

# DIE SCHULE

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN SCHOOL HCMC (IGS)



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## CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI (a Happy New Year!)

A few thoughts about the New Year. In 2016 just like every year on New Year's Eve, I wanted to talk about issues that had been raised during the year as well as to reflect on the developments we hope to achieve in 2017. However, somehow everything turned out to be different. Rather, the conversations raised even bigger questions: transformation within our society, depoliticisation, demographic change as well as new challenges for all people. The adjective "post-factual" was voted *Word of the Year 2016* by the Association for the German Language. This implies that political discourse today increasingly centres on emotions rather than facts. The media has witnessed a decline in people's trust and shaping one's opinion has become self-referential, moreover emotional via the internet. Flexibility, creativity, and the ability to generate a sense of purpose, are challenges of our time. The citizens of Berlin sell their cars and instead are riding bicycles. They are doing extreme sports or yoga, to arrive in the 'here and now'... the grand visions did not evolve; instead, the new was captured within the terms of yesterday.

Society is changing. Sometimes we might have the feeling that it moves away from its people. Social media connects us worldwide. Research, education, economics and financial industries act globally. Mankind is more mobile than ever before.

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Beyond borders – through our social networks – and in real-time we are connected to one another and live as part of a global society. This stands in contrast to nation-state semantics, which are conveyed through passports, visas, birth rights, a national set of laws, or the remainders of political reflexes. The individual positioning and localisation oscillates in this stress field somewhere between global citizenry and a loosely defined territorial bond – and it seeks its political counter piece.

It is the primary mission of a school to ensure connectivity and participation in this volatile world society. It mediates expertise and values, all of which are necessary and valuable, adhering to the respective societal consensus as well as to the policy position with regard to education. One prerequisite of this connectivity and participation is usage of digital media. A usage not defined by booking seats on a plane, reserving a spot at the local citizen centre, or purchasing tickets to the opera. Our daily routine is increasingly structured and dominated by mobile apps, online portals, learning management systems, Skype conferences, and interactive calendars. “Media Literacy” is a fundamental requirement to societal success.

Just like all stimuli in our environment, the influence of digital media shapes; cognitive concepts, our behaviour in learning and thinking, and it changes us as humans. The daily allure of multi-tasking, the logic of desktop computing and 24-hour connectivity diminishes our ability to concentrate. Virtual peers and online apps enter into a competition with real people,

interfering with our ability to take relaxing breaks, a walk in the woods or even to build sandcastles.

School and parents act as mediators of the skills of new media. At the same time, we have to try and absorb the shock of an ever-changing reality of life.

Because of the enormous speed of digitalization within our society, an experiment confined to the test tube is virtually impossible. Experiences, reconstruction, and adjustments happen in real time on a moving train.

*Dirk Thormann, Principal*

To read more on the topic of digitalisation, please go to p. 5 to read the article by C. Ehrlich-Cypra.

### Tape Art — Workshop

Art project with *Tape That* - an initiative of the Consulate General HCMC

...an exciting art experience on the last day before the Christmas holidays.

Tape, cutter knife, and square panes were the only limits of expression.

The artistic process with this new medium was not only impressive but so too were the diverse images created in the final products.

At the beginning of the day, the students watched a video clip in which



they saw the dimensions of Tape-art as it is displayed in Berlin Central Station.

The artists of *Tape That* were unconventional and highly focussed



and they knew how to inspire the participants of the workshop. Even the onlookers from the lower classes were thrilled to learn about the process and



*Picture: Bao Tram with her Tape Art in front of the IGS Christmas tree*

some even did some tape art at home. The project was not only an interesting cultural exchange but also brought with it a conceptual re-thinking — a genuinely creative workshop.

[Click here: HCMC Television Link](#)

*(editor)*

## Bilingual Chemistry lessons at the International German School HCMC

*Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Becker/  
Minh Quang Nguyen, M. Ed.*

For a few months now Minh Quang Nguyen has been teaching Chemistry at the International German School (IGS) HCMC. The German school has a multilingual approach. Students from different countries, especially from Vietnam, are trained and qualify according to "German" performance standards. The language of instruction is German which means that the students learn Chemistry in German. A multilingual specialized class is a major catalyst for intercultural education and also from the point of view of foreign language didactics.



