

# Guten Tag!



The Quarterly Newsletter • Issue 01/10

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Readers of Guten Tag!,



It has been a year of historical events for Germany. And the same holds true for the Goethe-Zentrum Trivandrum. Celebrations of 60 years of the Federal Republic of Germany and 20

years of the "Fall of the Wall" brought the Germans together to the Brandenburger Tor that once was the central point of the divided city of Berlin.

Angela Merkel was re-elected to the Chancellor's Office with a historic majority in the company of the coalition partner, the FDP. The German Economy has started showing positive signs of recovery after a short-living slump in domestic consumption and exports, thanks to the timely and appropriate steps taken by the German Government.

At the Goethe-Zentrum, we are very happy that our registrations for the language courses crossed the five hundred mark in a year's time. An achievement that I wish to attribute to the excel-

lent team work and the growing interest amongst people of different age groups and from different walks of life to learn German. Like in the last year, we are planning of course a lot of cultural programs for this New Year as well, which will definitely further bring the peoples of Germany and Kerala closer. Like always, this time too, Guten Tag! will take you through an interesting journey through German and Germany.

Happy Reading and I wish all our dear readers a very successful year 2010!

Sincerely,

Syed Ibrahim  
Hon. Director

## More than 500 Students

### Learn German at the Goethe-Zentrum Trivandrum

We never wanted to go by the numbers. Quality was our one and only objective, in order to live up to the standards set by the Goethe-Institut while imparting knowledge of German to our diverse learners. However, at the end of the first year, we were pleasantly surprised by the fact that within the last one year, more than five hundred students of different ages, interests, ambitions and goals have learned German at our Zentrum.

A milestone, that has brought inexplicable joy and a great sense of satisfaction and gratitude into our hearts. School children in the age

group of six to sixteen, medical students, software professionals, journalists, science graduates, engineers, priests, nurses, housewives, hobby learners; they all accounted for the majority of the students at the Goethe-Zentrum. The increasing number of students and partnerships with schools and other institutions as well as with IT Companies from the Technopark encourage us to provide a world of new learning experience and opportunities through German. Thank You!

Please read the article that appeared in "Indien Aktuell" on our Anniversary:

<http://www.indienaktuell.de/magazin/>

## German Ambassador Visits the Goethe-Zentrum

His Excellency Thomas Matussek, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to India, did honours to the Goethe-Zentrum by paying a visit on Tuesday, the 29th of December 2009.

His Excellency was accompanied by the Honourable Consul General, Rolf Saligmann and both of them admired the friendly ambience of the Zentrum and the fact that more than five hundred students enrolled for German courses during the first year itself. His Excellency and the Honourable Consul General were welcomed by Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan, Chairperson of the Goethe-Zentrum and Mr. Syed Ibrahim, Hon. Director of the Goethe-Zentrum.



## Frohes Neues Jahr!



Guten Tag wishes all its readers a very Happy and Prosperous New Year! May all your wishes get fulfilled in this year!

After Christmas, Silvester or the New Year Eve is the most important e in Germany. Every year, Berlin hosts one of the largest New Year's Eve celebrations in all of Europe which is attended by over a million people. The focal point was again the Brandenburg Gate and the fireworks at midnight centered around that location.

Germans have a reputation of spending large amounts of money on firecrackers and fireworks. Silvester is the time for reconciliation and making friendships or reactivating lost roots, based on new resolutions made on hopes and expectations for a brighter and peaceful year to come.



### Ottanthullal by Hartmut Schmidt



For the temple visitors of the Udiyan-noor Devi Temple in Trivandrum it was a delightful and unforgettable evening on 20th of November 2009. The audience could not believe their eyes and ears that a German artist called Hartmut Schmidt could sing in Malayalam and perform Ottanthullal, the traditional temple dance form of Kerala. Hartmut captivated the entire audience with his graceful movements, perfect gestures and rhythmic and melodious narration. Add to this, his great skill in narrating the story in pure Malayalam! Hats off to Hartmut!

### Goethe-Zentrum First Anniversary



On Saturday, the 28th of November 2009, the staff and students of the Goethe-Zentrum celebrated the first anniversary of the Goethe-Zentrum. It is amazing how fast time flies. Looking back at the last twelve months, our satisfaction is reflected by the happy faces of our learners.

