

**Rede von Herrn Oberbürgermeister Jürgen Roters anlässlich der  
13th Indo-European ICT-Conference 2014 im Rahmen der 6. Kölner  
Indienwoche 2014 am 06.06.2014, 09.00 Uhr, KölnSky**

**Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!**

Hon'ble Consul General,  
Mr Bäumer,  
Mr Chandrashekar,  
Mr Bonn,  
Entrepreneurs,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Indo-European ICT Conference, a very essential part of the Cologne India Week again.

And again I am very proud to be able to welcome numerous guests from Germany and abroad here in Cologne. Relations between Cologne and India have been making noticeable strides in the recent years and are still growing strong. One reason for this is the India Initiative started by the City of Cologne a few years ago.

This initiative has already led to many successful projects in many diverse fields. And as in the years before, we have been talking about business and trade relations but as well about terms of education and science.

In lectures and discussions we have learned more about the social and economic specifics and opportunities of India. In addition, cultural events, for example Indian literature, art and music, have been an important part of the program.

I would like to invite you to exchange all your experiences and to maintain and intensify established contacts and make new ones.

Today's conference, once again, offers us the excellent opportunity to take a closer look at the information and communication technology sector which is so important for both our countries, and of course for the city of Cologne.

More than 11,000 companies of the information and communication technology sector can currently be found in the district of the Cologne Chamber of Commerce. They make Cologne and its surrounding region one of the strongest, most exciting and most innovative ICT regions in Europe.

Where numerous companies in the ICT business are to be found in one place, it is inevitable to find lots of synergy effects as well. Cologne as a successful trade and financial center for the most varied sectors offers numerous points of contact and cooperation possibilities that efficiently contribute to the successful networking.

More than 90 per cent of the ICT companies belong to the information technology sector, about 30 per cent to the Internet industry and 27 per cent to the software industry.

The mixture of large, medium-sized and small companies as well as the wide range of products and services offered, reflect the diversity of the ICT location Cologne. Global players, such as Microsoft, Wipro Technologies and MindTree, are located here as well as small and medium-sized companies, service providers and trades. And business people and creative minds from all areas as well as employees from many nations are happy to call Cologne their home.

One reason for the popularity of the economic location of Cologne is that foreign business people and companies find open-mindedness, tolerance and ideal conditions for both their professional and their personal development here. Cologne lifestyle – cosmopolitan attitude combined with a zest for life – supplements the hard locational factors and makes Cologne a popular home – temporary or permanent.

More than 30 percent of our inhabitants have a migration background and enrich the city with their own offer of culture, restaurants and other companies. Cologne is used

to dealing with other cultures and people here love to share the Cologne way of life with others.

We welcome all those willing to settle here from all parts of Germany and from all around the world – because they make sure that Cologne stays young and dynamic even when other cities and regions have to struggle with declining population figures and an ageing population.

So Cologne is and will always remain a vibrant and modern city.

In this context our current project the allocation of free W-LAN hotspots in Cologne is breaking new ground. In May we provided the first 6 hotspots right in the center of our City, with 6 more to follow in the next months. In a joint and interactive effort of Cologne enterprises, individuals, associations and the municipal administration we will continue to expand the coverage of free W-LAN supply continuously.

I am convinced that as a result of this project numerous chances and opportunities for both private and business purposes will increase.

Moreover, we were the first metropolis in Germany to provide the mobile High Speed Internet LTE (= Long-Term Evolution). This broadband mobile phone network of the fourth generation enables the safe and fast transmission of large amounts of data. And the Cologne region is also at the forefront in Germany with regards to fiber optic cables. Cologne provides one of the fastest networks in the whole of Europe. We have almost complete broadband coverage. In addition, there are successful regional carriers with their own telecommunication networks which provide information and communication technology offers based on that as well as a strong creative scene.

Furthermore, a research and education environment with an enormous innovation potential is one of our strengths. Probably nowhere else in Europe do companies have access to such a potential of so many well-qualified employees as in the Cologne region. The universities, training and further training facilities provide a

wide range of ICT-specific courses – a fundamental requirement for the ICT business located here to be successful in the long run.

The ICT world is developing rapidly and is undoubtedly continuing to do so in the future. New job descriptions and thus new career opportunities arise repeatedly.

The City of Cologne and the Cologne Chamber of Commerce and Industry together create the framework conditions for suitable education and training. It is one of the most important tasks for us that Cologne remains future-oriented.

The ICT industry is of special significance thereby as a growth market. Innovations and developments in ICT have relevant key functions for the further development of other lines of business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
the City of Cologne including the Chamber's catchment area has developed, to be one of the leading ICT regions in Germany. Innovative power is flanked, in connection with the convergence themes, by the significant presence of all the large ICT companies. Cologne is the leading trade fair location for 25 business sectors. Cologne brings people together.

Providing networking-platforms to discuss all issues in order to improve further development – in business but as well in personal or public affairs – have been important in the past and are even more important now and in the future.

Where people exchange experiences, new ideas are born and new success stories get started.

In this context I would like to thank the initiators, organizers and assistants of the 13<sup>th</sup> Indo-European ICT Conference 2014. I would like to mention Mr Bäumer by name as well as the representatives of the two industry associations BITKOM, Mr. Bonn, and NASSCOM, Mr. Chandrashekhar.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that you will have many interesting talks and discussions today about the complex questions and special issues ICT.

And I wish that by exchanging your experiences new ideas lead to new success stories – born here in Cologne.