*Picture: Student observes the precipitation of soap with the objective view of a scientist.*

To study in a foreign language and not in your mother tongue is practised worldwide in all subjects in various permutations. However, in the majority of cases it is practised as

bilingual teaching. The basic idea is to learn subject-related content in a foreign language. The aim is to expand and deepen foreign language competencies in specialized classes. According to findings in teaching methodology, the acquisition and understanding of chemical terminology in a foreign language is more successful even than in one's native language. It may be assumed that the meaning of a specialized terms that have to be learned, e.g. *Löslichkeit*, *Niederschlag*, *Säure*, *Seife*, *Volumen* bzw. *Konzentrieren*, *Mischen*, *Beobachtung*, *Vergleichen* (solubility, sediment, acids, soaps, volume, to concentrate, mix, observe and compare) (see image) remains largely unaffected from the student's ideas that are otherwise always associated with another (German) specialized term that has to be learned, and which may impede the "conceptual learning". This knowledge can be experienced in the lessons of Mr. Minh Quang Nguyen. Bilingual lessons are fun for students when:

- the science of daily situations is subject for discussion,
- Students are given the chance to learn
- Students are given the opportunity to actively participate in class and contribute their own ideas.

Mr. Minh Quang Nguyen uses differentiated learning and linguistic opportunities in his Chemistry lessons to help students learn topics like "Substances and substance properties". In classes with students who have no or limited language skills, he initiates opportunities to use

language by discussing everyday objects which the students know and also by doing experiments. Specialist terminology becomes clear, accessible, known and interconnected through the students' own actions. Students with minimal knowledge of the German language are thereby motivated to communicate every-day occurrences and experiences dealing with the material, to describe them and then to present them from their own points of view. It may be useful to offer Vietnamese, as well as English translation assistance. Generally it is the task of the subject teacher to strike a balance between a language and subject-related support, especially when linguistic competencies within the learner group are heterogeneous.

Through bilingual specialized classes (like Chemistry, Physics and Biology) the IGS fosters the personal development of all students. Bilingual specialised classes are met with enthusiasm by the students and are in high demand with the parents. The learning environment, resources, facilities, and laboratory of the IGS also contribute to this successful development.



*Picture: Students playfully and creatively explore material conditions.*

## Language diaries in kindergarten

Unfortunately diaries are becoming outdated. They used to be a constant tool to help us to preserve memories, organise thoughts and give our subconscious perceptible contours. It is exactly these features which have helped the diary to achieve a comeback as "Sprachlernstagebuch" (literal meaning: language-learn-diary) – in fact in the educational setting of the Kindergarten. What has become a standard in Berlin childcare centres is what we at the IGS want to adapt for our language support program in our Kindergarten.



Picture: Mr. J. Drabner in preschool

How does it work?

The language diary consists of pages which are collected in a portfolio folder for every child. The individual pages are dedicated to specific topics.

The topic page is illustrated with an extendable colouring picture which was designed by our Arts teacher, Ms Sue King. The different parts of the colouring picture are used as specific linguistic triggers.

Students and teachers start talking about the illustrations. The images, however, are only supposed to be a

stimulus for developing their own ideas and expanding and completing the picture. Ideally, the children draw free-hand and associate their own images.

Essential language structures which help to linguistically deal with the topic are noted on the following pages for parents and teachers.

The linguistic devices used by the children are written down on those pages as well. With the use of topic-related picture cards, the passive vocabulary knowledge is acquired and the task of the language diary is supported.

This is a systematic approach which supports each child's language acquisition at their own individual pace and focussing on their own interests.

At the same time, the portfolio offers a possibility for teachers and parents alike to systematically document and support the level of language development.

The actual thematic fields of the language diary are not concluded when the Kindergarten moves on to the next topic. There is periodic revision when the children browse through the portfolios with a teacher.

This, as well as a step-by-step expansion, works according to the Kindergarten's conceptual spiral approach to their curriculum.

In addition, the language diaries provide the basis for the half-yearly development talks we schedule with the parents.