### Allianz Donates Books



Goethe-Zentrum Trivandrum sincerely acknowledges the contribution made by Allianz Technopark by way of donating fifty German books to its library. A high-level team from Allianz Munich visited the Zentrum in November and handed over the books to Ms. Sudha Pradeep, Head of the language department. Our special thanks to Ms. Brit Friedler from Allianz Munich and Mr. Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Allianz Technopark for facilitating this.

### Inter-Collegiate Quiz Competition



It was path-breaking alliance between the Kerala University Students' Union and the Goethe-Zentrum. Together with the Goethe-Zentrum, the Students' Union organized an inter-collegiate quiz competition on Thursday, the 10th of December 2009 on the topic "Germany – Opening New Horizons" at the University College in Trivandrum. More than fifty teams from the colleges and institutes affiliated to the Kerala University participated at this competition.

Thomas Mathai and Anvin Mathew from the Trivandrum Medical College bagged the first Prize to go on a three-week, all-expenses-paid trip to Germany. Ashish and Anish from the same college won the second prize of Rs. 20,000 whereas Anand and Appu of the Govt. Engineering College, Barton Hill, won the third prize of Rs. 10,000. They received Rs. 5,000 in cash and gift voucher for another 5,000 Rupees to buy books. All

### Allianz Starts German Training



Allianz joins hands with Goethe-Zentrum to offer German language training for its staff members. The first batch of 26 IT professionals had a first taste of the German language on 25th of November. These professionals would be doing the A1 Level course, coupled with an inter-cultural training program, in order to enable them to integrate themselves into the German work and living atmosphere, when they go to their headquarters in Munich.

these winners will also get a free A1 Level German course at the Goethe-Zentrum. The three other teams that made to the final rounds were given consolation prizes worth Rs. 1,000 each. Ms. Sudha Pradeep, Head of the Language Department, was the quiz master, who thrilled and entertained the teams as well as the audience with her natural and humor-filled style.

The Goethe-Zentrum wishes to thank the Kerala University Students' Union for organizing this innovative and informative quiz competition on Germany. The prizes were given away on 29th of December by the Honorable German Ambassador Thomas Matussek at a function held at the Trivandrum Press Club.

And, let us wish the first prize winners a good trip to Germany!

### Seminar on the German Elections



On Thursday, the 22nd of October, the Goethe-Zentrum organized an interactive session on the topic "German Federal Election 2009 and its impact on India" in association with the Kerala International Centre.

Former Ambassador T.P. Srinivasan was the chief guest at this seminar held at the Taj Residency Hotel in Trivandrum.

Mr. CMA Nair, Board Member of AREVA T&D and an expert on European politics, delivered the key-note address and emphasized the fact that India's export to Germany was around 4 billion \$ and imports stood around 6 billion \$.

The relation should be expanded to new fields like infrastructure projects in power and in transportation, nanotechnology, biotechnology and defense equipment etc. Germany should see India as a hub for R&D and manufacture for meeting the Indian demand

as well as for enhancing its global reach. As responsible nations, both Germany and India will have to understand clearly the sensitivities of each other and build a partnership based on mutual friendship and trust in a transparent ambience to have a win-win situation.

Ms. Angela Rittig from Germany made the session dynamic by narrating her association with some of the leading German Parties for their Internet-based campaign during the recent Election and by answering many of the questions from the audience with well-founded knowledge and a sense of humour. Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan, Chairperson of the Goethe-Zentrum was the moderator.

### German School Students Visit Trivandrum



Twenty-eight students and three teachers from the Friedrich Rueckert Gymnasium in Ebern visited Trivandrum during the first half of November as part of a students' exchange program organized by the Goethe-Institut.

They were received by the staff and students of the Goethe-Zentrum, where the amphitheater provided the right ambience for an open and elaborate

interaction between the two cultural groups. Despite the thundering showers, the German students were excited to gather as much information as possible from our students and thus enrich their knowledge of this great country.

The Principal of the Friedrich Rueckert Gymnasium School presented the Goethe-Zentrum with a flag of Bavaria and a book on their city.

### Photo-Exhibition on Peacebuilders

In September 2009, together with the German NGO, "Peace Counts" ([www.peace-counts.org](http://www.peace-counts.org)) the Goethe-Zentrum organized a photo-exhibition on "Peacebuilders around the World" at the Press Club Trivandrum. Here are some pictures from that exhibition...



