

# Verbinden

German to English Definition: To link up, to connect together  
 A bi-annual Alumni newsletter from Technische Universität München Asia (TUM Asia)

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## Director's Message

With the steadily increasing cohort size, TUM Asia's alumni numbers continue to grow rapidly every year. We saw the need for a collective alumni community and assisted to kick start the TUM Asia Alumni Network, which is jointly run by alumni from different disciplines and cohorts. This issue of Verbinden aims to highlight the importance of community, which extends even after graduation. The friendships that you make in school can become important connections that last a lifetime.

As we approach the end of the year, this issue also highlights

memorable events with our alumni. We were able to witness the largest cohort graduating from TUM Asia. We were also able to host a TUM alumni stammtisch, with President W.A. Herrmann as the guest of honor. To read about the Graduation and Stammtisch, turn to pages 3 - 5 and 9 - 11 respectively.

Recently, we were able to catch up with one of our alumni who was back at TUM Asia teaching in one of the programmes, which was a very unique experience for him. To learn more about his journey from a Master student at TUM Asia, to his PhD at TUM and beyond, read his interview on pages 6-7.

I hope that you will enjoy this



issue of the alumni newsletter. Stay tuned to our next issue in the Spring of 2017.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Markus Wächter**  
Managing Director, TUM Asia

## TUM Alumni Network

More than 45.000 TUM alumni and current students form the TUM network. As an alumni, you can benefit from your Alma Mater even after graduating. Interact with others in your area, get in touch in real life or virtually, and benefit from these connections for the rest of your life! Find out ways you can benefit as an alumni. Register now at [together.tum.de](http://together.tum.de).



### COMMUNITY

Register your profile on the TUM network and be part of the global community. Create your own interest group or interact with alumni from all over the world.

Visit: [www.together.tum.de/en/](http://www.together.tum.de/en/)



### CAREER

Looking for job opportunities in another country? TUM's online job portal offers a variety of job positions all over the world, made accessible by a click of a button.

Find out more at:  
[www.db.alumni.tum.de/jobs](http://www.db.alumni.tum.de/jobs)



### ALUMNI SERVICES

Keep in touch with the latest news and events from TUM and TUM Asia. Make sure you keep an updated profile so all campus news can reach your email inbox.

Update your details at the bottom of the page in this link:  
[www.tum-asia.edu.sg/community/alumni/](http://www.tum-asia.edu.sg/community/alumni/)



### EVENTS

TUM and TUM Asia organizes regular events and workshops that can further develop your professional skills. Alumni events such as Stammtischs will also be a great time to catch up with friends.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for regular updates:  
[www.facebook.com/tum-asia](http://www.facebook.com/tum-asia)



### PUBLICATIONS

Get the news on who's who in the various newsletters and magazines published by the university. All publications are made available in English so you can definitely enjoy the articles within!

To view our publications, visit:  
[www.tum-asia.edu.sg/media/newsletter/](http://www.tum-asia.edu.sg/media/newsletter/)



### SUPPORT

As an alumna or alumnus, you can support our students in many ways. Through sharing your expertise and experiences in our newsletter, you are able to offer insights into your professional everyday life.

Simply contact us at:  
[info@tum-asia.edu.sg](mailto:info@tum-asia.edu.sg)

Photos: Playground Pictures, TUM Asia

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# TUM Alumni Stammtisch



Photo: Playground Pictures

“The students in Singapore were the beginning of our adventure of being the first German university to have a campus abroad”, mentioned President W.A. Herrmann at the TUM Alumni Stammtisch held on 22 June at Paulaner Brauhaus in Singapore. After witnessing so many TUM students and alumni residing in the tiny country of Singapore, President Herrmann mentioned that he felt certain that this was where TUM shall be in the years to come. In 2002, TUM was invited to set up a campus in Singapore, and the rest is history! President Herrmann also noted that it was wonderful to witness many TUM alumni in Singapore, both from TUM and TUM Asia.

This event was also a significant one for TUM Asia as it marked the start of a new alumni network; The TUM Asia Alumni Network. Since 2002, many students have completed their education at TUM Asia and reside in many different parts of the world. However, as the years go by, more and more alumni have been residing in Singapore. “We thought it would make sense to start our own TUM Asia alumni network since there are many of us residing in Singapore”, said Narayan Kouschick, Vice President of the TUM Asia Alumni Network.