## School Uniforms

Sports uniforms and school uniforms are available for purchase in the school office in all sizes.



## B. Braun Vietnam Company Ltd.

B. Braun is sponsoring our programme for professional hand hygiene and wound care.



We thank Mr Roman Kübler — Manager of B. Braun Vietnam (I.) and Mr Torben Minko — Director Sales and Marketing B. Braun Vietnam (r.) for their support.

## Choir of parents and teacher - Come and join us!

At the instigation of the Parent Council, parents and teachers met for Christmas Carol Singing "under the Christmas tree". Now it will continue in the New Year. You are invited to come and join us when we get together in March under the special direction of our Music teacher Mr Thomas Mende.

## Media Competency: Parents as Role Models!?

Recently, the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, featured this on its agenda: *The future of work, the changes digitalisation introduce to the sphere of our lives, what type of jobs there will be 15 years from now and which new jobs will the future will bring?* The answers to these questions are unknown today. As for me, I ask myself the question; how can we prepare our children for this "Brave New World" in the unknown job market of the future? How should we design education in schools against the backdrop of the chances, challenges, and risks of an all-encompassing digitalisation? How should we re-think it? And what is the role mothers and fathers play in all of this?

Chalk, not stylus at German schools? Wifi at my daughter's Berlin school? Media Competency and IT as school subjects? This is not the whole picture but at least teachers, principals, administrations and the Ministry of Education are acutely aware of and are concentrating on the issue. The start of the discussion is promising, ideas have been shaped and there are plans to implement them. Finally!

Model IGS: IT is a school subject. I think this is great. However, the exploration and the discoveries linked to this type of learning of digital skills is not limited to a two hour class each week at school. This is not the case here in Vietnam, nor is it the case in Germany. I often hear the complaint: "My kid is only interested in his/her computer!". Or "My son has turned off the safe search settings on our desktop. It was very easy, you can look it up on *YouTube* – and what am I

going to do now, when his little sister sits at the computer? What can she see that she should not be see?"

Role model parents: I recently read about Melinda Gates, information scientist, wife of Microsoft founder Bill Gates and mother of three teenagers. I was happy to read that her first glance in the morning is not towards her Smart Phone. She is offline. And me? Unfortunately, I am not as consistent. So my daughter asks me: "Can I quickly use the tablet before school?" The same scenario presents itself in the afternoon. I have to research. Where? At the computer! What is my daughter doing? They know all about it.

Tablets and other devices tempt us to "park our kids in front of the computer." It takes time to immerse oneself in the digital lifestyle of our children. This is so even where so many of the games on offer for children, even pre-school children and their parents, can be excellent. Some of you might recall the old Tetris, or Pac-Man? You can play this together with your kids. Or you can let your daughter *Google* your next vacation: "Mom, how do I write Phu Quoc?" For a 12 year old son, I could recommend a research project: to look up the best safe search software for his little sister. Of course, you can praise his digital skills along the way. By the way, do you know who Julien Zheng Zheng Kho Budorovits is? The Singaporean is no 3 on the "50 Coolest You Tube Users" list. I just found out recently over dinner. Dinner, which was shared together as a family, telling stories, offline. Now there's food for thought!

Book and Magazine Recommendations (available at the IGS library):

- Hack's selbst!: Digitales Do it yourself für Mädchen

- Zeit leo (Ausgabe 1 /2017): Im Internet? Aber sicher!

### Links to German pages:

Guidebook for parents: SCHAU HIN was Dein Kind mit Medien macht. This media guidebook for families informs parents and educators about current developments in the world of media. It talks about different options for information, interaction and entertainment. It also discusses the risks, for example, hidden costs, advertisement, data leaks, dangers coming from contacts, cyberbullying, excessive use of media or certain dangerous contents such as violence and pornography. At the same time SCHAU HIN! offers an orientation in the digital world and gives parents concrete everyday tips about how to competently guide their children. It is important that parents discover the world of media together with their children, using the motto: "To understand is better than to forbid." Click here: <https://www.schau-hin.info/>

