

Another issue with the book is the romanticization of the process of scientific research, and giving too much importance to individuals – here Gauss and Humboldt – as opposed to the scientific enterprise itself. At times, we hear of ideas coming to Gauss's mind like a bolt from the blue, whereas real ideas always come to a prepared mind. Gauss must have been thinking of the problem so much that a solution appears to him like a flash. This sort of portrayal of scientific research is risky

in that students may get an overly romantic idea of what research means.

The book is otherwise an interesting read, and it will certainly stimulate most readers' interest to learn more about the works of Gauss and Humboldt, and wonder how scientists think and feel about what they do.

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Information and Announcements

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Deputation of Indian Scientists Abroad Under Bilateral Exchange Programme 2009–2010

Applications are invited from outstanding scientists/researchers holding PhD degree and having regular positions in recognised S & T institutions/universities and actively engaged in research in frontline areas for deputation abroad during the year 2009-2010 in all fields of Science including Engineering, Medical & Agriculture for short term visits (2 – 4 weeks for senior scientists) and long term visits (3 – 6 months for junior/younger scientists) under the Scientific Bilateral Exchange Programme with overseas Academies/Organisations in Brasil, China, Czech Republic, Edinburgh (Scotland), France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kyrghyz Republic, South Korea, Nepal, The Netherlands, Phillippines, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and UK.

The detailed guidelines and application form may be obtained from the Academy by sending a self addressed stamped (Rs.10/-) envelope marked "Exchange Programme" to the Inter Academy Officer or may be accessed from internet site <http://www.insaindia.org>. The applications duly completed and endorsed by the Head of the Institution should be submitted latest by October 15, 2008.

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