed that a lot of synergies were created between India and Germany in the past in the area of skilling the workforce, which can be expected to lead the way for even more cooperation in the future.

Ms. Gminder highlighted that in 2015, India launched the Skill India Initiative with the objective of imparting skills to 500 million people by 2022. She observed that while this target has been reached in a way in 2022, these goals will need to be revised as the last two years were extremely difficult due to the Covid pandemic that caused severe economic volatility in India and other parts of the world. She added that, as a result, many structural challenges were being faced by not only India, but many parts of the world including Germany, especially in terms of demand supply mismatch.

In this context, she highlighted the importance of access to digital tools and hybrid and blended delivery models, which helped a lot over the last few years to address the skill gap.

She also underscored the involvement of the private sector as an absolute imperative for policy formulation and curriculum development.

Mentioning the lack of linkages between education and placement of the trained workforce as another significant challenge, she highlighted the integration of education and skills as a crucial requirement to address this area.

Ms. Gminder further stated that the dual training system particularly is the strength of the Indo-German partnership which includes theoretical training in schools, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and companies, and results in high levels of qualifications. These best practices aim to strengthen not only the quality of education and training, but also support overall social and economic development, she added.

A lot of synergies were created in the past in the area of skilling the workforce between India and Germany, which can be expected to lead the way for even more cooperation in the future.

Mr. Rajachandran Madhan



Mr. R. Madhan has taken over the position to lead the bilateral Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) as its director on 29th December 2020 and looks forward to catalyzing Indo-German Science & Technology partnerships.

He has been associated with development of marine instrumentation and autonomous underwater technology for oceanographic research at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) from 1991 to 2020. As a Scientist and Head of the Marine Instrumentation Department at CSIR-NIO, he has contributed in the development of several marine robots including Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV)-MAYA, remotely operated surface vehicles and autonomous vertical profilers (AVP). He played a key role in transferring AUV and AVP technology know-how to industry and in commercialization of the same. Also, he played a major role in capacity building and popularizing marine robotics in India.

Mr. Madhan has served as the Science Counsellor at the Embassy of India, Berlin, Germany for three years during which he ably facilitated, coordinated and contributed in enhancing bilateral cooperation between India and Germany. He played a major role in connecting scientists and academicians of India and Germany on several areas including clean energy, next generation batteries, high energy physics, marine robotics, biotechnology, molecular biology, space research, climate research, education and sustainable studies. He contributed significantly in connecting German institutions (including Fraunhofer, Leibniz, Helmholtz, Max Planck Institutes, TU9, Excellence Initiative Universities) with Indian counterparts (including CSIR, DBT, DST, MoES, ICAR, IISc, IIT).

His experience with international partners includes work with the Institute for System and Robotics (ISR), Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon through the Indo-Portuguese bilateral project on marine technologies and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, California through the POGO-SCOR fellowship.

Remarks by Mr. Rajachandran Madhan

Speaking on the topic, Mr. Rajachandran Madhan highlighted several programmes within IGSTC which are directly linked to skill development.

He stated that the most recent program launched, the IGSTC Industrial Fellowship, offered two different fellowships. The first fellowship is for doctoral students working in the industrial space. These students have the option of visiting Germany for a period of six months to get training. Then these students can come back and join start-ups in India or find new avenues. The other fellowship is for post-doctoral students, who have the option of getting skilled in a German industry for a period of one year and come back and work in India. These are well paid fellowships, introduced in 2021, which have seen a lot of demand in recent time and have taken off well between India and Germany, Mr. Madhan added.

Mr. Madhan further talked about another attractive Scheme called the women involvement in science and engineering research (WISER). The scheme aspires to help women to scale new heights in their academic research, he added. The women also have the option of acquiring additional skills by visiting Germany or getting skilled while staying in India.

Mr. Madhan noted that many programmes in IGSTC have been designed to help young researchers in India. Among these, he stated that the 2+2 programme is a significant one, where industry, academia and research institutions, from both India and Germany work on specific topics. These are large, funded programmes decided upon by Ministries and help young researchers and young industrialists acquire new skills and experience by visiting other countries, including Germany.

The women involvement in science and engineering research (WISER) scheme aspires to help women to scale new heights in their academic research.

Dr. Rodney Reviere



Dr. Rodney Reviere is currently the Project Head of the Indo-German Programme for Vocational Education and Training (IGVET), GIZ. Dr. Rodney Reviere has worked for over 25 years in international development, principally with the Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). For the past 2 years, he has been heading the GIZ's vocational and technical education portfolio in India, working to improve the quality of technical and vocational education in the country and advising other projects on how to improve and align their training programs. The challenges India faces are huge, and the pandemic clearly showed the potential and limitations of training through digital media in India, despite its reputation as an IT country. Prior to India, Dr. Reviere held similar positions in Bangladesh and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as worked in Cambodia, Pakistan, Mozambique, and Cape Verde in advisory capacities. He holds degrees in education from the US and Germany.

Remarks by Dr. Rodney Reviere

Dr. Reviere outlined Germany's Bundesland programme, which aims to improve the training of solar panel installers and maintenance workers. Adapted to a blended learning method, this programme imparts practical training to workers, he added.

Dr. Reviere also mentioned other projects including the development of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Tech Mahindra, to improve the training of 10,000 workers in sectors such as health, logistics and digital technologies. This project will be using different methods including AI, virtual reality, etc. to employ the blended learning model.

India and Germany have a long history of cooperation in the field of TVET (technical and vocational education and training), Dr. Reviere observed. Germany intends to take key elements of its work and see how these would work in India instead of replicating the German model totally.