This new network is collectively run by a group of TUM Asia alumni, consisting of alumni from different cohorts and disciplines from both the Bachelors and Masters programmes. Their goal is simple; learning does not end upon graduation. The TUM Asia Alumni Network aims to bond alumni through networking events with fellow alumni, as well as making connections with the industry. This helps to establish their network with others working in the same industry. It also serves as a platform for one another to catch up despite everyone’s busy schedules. This stammtisch brought together many TUM Asia alumni, forging new friendships while allowing everyone to have an enjoyable time. We hope that everyone had a great time! Prost!



Photos: Playground Pictures

The TUM Asia Alumni Network serves as a community to connect and enrich TUM Asia alumni through networking events with fellow alumni and members of the industry. The events also allow you to catch up with your classmates!

To keep in touch with the latest alumni news, visit [www.facebook.com/TUMAsiaAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/TUMAsiaAlumni)

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# A Look Into The Future



Industry Visits are an important aspect of TUM Asia's curriculum, allowing students to witness what it is like to work in these companies in the future. In the past quarter, TUM Asia's students were able to visit Hapag Llyod and Linde Gas, witnessing the different aspects of working in a Logistics and Chemical industry respectively. These visits were an important reminder of their efforts paying off from their time spent studying. They were able to witness what they learnt being applied into their future careers. As the students are approaching the end of their educational journey with TUM Asia, this was an eye opening experience for these students to witness the operational side of the industry.

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# “Giving Back To TUM Through Teaching”

## Dr.-Ing. Shailesh More

Master of Science in Integrated Circuit Design, Class of 2009  
Completed PhD at Technical University of Munich, Germany  
Staff Expert Mixed Signal Design at Infineon, Munich



**A Master’s degree is a stepping stone to pursuing a PhD. In this issue of Verbinden, we catch up with one of our alumni who came back to teach in TUM Asia’s programme, after completing his Masters with TUM Asia and PhD with TUM.**

### Hi Shailesh, what made you decide to pursue your Master degree with TUM Asia?

After completing my Bachelors in Electronics Engineering in Mumbai, India, I went on to work for 3 years in Wipro Technologies, a major Indian I.T. company. I was interested to work in one of the services that they provided, which was related to Integrated Circuits (IC) development. I had the practical experience in the field but I was missing the complete story; lacking a strong theoretical base. While looking for good universities, I came across TUM Asia’s Integrated Circuit Design (ICD) Master’s programme in Singapore. I decided to pursue the unique programme as it was the result of the collaboration of two prestigious universities. On the other hand, Singapore was aiming towards becoming the Silicon Valley of Asia during that period.

### Can you describe what led you to your PhD in Germany?

Initially, pursuing a PhD was not on my mind. During my Masters

programme, I had the opportunity to complete my Internship & Master Thesis at a well-known semiconductor company; Texas Instruments in Freising, Germany. At the end of the programme, I was offered a research scientist position by my Professor at TUM in department of Technical Electronics. I gladly accepted it since the topic was in the field of my interest; Mixed Signal Electronics. For the following 3 years, I was at living in Germany and working on my PhD thesis topic at TUM.

### How was your PhD at TUM like?

The PhD at TUM was both fun and challenging at times. My thesis topic was about reliability (aging degradation effects) and counter measures on analog and mixed signal circuits in deep submicrometer technologies. It was in collaboration with Infineon Technologies (now Intel Mobile Communications) at Villach, Austria. While conducting your PhD, it is very important to stay focused and keep track of the time to complete the thesis. In addition to that, I was

supervising Mixed Signal Electronics Labs, Master and Bachelor theses, organising seminars and lectures every year. Despite these challenges, one thing I was thankful for was for the courses that I took during Masters Degree at TUM Asia. They provided me with the foundation for my research work. With the knowledge and skills I had learnt during the Masters degree I could quickly implement concepts, generate results and make publications for my research topic. It was also one of the reasons why I could complete my PhD thesis within in a shorter period of 3 years.

### Do you feel that your journey with TUM Asia and TUM prepared you for your current career?

During my Masters Degree I learned about the concepts, knowledge and skills related to different topics of integrated circuit design. It was also the time where I picked up the German language through lessons at the Goethe-Institute in Singapore. During my PhD thesis, I focused on one particular topic, learnt to apply

acquired knowledge to practice, learned new skills and worked independently. Both were positive and enriching experiences. I am currently working as a Staff Expert Mixed Signal Design at the Automotive Division of Infineon Technologies in Munich, Germany. We develop three phase bridge Driver IC's for driving motors in safety critical applications such as Electronic Power Steering in cars. The journey with TUM Asia and TUM has definitely prepared me for this career position in Germany.

