

TRANSLATION OF THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE CITY OF HALLE :

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF AHMEDABAD (INDIA)

On October 6 the Mayor of Halle, Dagmar Szabados, and her Indian colleague Kanaji Thakore, Mayor of Ahmedabad signed a cooperation agreement.

At the basis of this agreement lies Mrs Szabados' participation at the EuroIndia Forum in Goa 2008, having the theme "Urban India 2020: The New Frontier".

Both partners agree to the assignment of 10 Indian trainees from Ahmedabad to Halle (Saale) for a period of 6 months. In addition to their work here, the trainees will be able to take part in the cultural and social life of the City of Halle and to make numerous personal and business contacts which are becoming increasingly significant in light of the growing international dimensions of science and business.

City partnerships and bilateral and multilateral projects are becoming increasingly important due to the growing international dimensions of science and business. Not only do they make getting to know other countries and cultures, overcoming language barriers, reducing xenophobia, and fostering cooperation between people of different origins possible, they also offer a platform for companies to access foreign networks which are in direct contact with foreign colleagues.

This cooperation is supported by The EuroIndia Centre. The Centre has been approved since several years by the Indian government who's financing a web portal for an Euro-Indian dialog on city level.

Ahmedabad was the first city who became member of TEIC. Mayor Kanaji Thakore brought an invitation from the TEIC to the city of Halle, to become also member of TEIC.

The TEIC will support the projects of the two cities and would like to make Halle the "Indian leader" for Germany and Europe.

Cities as Ahmedabad and Halle having a pioneering role in the "FLY A KITE" strategy, a 3-years program worked out by the TEIC.