### Photo-Exhibition on 20 Years of the Reunification of Germany

On 9th of November 2009, the whole world celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the historic fall of the Berlin Wall. In Trivandrum, a photo-exhibition depicting the developments that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall was inaugurated on that day by Dr. Mohammed Ashraf, CEO and Member Secretary of the Kerala State

Youth Welfare Board. Dr. Ashraf has been living in Germany for more than twenty years and was fortunate to witness the developments that preceded and succeeded the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. This photo-exhibition at the Museum Lawns drew the attention and appreciation of hundreds of visitors.





## POLITICS & ECONOMY

### European Central Bank Says Eurozone Countries Must Slash Deficits



European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet has urged the 16 members of the eurozone to slash their deficits by 2011. In an interview with the German newspaper Bild, he said budget deficits in countries using the euro "should be re-

duced in 2011 at the latest, in some countries already in 2010, to preserve faith in state finances."

Trichet also called on banks to ease a credit crunch by making loans readily available. "Banks must live up to their central role in providing credit to the economy," he said. Greece currently has the largest amount of debt in the eurozone at an estimated 300 billion euros. The country saw its sovereign credit rating go down this month due to ballooning public deficit and debt. Athens' public deficit is likely to rise to 12.7 percent of output this year, which far exceeds the limit of 3 percent for eurozone countries. Meanwhile, Germany is expected to have an additional 85.8 billion euros in new debt, due to its recently approved budget for 2010. The government has said it will produce a major savings plan by mid-2010 to put the country back on the path of fiscal health. Germany aims to reduce the structural deficit from 2011 by about 10 billion euros per year.

# DEUTSCHE WELLE

News Contributed by



## ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

### Fighting Greenhouse Gases with Algae-Power



In the struggle to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, researchers think they have found a new weapon that poses a triple-threat to dangerous CO2 build-up: Algae.

In the greenhouses of the Juelich Research Center in western Germany, hundreds of V-shaped tubes containing green, slimy

soup bubble away in a biological symphony. The slime, that has excited the researchers at the Juelich center, actually consists of billions of microalgae organisms. The plant-life can be found all over the globe; from hot springs, to salt and fresh water. These tiny algae have one huge advantage according to biologist Kostas Schinarakis, they think CO2 is delicious. "These marine algae are a special kind of seaweed, which very effectively and frugally, take CO2 and turns it into biomass," Schinarakis said. Martin Kerner of the Hamburg-based TERM project said he expects that the same amount of algae could create 50 to 100 times as much fuel as with rapeseed.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Germany Set to Introduce Smart ID Cards in 2010



The Interior Ministry has confirmed that the introduction of the multi-function card will go ahead as planned on November 1, 2010.

The information printed on the credit-card sized ID will be encrypted digitally. The radio chip also contains a digital passport photo. Users can voluntarily choose to store two fingerprints, and to activate an electronic signature function. The latter would allow them to sign sales contracts or make official applications online.

The card can also be used in machines, for example for age verification in cigarette vending machines. But although the ID can be used to fulfill both official and commercial functions, not everyone will have access to all of the data contained on the card. Owners have to enter a 6-digit PIN number authorizing the release of information.

Another important benefit of the algae is that it would not displace food-related crops such as wheat or corn. "The hope is that we could harness these on a large scale; say for example in filtering the CO2 out of the exhaust of a coal-burning power plant, thus keeping that CO2 out of the atmosphere," he told Deutsche Welle. Like all other green plants, the algae require light and carbon dioxide to photosynthesize and grow. But compared to other green plant-life, the algae will grow seven to 10 times faster and consume accordingly as much CO2, researchers say. Two kilos of algae could polish off four kilos of CO2.

## Welcome to Hamburg – Moin!\*



The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is a city as well as a state and with its 1.7 million inhabitants the second largest city in Germany.

Economically and culturally, Hamburg is also the centre of entire Northern Germany. 3.5 million people live in the metropolitan region of Hamburg. The city



area is seven times bigger than Paris and two and a half times bigger than London. Hamburg has more bridges than Venice and Amsterdam combined. As a trade centre, it has always been outward-looking, and this has shaped the mentality of the inhabitants of Hamburg.

The banks of the Elbe and the Alster rivers are perfect for a stroll. The port sight-seeing trips are impressive and they offer a special perspective on the panorama of Hamburg. Right in the heart of the city, there is a large lake: the Alster.

