ICSY initiates student exchange program with India

During the most recent visit of ICSY alumna Professor Vyas at Kaiserslautern, a proposal was developed to strengthen the cooperation between Indian and German computer scientists. Varun Jain was the first student to support the ICSY team for three months as a summer intern.

Between June 28 and August 2, 2010 ICSY was very pleased to receive Prof. Dr. O. P. Vyas from the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad. Vyas is an alumna of the University of Kaiserslautern. He has completed his thesis in 1997 with the research group ICSY (and the department of mathematics) during his two year scholarship in Germany, financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

In the following decade, Vyas maintained a continuous contact with ICSY especially his former thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Paul Müller.

In June 2007, Vyas accepted an invitation from ICSY for a short term study and research stay. This was a perfect occasion to renew old collaborations and to exchange common scientific research interests.

At the beginning of 2010, Vyas and Müller decided to foster a strong collaboration in the research area of Future Internet. To extend and strengthen such a collaboration, a student of Vyas, namely Mr. Varun Jain, started to work as a summer intern with ICSY from May until July 2010. This internship was financially supported by DAAD, the largest funding organisation in the world supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. Since it was founded in 1925, almost 1.5 million scholars in Germany and abroad have received DAAD funding. It is a registered association and its members are German institutions of higher education and student bodies. Its activities go far beyond simply awarding grants and scholarships.

Vyas and ICSY are planning further students exchanges in the future.

(Text: Michel Steichen)
THESEUS Innovation Centre for the Internet of Services opened

The THESEUS Innovation Centre was opened on May 14, 2010 in Berlin, presenting the research results of the various THESEUS projects. ICSY is involved in the project Texo, which aims at providing a platform, which makes services tradable on the internet, composable into value-added services, and allows the integration of customized services into the environment of service consumers.

On May 14, 2010, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology opened the THESEUS Innovation Centre for the Internet of Services in Berlin. The center boasts 500 square meters of exhibition space where visitors can get a hands-on look at various interactive applications and prototypes, and experience the results of THESEUS research for themselves. Furthermore, the center also has facilities for presenting, discussing, and testing the results of research into the “Internet of Services”.

Various sample applications and demonstrations show how semantic technologies and innovative services will shape our everyday life in the future. The exhibition focuses on the areas of multimedia, knowledge, services, business processes, and medicine.

In addition to the exhibition area, the laboratory is one of the central elements of the Innovation Center for the Internet of Services, and presents different examples of the specific work performed by the numerous researchers involved in the THESEUS project. The laboratory area is designed as an open workplace to foster the exchange of knowledge between the THESEUS researchers and to support collaboration with outside experts. At the same time, visitors can also watch the scientists at work and get an insight into the practical side of the Internet of Services. Furthermore, the Innovation Center also functions as a venue for events centered on THESEUS research and the Internet of Services. Topics such as the semantic Web, knowledge management and cloud computing, as well as new business models for small and medium-sized enterprises, are proposed and discussed in presentations, panel discussions, and conferences.

Until the end of 2012, the Innovation Center will present the results of the currently largest ICT research program of the Federal Government and strengthen the dialogue between researchers, users, and public.

ICSY’s second After Lecture Tea Party

Last winter term, ICSY started a new tradition by inviting all students to an After Lecture Tea Party. While drinking tea or coffee and eating pastries, students got in touch with members of ICSY and Professor Müller in order to learn about current research topics and to further discuss the content of the lecture.

The students also got the opportunity to inform themselves about possible topics for their thesis.

In addition, the students could give direct feedback about the lecture. Some comments about the lecture “Service-oriented Architecture”:

“Nice professor”
“The exercises were not as complicated as Grid exercises.”
“The solutions should be made available on-line.”
“I like the clear structure of the lecture topics. However, sometimes in the exercises we require more hints about how to implement things.”

Because of the success of this second After Lecture Tea Party, ICSY is planning to arrange such events at the end of every term.