Computer Games Advisor for Parents: Which computer games are suitable for what age? How long should children play on computers? What do the age ratings mean? And what can parents do if computer games are the trigger for conflicts inside the family? These and many more questions are answered with this "Elternratgeber für Computerspiele" by Unterhaltungssoftware Selbstkontrolle (USK), the German software-rating agency and the foundation Digitale Spielkultur who promote support of media competence and digital gaming. Click here: <http://www.stiftung-digitale-spielkultur.de/project/elternratgeber-computerspiele/>

**Internet ABC – Wissen wie's geht!:** (ABCs of Internet - Know How it's Done). Internet-ABC is a playful and safe publication for Internet novices. As an online guide it offers assistance and information concerning the responsible use of the world wide web. With explanations, tips and tricks, the advertisement-free website is aimed at parents, educators and children between five to twelve years of age.

Click here: <https://www.internet-abc.de/>

*Blog entry by Carola Ehrlich-Cypra. The freelance editor who has been living in Saigon since August 2016 will stay until March 2017. Her daughter attends the 4th grade here at IGS.*

### Surprise on Teacher's day

We thank all parents and the Parents' Committee for the lovely surprise on Teacher's Day. We also congratulate all IGS teachers on their special day and thank them for doing such a wonderful job at IGS.



Picture: Chairperson of the Parent Council Dr Merklinger (r.) with well-wishers

### Laternenfest an der IGS

Am Freitag, 11. November 2016 um 17.30 Uhr gab es ein Laternenfest an

der IGS. Es war ein „Public Event“, das heißt, alle Leute konnten kommen und Spaß haben. Das Fest war von Lehrern der Schule organisiert. Die 7. Klasse half dabei, Getränke zu verkaufen und Brezeln zu verteilen. Außerdem gab es Bratwurst, Currywurst und Kartoffelsalat zu essen.

Zuerst sang der Schulchor, als ein kurzer Regenschauer aufhörte, liefen die Kinder und Gäste mit ihren Laternen zum Riverside. Sie sangen auf dem Weg dorthin.

Man feiert das St. Martinsfest zu Ehren eines Mannes namens Martin. Das ist eine Tradition in Deutschland. Als das Fest zu Ende war, gingen alle nach Hause.

*(Kate, Grade 7, has learned German for 3 years)*

### IGS feiert St. Martin

Am Freitag, den 11.11.2016 fand zu Ehren des St. Martin ein Fest an der International German School in HCMC statt. Alle Schülerinnen und Schüler, die Lehrer und sehr viele Gäste nahmen daran teil.

Das Fest wurde mit einem kurzen Theaterstück der DaF-Kinder eröffnet. Anschließend wurden im Schulchor, der vom Musiklehrer Herrn Mende geleitet wurde, Lieder zum Laternenfest gesungen. Die Darbietung wurde mit lautem Applaus belohnt. Nach einem kurzen Regenschauer begann der Laternenumzug zum Riverside. Währenddessen bereiteten die Organisatorinnen Frau Mai und Frau Wurster alles auf den Empfang des Umzugs vor. Als der Laternenzug wieder in der Schule eintraf, verteilten Schülerinnen und Schüler der Klasse 7 St. Martinsbrezeln und halfen beim Getränkeverkauf. Nun

konnten die Gäste Getränke und Bratwurst, Currywurst, Kartoffelsalat und Waffeln kaufen. Es entstand eine sehr stimmungsvolle Atmosphäre und alle unterhielten sich miteinander. Um 20 Uhr endete das Laternenfest. Schüler und Lehrer gingen erschöpft aber zufrieden nach Hause. Insgesamt war das Fest sehr gut gelungen.

*(Sophia, Grade 7, native German speaker)*

"Ich geh mit meiner Laterne und meine Laterne mit mir..." this was the sound of the lantern parade song as the children, parents and guests went on their way from the IGS school campus to the Saigon River at the



Riverside compound. With colourful lights bouncing up and down the procession seemed like glittering stars moving through the night.

On campus the children were delighted by a *Martinsfeuer* — a traditional bonfire — and *Martinsgebäck*, which resembles a sweet pretzel made from leavened dough. The tradition of the lantern festival is based on the legend of the Roman soldier Martin who shared his cloak with a beggar, thereby saving the man from freezing to death.