### Beautiful Alster

The image of Hamburg downtown is formed by the Außenalster (Outer Alster) and the Binnenalster (Inner Alster). In Hamburg's citycentre the Alster expands into a big lake. The water is surrounded by trees, green parks and beautiful buildings which give the cityscape a special charisma.

### St. Michaelis Church

The landmark of Hamburg is better known as the "Michel". The Michel is one of the most important churches in the North of Germany and the most famous church in Hamburg.

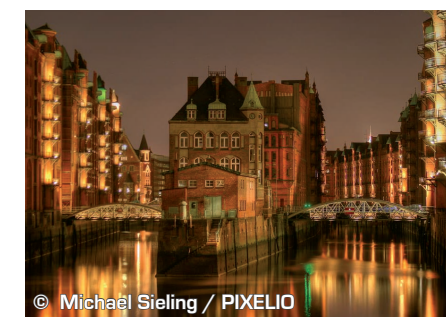
\*"Moin!" is dialect and means "Morning!", or in English "Morning!" but it is also used all day instead of "Guten Tag!" which means "Hello, how are you?"

### Reeperbahn

Hamburg's most popular street of St. Pauli is also called the Reeperbahn and it houses among other things some of the most-visited night clubs and interesting buildings. Besides these, you will also find many variety theatres, restaurants, music clubs and discos here.

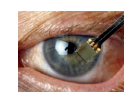
### Elbe

It is for sure, without the Elbe River Hamburg would not be the economic power it is today and the cityscape would be completely different without its harbor.



### Fischmarkt

Moin, Moin ... welcome to the Hamburg Fischmarkt! Thousands of people from all around the world are coming to the Fischmarkt at the Elbe River in Hamburg every Sunday. If you want more than only fish sticks, you have to come here. You will find a large amount of fresh fish and seafood.



## MADE IN GERMANY

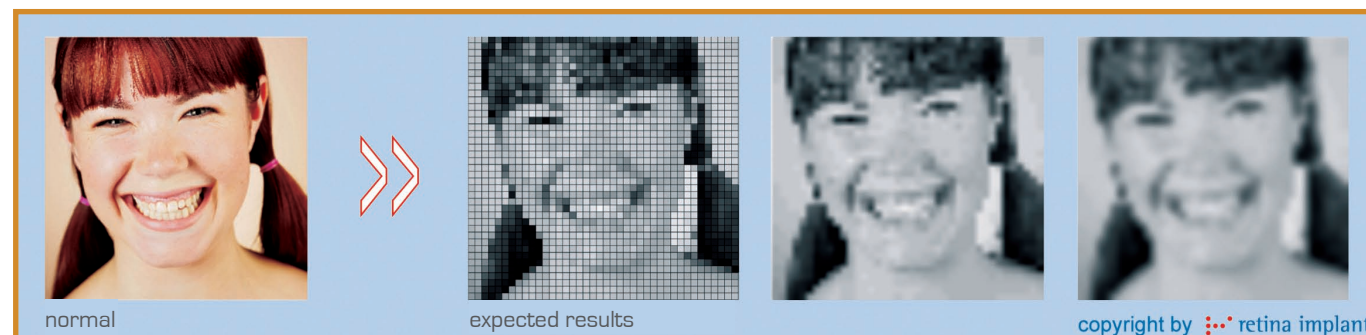
### German Scientists Use Microchips to Enable Blind to See

Scientists in southwestern Germany have made a breakthrough in restoring vision to the blind by successfully implanting special microchips under their retinas.

German news magazine Der Spiegel reported that a group of doctors at the University of Tuebingen under ophthalmolo-

gist Eberhart Zrenner had carried out the procedure. The team implanted a chip under the retinas of eleven visually-impaired people, enabling them to regain rudimentary vision so they could recognize objects and read letters. The implant comprises more than 1,500 photo cells housed on a three-by-three millimeter tiny microchip.

Those chips are placed under the retina in a four-hour operation. The procedure is designed for people who have lost their vision as a result of degenerative retinal disease which affects more than 4,000 people every year in Germany.



copyright by retina implant



## OUR STUDENTS IN GERMANY

### Jittu Writes from Dortmund

It was a nice experience to land in Germany after a long wait. Beautiful nature, calm and quiet streets and neat roads. But when the life started after I settled down, the difficulties started appearing one by one and sometimes at once. The major problem was with the language.

