



Press release

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Merck revisits its longstanding association with Rabindranath Tagore and institutes the Merck-Tagore Award

- **Award to recognise contribution for promoting cultural exchange between India and Germany**
- **Dr. Martin Kämpchen, novelist and translator of Tagore's works from Bengali to German, chosen as first recipient of the Merck-Tagore Award**

Kolkata, January 17, 2012 – Merck, the global pharmaceutical and chemical company, having its headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany, today announced institution of the Merck-Tagore Award to recognise special contributions for promoting cultural exchange between India and Germany. Dr. Martin Kämpchen, a writer, translator of Tagore's works and a German teacher, was declared winner of the first award.

The association between Merck and Tagore, the internationally renowned Indian poet, philosopher and musician, goes back a long way when one of its family members, Elisabeth Wolff-Merck, translated the play 'Chitra' by Rabindranath Tagore into German. **Mr. Jon Baumhauer (Elisabeth Wolff-Merck's grandson), Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG and Chairman of the Family Board**, together with **Dr. Karl-Ludwig Kley, Chairman of the Executive Board, Merck KGaA**, were present in Kolkata to honour this relationship. They will also travel to Santiniketan to further explore the roots of their Indian connections.

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Moreover, Kurt Wolff (husband of Elisabeth Wolff-Merck) owned the Kurt Wolff Verlag, which started publishing Tagore's works in 1914; making the writer known in Germany. In all, Kurt Wolff brought out over twenty Tagore volumes within eleven years (1914-1925) selling more than one million copies. Kurt Wolff's publishing house worked on an eight-volume edition which was launched in 1921 and is well stocked in the antiquarian bookshops even today. Back then, though this edition created a furore about Tagore's works, only a fraction of the poet's works became accessible to the public.

Dr. Kley stated in Kolkata, "We are privileged to institute this award in the memory of the first Asian Nobel Laureate in order to promote cultural appreciation between our two countries. Merck is proud of its heritage that spans nearly three and half centuries. Our interest and contribution to cultural and liberal arts could be best illustrated through our sponsorship of a full-fledged professional orchestra, the Deutsche Philharmonie Merck."

Dr. Marek Dziki, Managing Director, Merck Ltd, India added, "The Deutsche Philharmonie Merck recently performed across seven cities in India as part of the 'Programme Opening' of "Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities", which commemorated six decades of diplomatic relations between India and Germany. The growing appreciation of western classical music amongst Indian music lovers enabled a harmonious celebration our bilateral relations. I believe that the Merck-Tagore title will be a significant step in fostering greater cultural exchange between Germany and India."

"Standing on this soil amongst Tagore's people, we feel proud to pay a special tribute to this great polymath," commented **Mr. Baumhauer** while reminiscing on the Merck-Tagore relationship. "My maternal grandfather, Kurt Wolff had just embarked upon a career as a publisher when his friend from London recommended Tagore to him. It was then when he heard about Tagore's early publications in 1913 and translated Tagore's initial poems to German. It was in the course of this association that Tagore was also awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913."

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Dr. Martin Kämpchen was declared as the winner of the first Merck-Tagore award through a unanimous agreement by a jury comprising a representative each of the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan India, the German Federal Foreign Office and Merck Ltd., India. He has been quite proactive in the cultural dialogue between India and Germany especially in the area of literature and religions. In Germany Martin Kämpchen gives lectures, readings and seminars while in India, he actively guides the development of two tribal villages.

The Merck-Tagore Award is sponsored by Merck Ltd., India and granted by the Goethe Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan India. It will be granted for the first time during the events marking the Tagore Year of the Goethe-Institut Kolkata in March 2012. Thereafter, it will be granted every two years on May 7, which is Rabindranath Tagore's birthday.

Dr. Martin Wälde, Director, Goethe-Institut Kolkata / Max Mueller Bhavan India, said "Tagore, on his visit to Germany as an Indian ambassador, had appealed for a better understanding of India and its culture. The Merck-Tagore Award is a tribute to the life and work of Gurudev Tagore by continuing his efforts of promoting cultural exchange between India and Germany. Goethe Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan India is honoured and delighted to be a part of this wonderful initiative!"

About Merck

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 9.3 billion in 2010, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approximately 40,000 employees in 67 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.

Merck in India Merck Limited (formerly E. Merck Limited) was set up in India as the first Merck subsidiary in Asia in 1967. The Merck Group has been operating in India through appointed agents since a little before the turn of the twentieth century. The Company operates both its Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals businesses in the country. Merck was also the first Merck Group Company to go public in the year 1981. The Merck Group now holds 51.8% of the share capital in Merck Limited, while the remaining 48.2% is traded on the Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd., the wholly owned Indian subsidiary of Merck KGaA, was incorporated in 2005.

Following the acquisition of Millipore, a leading life science company in USA, in 2010; the resulting entity, Merck Millipore is now a leader in the field of life sciences. Prior to that, in 2009,



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Merck acquired Bangalore Genei to become one of the leading bioscience entities in India. In 2010 (January – December), the turnover of Merck Limited totalled Rs. 5090.8 million.

Merck, through its manufacturing facility at Goa, is the only manufacturer of Guaiazulene, Thiamine Disulfide (TDS) and Oxynex ST, in addition to being the largest manufacturer of Vitamin E in India. Merck in India also produces injectables and soft gel capsules; its Dehydrated Culture Media plant is the first for Merck outside Germany.
