

# Chief Guest Address for the 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation (IIT Mandi)

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(October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

**Prof. Joachim Holtz**  
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When I became a Professor at IIT Madras, there were only rudimentary laboratory facilities. The faculty dedicated themselves to theoretical investigations, which was their notion of what a Professor had to do. I started installing the equipment required for experimental research, with financial support from the German Government. I had B. Tech. and M. Tech. students working on laboratory projects. It was with their assistance that I could develop a reversible AC drive as part of a first industrial project funded by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

Returning home from India, I became a Professor at Wuppertal University, and my students at IIT had become engineers in Indian companies. They contracted me to develop industrial products for Kirloskar and for Kerala Electronic Development Corporation (KELTRON). I also kept contact with my successor at IIT Madras. We visited frequently, working on research projects out of which an IIT student obtained his doctoral degree.

I have had many opportunities to watch the growth of academic institutes and industries over a time span of 56 years. As a result, I see that the students of IIT Mandi are now being trained for a successful professional career, in keeping with the needs of Indian industries. Alternatively, they may become educators and transmit their knowledge to next generations of engineers.

**Prof. Joachim Holtz**