

Indo-German Business Summit / Hannover Messe 2015

Hannover, 13 April 2015

Welcome

Dr. Hubert Lienhard
APA Chairman and President and CEO, Voith GmbH

Check against delivery!

Dear Chancellor Merkel,
Prime Minister Modi,
Mr. Mazumder,
Mr. Grillo,
Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure that India is this year's host country of the world's most important industry trade fair. The more closely we work together, the greater the benefit to both countries. I am especially pleased that this summit has your support, Chancellor Merkel, and yours, Prime Minister Modi. My thanks also go to the Confederation of Indian Industry and Mr. Mazumder for their excellent collaboration, as well as to Hannover Messe for supporting this event.

India is an integral part of Asia's development now, a trend we observe with fascination. It is not only the rapid growth of the economy that impresses us; it is also the rate of political and societal changes taking place. Businesses are growing and tapping into continually arising new markets. In this manner, wealth is created for millions of people at a breathtaking speed. And further millions set their hopes on the growth and development of your country.

The initiative "Make in India" marks an important step taken by the country. As CEO of Voith, I represent a company that has been doing projects in India since 1911 and has had its own locations there for over 50 years. We have made important contributions to the development of Indian infrastructure. We now manufacture in India, both for Indian markets as well as for export. Many other German companies do this as well. We want to be a natural part of the Indian economy, create jobs, pay taxes and share in the country's growth.

German business puts great confidence in partnership, sustainability and equal treatment. These three terms are key for the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business. They lay out the path to building sustainable, stable and beneficial partnerships in our globalized world with rapidly and increasingly interlinked economies and interdependence.

We must also discuss the prerequisites for turning "Make in India" into a reality. What do German businesses expect of India? What expectations do our partners in India bring to the table?

I am convinced that we can answer some of these important questions today. I wish us all a productive "Indo-German Business Summit."