

## **Speech of the principal of the German School Chennai to the inauguration of the new facility in Palavakkam, 24.07.2011**

Dear children and parents, dear friends of the German School Chennai,

The process of sailing results from a drive of power. That is why I like to regard our venture as sailing on the sea. It was here at the Bay of Bengal, one and a half year ago, that we launched our small boat with only three kids on board. Today we already count double-digit and perceive a further positive resonance.

We managed to develop to an international community. Our students come from all over Europe, from India and Korea. Our bilingual curriculum is built on the languages English and German. The recent start of secondary school allows us to also include French in the round of foreign languages soon. Regarding at the future we plan to offer Tamil and Korean as optional subjects for our Indian and Korean children. We managed to extend our teaching staff from exclusively European to also Indian personnel.

For those reasons I enjoy so much more standing here in front of you today, and being able to ring in our second period of growth.

This particular business with an educational mandate – which means the German School Chennai – changed the ship and is able to cover a much bigger sphere of action by now. Since the beginning of this school year we are able to offer secondary education up to class 7 besides kindergarten and primary school. Passing another remarkable milestone of development with the opening of the secondary school we are delighted that ABB signaled the will to take care of furnishing the necessary scientific rooms. We would like to address our special thanks to Mr. Kara, president of ABB India and chairman of the advisory board of our school for this contribution.

Since we started to run school one and a half year ago we achieved a lot; and exceeded the expectations of not few people. We made scheduled progress in the expansion of content and personnel and are proud of this development! Our achievements could not have been brought to reality by the work of a qualified, motivated and stable team. We would like to thank each one of our employees for their remarkable commitment and their passion to create an ideal environment for the personal and educational development of our children; an environment in which pedagogics and didactics meet a high standard and where the individual need for support or challenge finds consideration. Being a truly international school, our students gain an insight into the variety of cultures and mentality at an early stage. Friendships resulting out of this constellation will have a signal effect on our further way.

What is the basis for all that? A strong will and passion for success (which means creating an ideal environment for the personal and educational development of children), furthermore a positive attitude towards appearing barriers and love for detail. This is one of the reasons for the central agency for German schools abroad to work with us and share our vision of an advanced school model abroad.

Putting our project into practice is not an easy endeavor but many helping hands have made it possible. A further development of our school is a matter of heart to plenty people and most of all to us. We would like to use the mobility of our boat in order to correspond as much as possible to the requirements of our children.

Today's children will be the leaders of tomorrow and they will decide about the future of others. It is therefore that the mediation of values, tolerance and social and responsible togetherness are anchored in our school routine.

According to the motto "start with the end in mind" it is already in the kindergarten that we set the course. Applying our bilingual pedagogical concept we are able to recognize and develop potentials. It is also at this early stage that we slowly start to prepare them for their school life in an optimal way and impart the joy of learning.

The primary school is then the place to refine the already learned in bilingual, inter-year and project-orientated class. Small-sized learning groups ensure that our students succeed. Their advantages compared to other children can be witnessed in many situations.

Miss Anne Fischbach, head of the primary classes and temporary leader of the methodology and didactics department will be in place to answer any further questions.

The acceptance we perceive from the parents ensures a wide word by mouth communication of all those positive results. We also would like to mention a recommendation that lead into another form of support. Out of his overall positive impression of our school, Dr. Walf from the Bosch company promised us help. We would therefore like to thank Bosch for furnishing our building with new kitchen devices, washing machines and several other useful utensils for a proper household. The German quality of goods is delighting and will provide a sustainable starting point in order to put further plans into action in different fields.

There is still wind in the sails. Anyhow I would like to leave the field for others to address some words to you.

Thank you very much for your interest. I am looking forward to having your children here with us to explore new worlds.