### Share with us how you ended up teaching at TUM Asia.

I was offered the opportunity to teach the Mixed Signal Course at TUM Asia and I gladly accepted it. I believe that this opportunity was offered to me since both my PhD and current job profile at Infineon Technologies are in the field of Mixed Signal Circuit Design. I have been working in this field for around 8 years.

### What was the process like for you to become a lecturer for a course?

I did lots of preparation for both the course, tutorials and exercises to ensure that I can offer my best to the students. Infineon is very supportive towards its employees taking up such opportunities. I think that any TUM Asia student who is interested and has the dedication to teach can become a lecturer. A PhD degree and relevant work experience in the related field of the course would be an advantage since one already has the experience during their PhD and knows practical application and limitations from relevant work experience.

It was also challenging since this was my first teaching experience for a complete module in a Masters Degree programme, including tutorials and exercises. At the same time, it was a very enriching experience for me as I could relate well with the students and I am confident that my teaching skill will hone with each new teaching experience. I met many bright, inquisitive and smart students in this course and I am sure they will make a very successful career in the future. I loved interacting with the students and seeing them having fun like I did during the time when I was doing my Masters. I hope that they enjoyed having me as their lecturer.

### As an alumni living in Munich, how would you foresee the TUM Asia alumni network benefitting current students?

With a strong TUM Asia alumni network in Europe, current TUM Asia students can benefit in finding internship, thesis, PhD & job opportunities through alumni contacts and references. Alumni could also provide guidance during the application process. They can also be the first point of contact when the TUM Asia student arrives in Europe, thus helping the students to settle down smoothly in the new environment and culture. Alumni could also offer mentoring to students joining the TUM Asia programme right from the beginning of the Masters programme, so that the students can benefit from the guidance, knowledge and the experience of the mentor throughout their education.



### Now that you have been living and working in Germany for some time, what advice would you give to those who plan to stay in Germany for the long-term?

The ability to communicate in German helped me to integrate into the German society. One should be open minded and be expected to speak some basic phrases. The tendency to want to join interest groups that share common language and cultures while living in a foreign country is common. However, being limited to such groups isolates oneself from the German culture. Even if the official language of communication in most of the multi-national companies in Germany is English, if you do not know the German language you will feel left out in daily conversations between colleagues and over lunch or coffee which often takes place in German.



Photo: Shailesh More (top right), with his Master of Science Classmates

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## Class of 2016



**R**osmalinda Tay, Valedictorian for the Bachelor of Science cohort, shared a piece of advice from Vince Lombardi at the 2016 Graduation Ceremony; “A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done.”

On the 24th of July, TUM Asia celebrated their graduation ceremony at the SIT@Dover Auditorium. It was a significant moment for these graduands as this was the last time they would be able to come together as classmates before parting on separate paths. Family and friends came to celebrate with them and for many and it was a memorable occasion.

For some, graduation allowed them to reflect back on their journey at TUM Asia. “Almost exactly three years ago, I remember starting my first day of school stressed and worried. Today, three years later, we made it!” mentioned Rosmalinda Tay. Sandeep Kumar, who graduated from the Master of Science Programme in Aerospace Engineering, had fond memories of his journey. “The programme not only imparted in-depth knowledge, but it also helped me to strengthen my problem solving skills through the real-life experiences of my professors”, mentioned Sandeep. These classroom experiences culminated in Sandeep’s decision to continue developing his professional journey in Singapore, choosing to work as a technologist with Rolls-Royce@NTU upon completing his Master studies.

From all of us at TUM Asia, we wish our alumni the best in their future careers. Always remember how your education has prepared you to look forward to future opportunities!



Photos: Israel Tan Photography

# Doing a Doctorate in Germany



Photos: TUM Asia

**O**n the 23rd of September, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and TUM Asia jointly organised an information session, aimed to bring awareness to interested individuals on pursuing a doctorate (PhD) programme in Germany. The session brought together students and working individuals, who were able to hear from distinguished professors. Topics that were discussed included information on the German research landscape, what to expect when conducting your doctorate at a German university or a research institution, as well as funding opportunities. A panel discussion allowed the professors from different departments, such as Chemistry, Electrical and Computer Engineering, to share their experiences with taking in PhD students at their respective institutions. They were able to offer insights on what the programme would be like and share some personal experiences. Overall, it was a very insightful session and it helped to provide clarity to the participants.

## On The Cover Photos:

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