Here people do not speak English, even the youth. If the person does not know the basics, he will have problems while travelling in buses, at the supermarkets and on streets (if someone wants to ask for a way). Thanks to the Goethe Zentrum, the training in German helped me a lot to face these kinds of problems successfully and integrate myself easily into the German way of life. I spoke Deutsch for the first time to the taxi driver who dropped me

at my hostel at 11:00 PM and that was a wonderful experience for me. I just spoke a few words about the location of the hostel from Google map, but that served its purpose.

So, I strongly recommend that those who plan to study in Germany to learn German as good as possible. Once you land here there may not be sufficient time and opportunity to learn the language properly. In my case, there is no one in my class who speaks German. So I have limited chance to learn the language from here, at the same time I need to use the same during my life outside the university.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to study German at the Goethe-Zentrum.



Jittu

## DAAD Informs....



The German Academic Exchange Service (called DAAD in German) has been committed for more than 75 years now to advancing academic relations between Germany and other countries as well as, more generally, to promoting the fields of education, science, culture and research. Not least through these activities, the DAAD can base its work on an extensive range of expertise and experience.

DAAD offers several fellowships and scholarships to Indian students who wish to do post-graduate or doctorate studies in Germany.

The regional office is located in New Delhi and more information can be had from its website [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

**DAAD** Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

## Seminar on Visa Formalities to Germany

On 17th November, Mr. Stephan Kowitz, Head of the Passport and Visa Section at the Consulate General in Chennai, held a session at the Goethe-Zentrum on the topic "Visa Formalities to Germany".

Mr. Kowitz presented the current regulations and formalities related to the issuance of student visa to Germany in a very detailed manner and subsequently answered

the several questions from a large group of students that made use of this opportunity to clear their several doubts related to getting a student's visa to Germany.

After this session at the Zentrum, Mr. Kowitz also took a session for the business community in Trivandrum at the Technopark campus, organized in association with the Technopark and GTECH.



## A BIT OF GERMAN

Deutsch	German
Deutschland	Germany
U-Bahn	Underground Train/Tube
U-Bahn Station	Tube station
Strasse	Road/Street
Strassenbahn	Tram
Auf Wiedersehen!	Good Bye
Bis morgen!	See you tomorrow

Sprechen Sie Englisch?	Do you speak English?
Sprechen Sie Deutsch?	Do you speak German?
Woher kommen Sie?	Where do you come from?
Ich komme aus Kerala	I am from Kerala
Wie geht es Ihnen?	How are you? (Polite and formal form)
Wie geht es dir?	How are you? (Informal form)
Danke, es geht mir gut	Thank you, I am fine.
Wo finde ich die Post, bitte?	Where is the post office, please?

## Germany: An Overview

Germany is at the heart of Europe. It is bordered by Denmark to the north, and it also shares borders with Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Its capital is Berlin. More than 82 million people live between the North sea and Baltic seas in the north, and the Alps in the south of Germany. A number of midsize mountain ranges traverse the country.



Its most important rivers include the Rhine, the Danube, the Elbe and the Oder. There are lakes too - mostly in the north-east, in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, but also in the foothills of the Alps. The northern coasts are dotted with numerous islands, and the metropolises include Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, the Ruhr Valley, Cologne, and the Rhine-Main region around Frankfurt.

At the end of World War II, the occupying powers divided Germany. On May 23, 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was created along with its Basic Law, or constitution. Supported by the Allied Powers after the war, this western half of

Germany experienced what is called the Wirtschaftswunder, or economic miracle. This was led foremost by the coal and steel industries of the Ruhr Valley.

The eastern part of Germany -- which used to be called the German Democratic Republic, or GDR -- was created by the Soviet occupying forces and was tied to what was then known as the East Bloc. The Berlin Wall was built to divide East and



## Diverse Cultural Scene and a Changing Society

Germany today has very multifaceted art, music, theater and literary scenes. Old masters garner as much respect as young newcomers.

German society is constantly in flux, and the age demographics are changing. People are living longer and fewer babies are being born. At the same time, Germany has developed into a country of immigrants in the past 50 years. Some 10 percent of people living in Germany do not have a German passport. Some 7 million are what is known as people with a "migration background," which means they may have been born in Germany but their parents are foreign immigrants, or the children of immigrants.