The legend of St. Martin was put on stage by our DaF-students (who had only learned German for 4 months at that point!) and reminded us of the values of charity and compassion.

## Christmas market in the tropics

HCMC, rain, muggy... What is a real Christmas market?



With humidity of 72% and 29°C even when you are standing underneath palm branches, the answer to this question becomes an ironic challenge.

Snowy countryside, gingerbread and Christmas trees, Christmas carols, Christmas cookies, perhaps some mulled wine... are somehow all part of it. We would like to try to recreate this scene but in the tropics. Not by selling plastic dolls made in China, but by creating a special, festive atmosphere with features which are not randomly interchangeable.



Christmas is a celebration which evokes childhood memories but not in any tangible shape or form, nevertheless they are important, formative and beautiful moments. A Christmas market is a market not primarily intended for the sale of goods but it is about authenticity and intensity — a market that evokes a particular ambience through the community of stalls and among visitors. Around 1,100 visitors were counted at this year's Christmas

market at the IGS. What a wonderful turnout! December is supposed to be rain-free in Saigon. Every day in this theoretically dry week we had heavy showers. Climate is changing and it seemed to threaten our Christmas market. We were in luck though and the rain held off. There was roast goose, grilled meat, waffles, Christmas cookies—all without rain but with interesting, relaxed visitors instead. Even the German and Swiss Consulate-General was represented with a charming stall in our traditional wooden huts.



It is readily apparent that a Christmas market at a German school with children from 16 different nations is something very special, fascinating and invaluable—all at the same time. Students, parents, and teachers sang Christmas songs in front of a brightly-lit Christmas tree which members of the Caretakers Team lovingly decorated the previous day. A real glassblower from Lauscha in Thuringia gave an insight into the traditional artistry of glassblowing. Fancy that - real baubles from Lauscha here in HCMC! What a perfect Christmas present. By putting on the Christmas market, we wanted to create unique moments for our children which they will later reflect on as special and happy childhood memories. It was an enchanting evening. By joining in, you as parents, have helped make one of those magical moments in the lives of your children. Thank you!

[Click here: HCMC Television Link](#)

(editor)

## Glassblower at IGS

Shortly before Christmas the German film "Die Glasbläserin" was shown. The screen adaptation by Director

Christiane Balthasar is based on the novel of the same name by Petra Durst-Benning published in 2000 and tells the story of the beginnings of the age-old tradition of glassblowing. In previous times, glassblowers at schools were not uncommon. Many of us recall stories of our parents about glassblowers who visited schools during Christmas and Easter preparations and crafted small animal figures made of glass. At the IGS Christmas market, the children had the opportunity to craft real baubles themselves or to watch the productive process. This way some of our guests may have found the perfect Christmas present or will make plans to give a set of baubles as presents next year. At IGS we are thinking about offering an after school "Glassblower" club. Only as recently as December 2015 the manual glass production was added as an art form to the *Federal Register of Cultural Heritage*. In the following year, in March 2016, the corresponding note was included on UNESCO's *List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*. How wonderful that this art form is finally being formally recognised and that value is being placed on the preservation of glass blowing as an art form.



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## Holzwerkstatt — AG an der IGS

An jedem Montag findet von 3:30 bis 4:15 eine Holzwerkstatt-AG an der IGS statt. Die Kinder von der 1. bis 7. Klasse dürfen an dieser AG teilnehmen.

Jetzt bauen die Schülerinnen und Schüler mit Hilfe von Herrn Kreier und Frau Pia ein Baumhaus im Sandbereich. Dort gibt es 2 große Bäume. In den letzten Wochen zeichnen wir Skizzen wie unser Baumhaus aussehen würde, schauten "Tree House Master", übten, wie man Holz sägt und misst. Wir hängten schon 2 Balken auf beiden Seiten der Bäume auf. In den nächsten Wochen werden wir weitere 6 Balken darauf legen, und anschließend das Dach, die Geländer und die Wände bauen. Wir brauchen ungefähr 6 Monate, um dieses Baumhaus fertig zu bauen. Wenn wir das Baumhaus fertig gebaut haben, dürfen alle Schüler mitspielen.

