

Honourable Counsel General of the Republic of Korea - Mr. Kim,
Honourable Representative of the British High Commission in Chennai – Mr. Subramanian,
Honourable former Director of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and current
Honourable Member of Tamin Nadu Public Service Commission - Dr. Perumalsamy,
Honourable Director of Jetro (Japanese governmental trade organisation in Chennai) - Mr. Ishiura,
Dear speakers, dear parents and colleagues, dear friends of the school,
Dear children,

as the Co-founder and Principal of the school, I would like to welcome all of you in the name of the entire GIS-team to our today's celebration.

As most of you might know, today is a very special day for GIS Chennai, as we are able to celebrate 2 occasions at the same time:

1. the 4th anniversary of the school operating and
2. the inauguration of boarding facility

For this, we are very glad to welcome our honourable guests, who appreciate our efforts to provide superior education in Chennai.

We would like to express our special thanks on this occasion for their interest to support our endeavours in the future to make GIS further grow. – Thank you for that!

Before I will hand over the microphone to the first speaker, please let me reflect on the major milestones of GIS taken over the years since its existence:

GIS's history has its roots in October 2009, the date of formal incorporation at the company registration office in Chennai. On the inauguration of the school on 24.01.2010, we started with just the kindergarten and primary school with the number of just two kids at the age of 3 and 8 at the first day of opening.

Over the first 1 ½ years, the number of children increased but also in age, which led us to shift in July 2011 from our first small building in Neelankarai to a much bigger facility – which is our today's main building here in Palavakkam. In addition to the kindergarten and primary levels (grades 1-4), we then also provided education for children up to 8th grade.

Due to the ongoing further development of the school, we once again had to expand in space, which made us taking over the building on the opposite site only 12 months later, in July 2012.

In January 2013, we added the highly recognized IGCSE attached to Pearson Group and got selected from Supreme International Education from Singapore as role model school and regional franchise unit for South India.

So, within only 4 years of existence, GIS was able to make a paradigm shift transforming from a „primarily bilingual German School“ to an „INTERNATIONAL School“ providing one of the strongest Curricula in Germany, the Thuringian Curriculum, as well as the British International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) for grades 9 and 10.

The senior grades 11 + 12 will follow in line with future demand. It is planned that GIS Chennai will then provide two university entrance qualifications for its students: the German international "Deutsch Internationale Abiturprüfung (DIAP)" as well as the "A-Levels".

The German educational system is worldwide well-known for its strength in pedagogy, which equips the teachers with the appropriate tools, which are the keys for successful teaching – and learning!" Using the latest methodological and didactical tools in class, GIS has herewith set a benchmark in the educational market in Chennai.

This is the beginning for a significant change in the educational market in Chennai and we are glad to be part of it.

For being up to date in latest pedagogy from Germany – we are proud to say that GIS got affiliated to some of the leading Universities in Germany, with whom we will develop a scientific transfer of the theory and practice of teaching in class.

As part of this affiliation, we and the affiliated chairs will develop a specific programme for their current students and later graduates.

The programme inherits a fixed module, in which the students get certain tasks out of the daily teaching schedule at school to work on. Apart from that, the students will get practically involved by visiting GIS for a long-term internship as a part of their academic training for becoming a teacher.

With this, the prospective young teachers will have the opportunity to gain „first hand teaching practice“ in an early stage of their academic training, which is an important asset for their future tasks as teachers.

GIS on the other hand participates on latest scientific knowledge „fresh from university“, enabling us to implement latest knowledge in pedagogy at an early stage – means already much before it has found its official way into the schools in Germany and around the world.

Besides the input coming from outside - GIS has generated an internal quality management, in which teachers get regularly observed and further trained to achieve continuous best results in the execution of teaching.

Since 2010, we have been able to further train several internal and external teachers from KG up to Secondary level according to the international standards of SIE Singapore. Our advisor and Indian representative of SIE, Mr. Pallushek will say a few more words lateron.

The children who have already left us to their mother countries have benefit greatly hereof, and easily continued their academic training in their new schools.

Most of them are much ahead to the average, which is the result of our interyear class-concept, which promote the kids according to their capabilities – and not just according to their age-group! Our small-size classes, reflect upon the individual potentials rather than teaching big classes on average niveau due to a lack of teachers capacity in paying attention to individual needs.

Paired with our students feedbacks, „having had the happiest time in their educational career ever“, our vision came true – to provide a joyful and caring high-standard educational environment, tailored to our students' individual needs.

We are proud of this result!

Once again many thanks to our dedicated teachers, who make our concept real!

As already done in the previous years, we are glad to officialy handing over the SIE certificates gained by our teaching staff during the last 12 months.

Mr. Thomas Pallushek will do this lateron today – together with our honourable guest Dr. Perumalsamy (former Director of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu).

Besides the need for individual attention and support, we more and more got requested by Indian parents living abroad or in India, but far away from Chennai, to providing a boarding facility.

As response to the increasing number of requests, we have decided to provide some first space, which we are happy to inaugurate with you following this speech.

You will be able to have a look insight after cutting the ribbon.

Being a small private institute, which operates with its school fee income only, we have started with a handful of boarding seats, again with small group-sizes for the benefit of our residential students. Depending on the age of the students, maximum 4 students will share 1 spacious bed room and commoudious living area.

As you will see, the facility is equipped with an international high standard taking the children's demand for a homely feeling into account.

Bigger facility will follow in line with the future demand and can be utulized with the two buildings next to us.

Our Vice Principal Mrs. Rani will introduce you to the boarding facility. But let us first with the presentation of our kindergarten kids, which will be now shown to the audience.

Our student Ian will then take over guiding you through the following programme.

Wishing you a joyful celebration!

Many thanks and now please give a warm welcome to our kindergarten kids!

Melanie Rolf
Principal – German International School, Chennai

Chennai, on 24.01.2014