



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signed with the German Academy for Digital Education

BITS Pilani and **DADB** (Deutsche Akademie für Digitale Bildung) // **The German Academy for Digital Education**¹ have signed an MoU to bring into force new futuristic courses in the years to come to be done in collaboration with **Professors from German Technical Universities of Excellence (TU9)** and **faculties of BITS Pilani**. The collaboration also intends to facilitate joint applications for Indo-German research projects and support Internships as well as summer/winter school-oriented training for students.

DADB: In Brief

DADB is an academy offering online courses in Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering and Natural Science. Their mission is to provide a learning experience for students around the world that excites, stimulates and makes complex knowledge accessible through innovative formats. Teachers for DADB are professors from German Technical Universities of Excellence and practitioners from German industrial enterprises. The courses are a unique blend of lectures, animated presentations, 2D- and 3D info graphics, as well as AR- and VR-elements. DADB's programs bring together excellency in academic teaching and research with insights into industrial Research and Technological Development (RTD) by integrating examples and use cases from small and medium sized companies as well as from large industrial corporations in Germany.

How did it all begin?

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) New Delhi had organised an international seminar – “*Connecting Germany and South Asia: The Future of Higher Education and Research Cooperation*” from 18 to 22 October 2021. Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra had been invited as a panel speaker for the session – “*The New Education Policy of India (NEP): Opening new vistas for internationalization*”. Dr. Mahapatra had met briefly with Dr. Carsten Schroeder, CEO, DADB, Germany, at this event. Dr. Mahapatra invited the DADB team to BITS Pilani for further discussion to explore areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

The MoU Signing Ceremony

A four-member delegation from DADB visited the Pilani campus on 01.08.2022. The delegation included the following members from DADB:

¹ <https://www.dadb.com/?lang=en>





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1. Dr. Carsten Schroeder: CEO, DADB, Germany.
2. Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy: Managing Director, DADB India.
3. Mr. Thorsten Hefert: CFO, DADB, Germany.
4. Ms. Sanju Kumari: Head of International partnerships, DADB India.

In the meeting with visiting delegates, **Prof Sudhir Kumar Barai, Director BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus** stressed to develop interactive online course contents to have a greater impact on the teaching portfolio BITS Pilani. The brief meeting was followed by signing the MoU documents, exchange and handshake with the team of DADB. Figure 1,2,3 capture the sequence of events. The delegates then presented a small token to Prof. Barai (Figure 4). This gesture was well appreciated by Prof. Barai, who gifted a book titled *“BITS Pilani: Journey from Pathashala to an Institute of Eminence”* (Figure 5).

Key Areas of Collaboration

1. Execution of DADB’s edutainment courses by German Professors and Industry experts in unique blended learning format.
2. Academic collaboration in terms of developing a curriculum and content for Engineering courses of mutual interest.
3. Support for Indo-German projects.
4. Internship and summer / winter school oriented training and German language Courses.

Kick-off Seminar

After the MoU signing ceremony, interaction with all faculties of the Pilani campus was organized in the NAB auditorium. The session involved a discussion on *“Blended Learning as a tool of internationalization”*. A sample course on 5G was presented, and some insights were shared on how to have our own private 5G network on campus. Additionally, it was stressed why such courses are impactful and how they can help our faculties in doing more research as well as collaborative work with Professors from German Universities.

Visit to the CSIS Department

The delegates visited the Computer Science and Information System department. They were hosted by all the faculty members headed by **Prof. Sudeept Mohan (HOD)**. The interaction revolved around on discussion of new futuristic and interdisciplinary courses which the department intends to roll out in the





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next eight months. The event concluded with a note from **Prof. Dalip Kumar** on how to move forward and materialize the discussions in the near future.



Figure 1: MoU signing by Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (Director, BITS Pilani) & Dr. Carsten Schroeder (CEO, DADB, Germany). (In Photo from left hand side → Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (BITS), Dr. Carsten Schroeder (DADB), Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy (DADB))





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Figure 2: MoU Exchange by Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai & Dr. Dr. Carsten Schroeder. (In Photo from left hand side → Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra (BITS), Prof. Dalip Kumar (BITS), Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (BITS), Dr. Carsten Schroeder (DADB), Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy (DADB), Ms. Sanju Kumari (DADB) & Mr. Shone Jose (DADB))



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Figure 3: Handshake between Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai & Dr. Dr. Carsten Schroeder. (In Photo from left hand side → Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra (BITS), Prof. Dalip Kumar (BITS), Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (BITS), Dr. Carsten Schroeder (DADB), Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy (DADB))





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Figure 4: Dr. Carsten Schroeder presenting a token from Berlin to Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai. (In Photo from left hand side → Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra (BITS), Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (BITS), Ms. Sanju Kumari (DADB), Dr. Carsten Schroeder (DADB) & Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy (DADB) & Mr. Shone Jose (DADB))



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Figure 5: Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai presenting a book titled *“BITS Pilani: Journey from Pathashala to an Institute of Eminence”* to Dr. Carsten Schroeder. (In Photo from left hand side → Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra (BITS), Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai (BITS), Ms. Sanju Kumari (DADB), Dr. Carsten Schroeder (DADB) & Mr. Neelesh Lankireddy (DADB))

1. Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai, Director-in-Charge, IPCD.
2. Prof. Dalip Kumar, Associate Dean, IPCD (Pilani Campus).
3. Dr. Tanmaya Mahapatra (Faculty-in-charge for collaboration with DADB).

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