*(Kate, Grade 7, German as a foreign language year 3)*

**„Hooray,  
I'm becoming a firefighter..."**



Fire drills are fun. Not only in the opinion of the little dragon Grisú, who is the title character of an animated television series of the same name. Our smallest children in Kindergarten had a close look at the fire trucks on



October 27th when they visited IGS for the fire drill and were thrilled!

## MPU-Music School Concert

On September 16, 2016 the MPU Music School opened the season for our afternoon program with a real mini-concert on campus. Afterwards the



students took the opportunity to get acquainted with the instruments. Leonard already feels like a musician of a real band.

*(editor)*



## Holzwerkstatt an der International German School

Als am Montag den 5.9.16 um 15:30 die erste Stunde der Holzwerkstatt AG stattfand, versammelten sich Schülerinnen und Schüler aus den Klassen 2-7 und Herr Kreier in der Lehnervilla.



Als erstes bauten wir mit Hilfe von Herrn Kreier ein Regal zusammen, das nach ungefähr 3 AG-Stunden fertig war. Bald bemerkten wir, dass wir für das Arbeiten mehr Platz benötigten. Also zog die AG in den Blauen Salon um und fing dort an, mit Holz zu arbeiten.

Natürlich wussten am Anfang nicht alle, wie man Holz sägt also mussten viele lernen wie man es macht. Als alle wussten wie man es angeht, erklärte uns Herr Kreier, dass die AG ein Baumhaus bauen wird, also skizzierten wir alle ein Baumhaus und in der folgenden Woche fingen wir an, die Plattform zu messen, Pläne zu überdenken und das Holz zu bearbeiten.

Jetzt ist das Holz bearbeitet, in der nächsten AG-Stunde werden wir anfangen die Plattform zu befestigen.

*Milan (Grade 7)*

## Aktive Pause

Liebe Eltern und Schüler,

ich bin Schülersprecherin an der IGS und möchte mich kurz vorstellen. Mein Name ist Sophia Reim und ich gehe in die siebte Klasse. Dieses Schuljahr ist mein erstes Jahr an der Schule. Meine Lieblingsfächer sind Deutsch, Französisch, Chemie, Physik, Biologie und Kunst. Dinge, welche mir besonders an der Schule gefallen, sind die Klassenräume, die Bibliothek und der Pausenhof.



Um die Pausen unserer Mitschüler noch aktiver zu gestalten, arbeiten wir an einem Projekt namens „Aktive Pause“.



Wir haben uns überlegt, dass wir in zwei Pausen des Schultages Spielsachen, wie Bälle, Hula-Hoop-Reifen, Frisbees, usw. austeilten wollen. Hierzu müssen die Kinder, die etwas ausleihen wollen, ihren Name, Klasse und den ausgeliehenen Gegenstand in eine Liste eintragen. Die ausgeliehenen Spielsachen müssen immer am Ende

der Pause zurückgegeben werden. Damit kein Chaos entsteht, helfen immer zwei Kinder aus den Klassen 5, 6 und 7 mit. Falls ein Gegenstand nicht zurückgebracht wird, wird dieses Kind in eine Liste eingetragen und darf zwei Tage lang nichts ausleihen.



Wir hoffen, dass wir durch dieses Projekt die Pausen unserer Mitschüler noch aktiver gestalten können und Ihnen und euch unser Projekt gefällt.

Vielen Dank

*Students' Representative Sophia Reim,  
grade 7)*

## Air quality in HCMC

The JLL City Momentum Index 2017 ranks the most dynamic cities of the world. HCMC is in second place only to Bangalore (India). The criteria which are reviewed are, among other things; the economic activities of the city, investments, prices, demographic development and the education sector. Strong growth, construction progress, and other changes place enormous demands on the regulations of the statutory and infrastructure framework. For schools in HCMC this sometimes means having to decrease playtime in the yard on days with increased pollution. We at IGS

continuously compare measurements taken in the Kindergarten and School Office with the set point values and make decisions based on these numbers.

