

# Celebration in Germany

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# A prestigious spiritual monthly magazine in German language.

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First of all, I would like to apologise for my failure to react earlier to your letters regarding translating SIKH REVIEW articles, and sending these to #“VISIONEN”: In October 2008 I sent to them an article on “300 YEARS GURU GRANTH SAHIB”, which could not be printed due to lack of space. I am in contact with the dealing editor, Mrs. Ingrid Hasswani. Recently, I got translated your article “Celebrating Guru Granth Sahib - The Soul of Humanity” (S.R. September 2008 ), which I liked very much. It has been sent to “VISIONEN” for printing in next issue. Let us hope it will materialise this time.

We, the SIKH SANGAT of Berlin too celebrated the “300th GURTA GADDI DIVAS” in a Seminar in German language. May be you would like to write about this in the next issue of SIKH REVIEW !

“300th ANNIVERSARY OF GURTA GADDI DIVAS IN THE GERMAN CAPITAL BERLIN” The Sikh Sangat of Berlin celebrated the Gurta Gaddi Divas in a seminar on 15th November 2008 under the theme “**Guru Granth Sahib, the Eleventh Guru of the Sikhs**”. In an auditorium of the Technical University Berlin approximately 350 invitees, approx. half of them Germans, and many from other religions attended the 2 hours programme, which was a resounding success.

Except for the Gurbani Keertan, the programme was in German Language.

The programme started with a Shabad by Mrs. Harcharan Kaur Kumar and Mrs. Gurdip Kaur Chauhan. Sardar Amarjeet Singh (S.R. Representative) welcomed the Guests and explained the importance of the celebration giving information about the Sikh Religion and Guru Granth Sahib. One of the highlights of the programme was Keertan by the famous Musician Group “SINGH BANDHU” of Delhi, who carried the audience with their melodious rendering of Gurbani Keertan in classical ragas. They started their programme with “*Bani Guru Guru hai Bani*” and ended with “*Sab Sikhian ko hukam hai Guru maneyo Granth*”.

The key-note speakers of the evening were two German scholars. Mrs. Dr. Gabriele Yonan, a research scholar on world religions read a paper on “Guru Granth, A Role-Model for Inter-faith Understanding”.

Professor Dr. Georg Pfeffer; who has spent many years in the Indian Subcontinent, spoke about “My interaction with Sikhs”. Both the lectures were highly appreciated by the audience.

Mrs. Professor Barbara John, the ex-commissioner for Integration of Immigrants spoke very highly of the Sikh Community in Berlin. The local M.P. Mr. Detlef Dzembitzki of the ruling Social Democate Party praised the peace-loving Sikhs in Berlin and suggested that immigrants like Sikhs should be most welcome in Berlin.

Mr. Klaus Skarabis, who represented AKR an Inter-Faith organisation of the World Religions in Berlin, brought the good wishes of other religions and spoke about the universality of the Sikh Religion.

The Seminar ended, naturally, with Guru Ka Langar, which was highly enjoyed, especially by the Germans. “A brochure on “GURU GRANTH SAHIB, DER ELFTE GURU DER SIKHS” was released and distributed to the audience.

I hope this item can be of interest to your readers. To my embarrassment I have to

mention the Seminar was my brainchild and was conducted by me with the full support of the local Gurdwara Management.

A copy of the Brochure is being mailed to you. Your article "*Celebrating Guru Granth Sahib*" in German is the main scholarly contribution in the Brochure (page 3, 4 & 5). Also two other articles have been taken from ***The Sikh Review***, with due acknowledgement.