(Text: Daniela Fleuren, Tino Fleuren)
Voichița Droancă worked as an intern at ICSY for five months. After studying computer science at the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza“ University, Iasi, Romania, she joined the AIESEC exchange program. We asked her about her internship experience with ICSY.

Why did you do an internship abroad? How did you come to Germany?

Droancă: “Being in the last semester in the Bachelor program I started to think about what I will do after finishing and what I actually want in the future. Subscribing to Master studies was the first thing that crossed my mind and getting a job during this time was the second one. And then came another question: which Master program do I want? To answer to this question was hard for me after six semesters at the Computer Science Faculty and I decided to explore more in order to get the answer.

I knew that changing the living environment would be favorable for me at that time and will help me take the best decision. AIESEC, as an international student’s organization facilitating students exchanges through different kinds of internships, seemed the perfect platform to have this change. And it was.

I joined AIESEC in November 2008, I went through a special process of preparing for an internship (trainings, Intercultural Preparation Seminar) and after a while I found this internship at the University of Kaiserslautern that seemed to be the most suitable for me. And it was.”

What is typically German to you?

Droancă: “Punctuality and politeness are the most prominent characteristics from my point of view. Then comes attachment to work, the beer and all the different sorts of it, the statues that are all over the place, not eating bread for lunch, and “Käsekuchen”.

The tolerance for foreigners is also “typical German” for me. This is a resemblance I find between Germany and Romania.”

What did you do before working at ICSY?

Droancă: “Before working at the ICSY Lab I was studying in the Bachelor program at the Computer Science Faculty, „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iasi, Romania. This is the first job I had in the IT area.

What were your tasks at ICSY?

Droancă: In the first weeks the tasks were more oriented to get familiar with the topic, the concepts, and the tools to be used for my work. Then there were specific implementation tasks.

I was part of the SOA (Service-oriented Architecture) sub-group and the focus of my internship was improving data management in orchestrated Web services. I had to develop some specific WSDL-based Web services in Eclipse and build a workflow using them. For the workflow I had to use Business Process Execution Language (BPEL). Some of the tools and concepts were new for me.

Because it was a research topic there wasn’t a development plan established from the beginning and not so many constraints. The tasks were assigned sequentially depending on the results of the previous ones. This was a good thing because it gave me freedom in thinking.”

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Internship at ICSY
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What do you like about your work at ICSY?
Droancă: “First I like that I learnt new things. Second the new things are quite interesting and I like them, I like the topic. Besides this, I had to work mainly with Web services which are quite used now in the industry and this would give me an advantage if I would search now for a job there.

Also participating in meetings where there were discussed research topics gave me the chance to see the academic environment from a different perspective.

The colleagues I had are from different countries, from different cultures and this is what I actually wanted, to live international. Imagine sitting for lunch quite often with people coming from at least four different countries. This was great for me! They were also friendly and supportive and this facilitated my integration. We were talking in English and this helped me improve the language skills.”

Would you recommend an internship at ICSY to other students?
Droancă: “It is a good opportunity to learn new things both on the professional and personal side. I would recommend it not only to foreign students but also to German students.

An internship is a good start for a career and makes the transition from the status of student to the status of employee easier.

An internship at ICSY offers you the opportunity to work on topics up-to-date, for example the name of the other subgroup is Future Internet and I think that the name tells much about what they are doing. It is available for SOA also.

The members of ICSY are of different nationalities, as I said, and working and spending time with them gives the opportunity to discover their culture and their way of thinking. Diversity is very important because it makes you think outside the box.”

(Interview: Tino Fleuren)

ICSY Alumni

ICSY wishes to stay in contact with former colleagues, students, and student researcher in order to build a strong alumni network.

Alumni receive the ICSY report in order to get a quarterly update of ICSY’s activities.

We report about selected high lights of the past months, present current research topics, and inform former ICSY members about news in research and lecture.

ICSY hopes you enjoy reading the report and would like to stay in touch with ICSY.

If you have any questions, or would like to give feedback about the ICSY report please send an email to

alumni@icsy.de

Please inform other former colleagues and students about ICSY Alumni.