### Which are the world's most dynamic cities?

According to the JLL City Momentum Index 2017\*

1. Bangalore (India)
2. Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)
3. Silicon Valley (USA)
4. Shanghai (China)
5. Hyderabad (India)
6. London (UK)
7. Austin (USA)
8. Hanoi (Vietnam)
9. Boston (USA)
10. Nairobi (Kenya)

\*Measures population, connectivity, technology and R&D, education, economic output, corporate activity, construction, real estate investment and property prices.

[Click here: Link](#)

In recent weeks the pollution temporarily climbed above the annual average. On these days we have to weigh; on the one hand the importance of exercise and sports for the development of our children and on the other hand the possible ramifications of an increased fine dust pollution. Questions concerning air quality will have to be considered from an architectural perspective when thinking about a campus expansion.

## The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Ho Chi Minh City

The DAAD is the biggest organisation supporting the international exchange of students and scientists in the world. Since it was founded in 1925, the DAAD has actively supported over 1.9 million academics on the national as well as an international level. It is sustained as an association by German universities as well as student unions. Its activities are far-reaching and go beyond the allocation of scholarships.

The DAAD: fosters the global outreach of German universities, strengthens German studies including German language programs abroad, supports developing countries in building a network of academically capable universities, and counsels the decision makers in policies concerning education, global scientific, and development.

### What is the Information Center of the DAAD in Saigon doing?

The DAAD Information Centre HCMC provides information on available opportunities regarding studying and researching in Germany. It also advises students and researchers about possible scholarships and helps to build cooperation between German and South Vietnamese universities.



*The DAAD- Information center at the Goethe Institut HCMC (© Müller/DAAD)*

Our services include:

- Information events, e. g. at schools or universities
- Representing the DAAD at education fairs
- Giving individual advice about studying and research programs at the Information Centre (in the premises of the Goethe Institut, 18 Duong so 1, Cu xa Do Thanh, P.4, Q.3)

Via email: [hcmc@daadvn.org](mailto:hcmc@daadvn.org) or telephone Mondays and Tuesdays between 1 – 4 pm as well as wednesdays and Thursdays between 8 - 11 am. (Tel. +84 8 3832 9099).

The DAAD is also working together with; the Goethe Institute, the Centre for German Schools Abroad, the



*Das IC-Team: (l.t.r.) Tran The Binh, Phan Thanh Anh, Dr. Annette Klosa, Linda Hamann (© Binh/DAAD)*

General Consulate of Germany, the Vietnamese-German University, the Society for International Cooperation, the Vietnamese National University in Ho Chi Minh City/University of Social Sciences and Humanities, the German Business Association, as well as the Chamber of Foreign Trade in Ho Chi Minh City. Last but not least, the DAAD has been represented in the IGS School Board since 2016.

The DAAD is looking forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to visit if you need information regarding your child's options for studying in Germany or what kind of programs or scholarships might be available to facilitate your plans.



*Guidance situation at the IC (© Müller/DAAD)*

### Topping-out ceremony of the German House

The German House, the International German School and the Vietnamese-German University are repeatedly referred to as "lighthouse projects of German commitment" in Vietnam. On November 1st, 2016 the time had



finally come! With a drum roll the impressive Topping Out Ceremony of the German House was launched. In his speech Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who flew in from Germany especially for the occasion, praised the evident symbol of German commitment in HCMC.



*Foreign minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier (l.), Thuy Dang, IGS (r.)*

## Regional network conference in Singapore

Principals, school authorities and administrative directors of the German schools in Southeast Asia gathered on November 02, 2016 in Singapore to discuss the framework of an efficient collaboration. Furthermore, they



addressed trends in education and prerequisites for a successful school development.

## Secretary of the People's Committee Dinh La Thang welcomes delegation from Leipzig

On November 11th, 2016 the secretary of the People's Committee Dinh La Thang (picture: center-right) welcomed a delegation from Leipzig.

The delegation was lead by the Mayor



of Leipzig, Mr Burkhard Jung (picture: center-left) and consisted of representatives of politics, economy

and education. Both cities can look back on a long-standing collaboration in various areas. Among others environmental projects, the Leipzig Trade Fair was discussed. IGS was represented by our principal Mr Thormann.