Dr. Reviere also highlighted that a key aspect of the German economy is the '*Mittelstand*' (Medium scale) companies, which form a large part of the supply chain and play a key role in Germany's production sector as well as the TVET sector. Through the Dual Training programme, these *Mittelstand* companies take on trainees and provide them with top class education, he added.

Dr. Reviere observed that while India also has similar programmes to promote medium and small enterprises but there is a need for more investments in education and training. Thus, how Indian MSMEs can be promoted in terms of investing more in training remains a key challenge for India, and improving the quality of trainings and apprenticeships will be a key area of cooperation, Dr. Reviere added.

He further mentioned that India can also draw on experiences from Germany in terms of curriculum development, especially with regard to curriculum implementation in the workplace itself along with key learning outcomes, which help students move from one area of skill sets to the other.

India can also draw on experiences from Germany in terms of curriculum development, especially with regard to curriculum implementation in the workplace.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gries



Prof. Dr. Thomas Gries, born in Cologne, Germany, in 1964, studied at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany. He holds a diploma degree in mechanical engineering and economics and a doctorate in mechanical engineering.

From 1995 to 2001, he worked at Lurgi Zimmer AG, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, at the Department of Technologies for Fibres & Textiles in leading positions.

From April 2001 onwards, he is Director of the Institut für Textiltechnik (ITA) of RWTH Aachen University. The honoris causa Professorship of Lomonossov University is the most distinguished scientific award of Russia given for his achievement of tailored reinforcements.

The ITA was established in 1934 and is one of the world's leading research establishments. Its fields of research consist of man-made fibre technology, staple fibre processing, fabric production, technical textiles & composites, medical textiles and biomaterials as well as in smart textiles and joining technologies. With a budget of €15 million and a staff consisting of 110 scientists, 65 technicians and administration staff and more than 200 graduate researchers, ITA is leading in the digitalization of the textile sector.

Thomas Gries presently is:

- Member of National Academy of Technological Science and Engineering acatech
- Member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Science
- Member of the scientific advisory committee of the “Zukunftsinitiative Textile NRW (ZiTex)” and other institutions
- Evaluator DFG (German Research Foundation) as well as of other national and international project funding organisations
- Member of editorial board of several highly ranked scientific journals and conferences

Presentation by Prof. Dr. Thomas Gries

In his presentation, Dr. Thomas Gries mentioned that India is one of the most important strategic partners for Germany. He highlighted that the field of textiles, particularly hi-tech technical textiles is an important field of cooperation between India and Germany.

Dr. Gries mentioned that the International Centre for Sustainable Textiles is one of the largest institutes in Germany, with an investment of around 4 billion Euros, and is also a leader in the field of technology and innovation. The institute also boasts of the largest technology park where industry and university are working very closely together, he added.

The institute has been contributing to the Indian industry, specifically in terms of developing people as also upscaling of skills, Dr. Gries added. He further mentioned that mechanical engineering, process engineering and business engineering are some of the focus areas for enhancing skill development. In this regard, some of the leading Indian institutes including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi (department of textiles), IIT Madras and ATIRA (research institute in Ahmedabad, Gujarat), etc., that are some of the strongest partners for Germany.

Dr. Gries mentioned that the Association of Indian students in Aachen (AISA) serves as an important platform for Indian and international students as well as the community to interact and promote cultural integration. This is a powerful bridge for alumni and is of great help to students, especially alumni students, he noted.

The IGCS or Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (jointly coordinated by RWTH & IIT Madras); Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre (set up in IIT Madras), etc. are some of the important Indo-German research activities and areas of collaboration, mentioned Dr. Gries. These Centres enable global dialogue and offer opportunities for researchers and students.

Alternative energy is another important area of cooperation, stated Dr. Gries. He also added that developing extra-long cotton is an objective for Germany to help local Indian farmers for developing international high-quality products, which will involve skill build up for local farmers and help rural India grow.

Dr. Gries concluded by observing that India is of strategic importance for Aachen University, specifically for innovation and skill build up. Further extension of cooperation with Indian institutes and companies is therefore something that Germany looks forward to, he added.

Mechanical engineering, process engineering as well as business engineering are some of the focus areas for enhancing skill development.

Discussion

There are certain international measures for skill build up, such as the Centre for Vocational Training in Pune. Are there any other such success stories? What strategic actions are being planned between Indian and German federal governments to support these arrangements?

Intergovernmental consultations (IGC) have been taking place on a biannual basis between India and Germany. The last mission was held in 2019, when the German Chancellor H.E. Angela Merkel visited Delhi. The last one was scheduled in 2021 and has been postponed due to Covid and is now expected to happen in the first half of 2022.

Several topics will be covered during the IGCs including Indo-German cooperation in the fields of science, technology, and education. The Indo-German Training programme is due for renewal and will hopefully be continued. It is now being discussed and is expected to be finalized during the IGC.



The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years.

KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, it seeks to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with their partners, they make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political Dialogue focussed on Social and Political Change
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.



Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with over 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 294 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India marches towards its 75th year of Independence in 2022, CII, with the Theme for 2021-22 as *Building India for a New World: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Technology*, rededicates itself to meeting the aspirations of citizens for a morally, economically and technologically advanced country in partnership with the Government, Industry and all stakeholders.

With 62 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 394 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Mantosh Sondhi Centre

23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003 (India)

T: 91 11 45771000 / 24629994-7

E: info@cii.in • W: www.cii.in

Follow us on



[cii.in/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cii.in)



[cii.in/twitter](https://twitter.com/cii.in)



[cii.in/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cii.in)



[cii.in/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/cii.in)

Reach us via our Membership Helpline Number: 1800-103-1244