## Germany by Numbers:

- Population: 82 million
- Area: 357,092 square kilometers
- Capital: Berlin
- Founded in: May 23, 1949
- Key Industries: Automobiles, mechanical engineering, chemicals

## GUTEN APPETIT!

### German Recipes - German Gingerbread (Lebkuchen)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup of softened butter
- 2 cups of packed brown sugar
- 3 full eggs
- 2/3 cup of honey
- 1 cup sour cream, if available
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons of ground ginger
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup of whole wheat flour
- 4 teaspoons of baking powder
- 1 cup of raisins
- 1 cup of blanched slivered almonds

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. First of all, whisk together the flours, baking powder, and spices.
2. In a large bowl, cream the butter or margarine with the brown sugar. Beat in the eggs, then the honey, orange liqueur, sour cream, and orange juice. Beat the flour mixture into the creamed mixture, and then stir in the raisins and almonds. Turn batter into a greased and floured tube pan.
3. Beat the flour mixture into the creamed mixture, and then stir in the raisins and almonds. Turn batter into a greased and floured tube pan.



4. Bake the cake at 350° F (175° C) for 80 minutes, or until it tests done with a toothpick. Transfer the cake to a rack to cool down.

*And enjoy this delicious gingerbread!*



## GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSES OFFERED @ THE GOETHE-ZENTRUM



We wish to welcome our new teacher from Germany, Ms. Manuela Funck, who has joined our team in January 2010.

Considering the growing demand for learning German, the Goethe-Zentrum Trivandrum has revised the course schedules for the year 2010 by changing certain timings and adding more courses.

In addition to the courses offered at the Zentrum, German courses are also being offered at our partner schools in Trivandrum and Cochin. Please visit our homepage for more information:

[www.goethe-zentrum.org](http://www.goethe-zentrum.org)

The Goethe-Zentrum offers the six different levels from A1 to C2 in German as per the European Framework of Reference for Foreign Languages. The internationally valid Goethe Examinations are conducted under the auspices of the Goethe-Institut in Munich, Germany.

### Class Timings:

<b>Morning Batch (3 months) :</b>	<b>07.30 AM to 09.00 AM</b>
<b>Super-intensive Course (8 weeks):</b>	<b>09.30 AM to 01.00 PM</b>
<b>Evening Batch (3 months):</b>	<b>05.30 PM to 07.00 PM</b>
<b>Weekend Batch (3 months):</b>	<b>01.00 PM to 05.15 PM on Saturdays</b>
	<b>09.00 AM to 01.15 PM on Sundays</b>
<b>Children's Course:</b>	<b>04.30 PM to 06.00 PM</b>
	<b>on Fridays and Saturdays</b>

For corporate training programs and other individual courses, please contact the Zentrum for more information.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### TABALA Concert by Florian Schiertz

The famous German Tabala artist Florian Schiertz would be presenting a classical Indian Concert on Friday, the 12th of March 2010 at 7.30 PM at the Althara Devi Temple, Vellayambalam.

Famous artists from the Music College, Trivandrum would be accompanying this Tabala Wonder from Germany!

### Rock from Germany



At the rock competition held in summer 2009 in Muenster, they were the unchallenged winners of the prestigious rock award of the City

of Muenster. After touring several countries in Europe and hitting the best-seller charts throughout the year, the BLACK RUST is now going to blow over Kerala.

On Friday, the 19th of February 2010 at 6.30 PM, Black Rust will be hitting the stage in Trivandrum. So, be there to get carried away by the beat and lyrics of this great band from Germany, which sings, of course, in English for the audience in Trivandrum. This rockshow is being organized with the friendly support from Allianz Technopark, Srilankan Airways and Rosebowl.

### Seminar on Scholarships for Higher Studies and Research in Germany

In association with the German Academic Exchange Service and the Max Planck Institut, the Goethe-Zentrum will be organizing a seminar on higher studies and research in Germany on 24th of February 2010. This seminar is intended to give authentic and extensive information on

scholarship-supported higher-studies and research projects in Germany for students from Kerala.

Please contact the Zentrum at 3013018 for registration. Please note that all programs and events organized by the Goethe-Zentrum are free to the public.

### Studentenfest



The staff and students at the Goethe-Zentrum celebrated the last Studentenfest (Students' Festival) on 11th December with a lot of fun-filled programs presented by the students from the different batches. It was also an occasion to have a dinner together with all our students, friends and well-wishers to celebrate the first Anniversary of our Zentrum.