## Leipzig's Lord Mayor Jung and Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Economy and Labour Uwe Albrecht visit IGS

The delegation from Leipzig, which comprised 14 people, arrived at the IGS campus at 9 a.m. and was received by the school choir with two songs.

Sophia Reim and Millicent Hughes (Grade 7) gave a welcome address in



German and English. Afterwards, the visitors asked questions about school life. A German-English program, Early Science Lessons, and the promotion of creative competencies are part of the academic profile of our 2012 founded school.

Our intended goal is the German International Baccalaureate (GIB). Presently 123 children from 16 different nations study at IGS. Millicent, for example, is from Australia. After completing an A1-language course at IGS in a three month period, she is now an official student here. Her German is impressive. Both Millicent and Sophia like the small class sizes and the fact

that everybody knows each other. The Delegation participated in a guided tour of the school and had a chance to gain insight into the lessons of various grades. Dr. Jost, Principal at the Wilhelm-Ostwald-Gymnasium, was also one of the visitors. As a representative of his School Board he discussed the possibilities of continued collaboration between the two schools in the future.

## IGS Information at a glance

### Early Bird rebate for new registration 2017/18

until March 31, 2017

### Professional Development Day (no lessons)

March 06, 2017

### Easter Celebration

April 05, 2017

### Easter Holiday

April 07 - 18, 2017

### Germany festival at the Zoo

April 22, 2017

### End of school year concert

probably June 03, 2017

### School reports/ last day of school

June 30, 2017

### Start of summer holidays

July 03, 2017

### German Beginner Course (A1)

Estimated start date in March, 2017  
for advanced registrations please contact:

[info@igs-hcmc.de](mailto:info@igs-hcmc.de)

or call:

+84 (0) 8 37 44 63 44

## Saigon for Big and Small Explorers:

The IGS culture tips for the weekend and other days when there is no school.

We all know this one: the weekend is about to begin and we ask ourselves what to do with it so that adult and child – the whole family, really – has something to look forward to. Please be inspired by our event tips, which we will publish in every edition of the IGS newsletter from now on. They are assembled by Dr. Martina Merklinger, art historian and author, whose daughter Anna-Mayra is a student at our school for over a year, and with whom she often discovers the city. The most current tip invites you to Cholon, a few others will guide you to Saigon Zoo and more well-known sights. Among these are some museums which are also exciting to see for the children.

## Adventure Cho Lon

Saigon is increasingly an international destination, and we feel this all the more in District 2, where people from all walks of life and diverse countries settle. Immigration from abroad is nothing new for Vietnamese metropolises; it is first and foremost the Chinese who are putting their footprint all over the country. In Saigon, you can trace this best in Cholon. Cholon is the Chinese part of town and it is always worth a visit. Tourists come to encounter the richly ornamented community centre of Mieu Thien Hau, an arts and craft feast for the senses, as well as Cha Tam

Church. Both are interesting destinations for children in their own right, yet you can kick this up a notch by taking it all in from a cyclo instead of on foot!

Check it out: There is usually at least



one cyclo at the central gate of the market place at Cho Binh Tay, said three-wheeled vehicle which resembles the rickshaw, and you can let yourself be driven comfortably in between cars and scooters on the wide and narrow streets – charge right ahead into the hustle and bustle of the Sino-Vietnamese traders! You will pass small shops whose displayed goods might resemble those in HCMC, but much of it is also typical for Cholon. Among the fare unique, you can find atmospheric, ubiquitous red lanterns but also Chinese characters, complementing the Vietnamese signs and adding to the flair of the place.

By the roadside, there are tropical fruits and vegetables on sale; your cyclo driver will be happy to show you one of the riches on display: mangosteens, rambutans, guavas, and other tropical delicacies. If you do not know them yet, you can go ahead and try them here. The traders are obviously happy if you buy some goods, per chance you like them – and you do not even have to get up! What could be better?



*Summer camp for children in Berlin  
July 03 - July 14, 2017*

*Registration deadline: February 29, 2017*

*For more information please contact the  
IGS school office*

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