

**13th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business**  
**1 – 3 November 2012, Gurgaon/India**

**Opening Statement**  
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**APA-Chairman & CEO Siemens AG**

Minister Rösler,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the thirteenth Asia-Pacific Conference. I want to thank our Indian hosts for letting us continue the great tradition of our Asia-Pacific conferences here in Delhi.

Our partnership with India is a flagship of the spirit of close cooperation and partnership that connects Germany with the entire Asia-Pacific region: Since 1990, Germany's trade volume with India has more than quintupled, from 2.8 billion € in 1990 to 18.4 billion € in 2011. And in the last two years, our trade with India has grown by more than 30 percent: while the bilateral trade accounted for 13.2 billion € in 2009, in 2011 it reached 18.4 billion €. And that means India has been a major boost for our trade volume with the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, which has been growing impressively in its own right: it has more than quadrupled from 64.5 billion € in 1990 to 306 billion € in 2010, and now comprises 16 percent of Germany's total foreign trade. This is a great success.

Having myself spent many years of my life in Asia, I know from my own experience that this success has been possible: Because of the trust and new friendships that have developed between us in the last few decades; and because we share a mutual concern and passion for advancing technology and innovation to solve our planet's big challenges. For instance the challenge of urbanization – in Asia alone, by the year 2050 3.4 billion people out of a total population of 5.1 billion people are going to live in cities.

Or the challenge of climate change. Even in the most optimistic scenarios, temperature increases of more than 1 degree Celsius are forecasted for this century. The ensuing rise of the sea level will be felt all across the planet and also by the people here in the region. Asia and Europe together need to develop new resource-efficient and innovative technologies: that protect our planet, increase quality of life on it for each and everyone, and help our economies grow more sustainably!

At this year's Asia-Pacific Conference, we come together to find ways to cooperate even more closely. Of the many issues we are going to raise during the conference, there are three that I consider particularly important because they form the backbone for growth:

First, how can we eventually move on from the current situation of slowed-down growth in the world economy? And that means: how can we revert to a global economy where sustainable and balanced growth is spurred by all major economies? Of course, the European Union has to go beyond the decisive actions it has already taken; just as emerging economies will have an increasing role to play in reducing global imbalances.

Second, in the meantime, how can we preserve and deepen our mutual commitment to economic liberalization and free trade and avoid reverting to protectionism? Asian investors find in Germany one of the world's most open markets; and as Minister Rösler and myself continue to stress, your investments are welcome in Germany. And the best argument to the German public for keeping our markets open to Asian investors is that many Asian markets are open to German businesses.

Third, how can we further improve the transparent, fair and predictable legal framework companies need to invest abroad? There is no competitiveness without good governance. And of course, there is no competitiveness without standing the test of fair competition – both in Asia and in the European Union. And by fair competition I also mean: true protection of intellectual property rights, rules that guarantee open public procurement and conditions that allow technology transfers to be driven solely by the mutual interest of the parties.

I am looking forward to our exchanges at the 13th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business.