

# Germany's Berufskolleg Platz der Republik für Technik und Medien on their collaboration with Thailand's Eastern Technological College (E-Tech)

Interview with Matthias Frecking



## Can you give us a short introduction to your vocational college?

A vocational college is a type of school that brings together many individual schools under one roof. Berufskolleg Platz der Republik für Technik und Medien, our vocational college in Mönchengladbach, currently has 2,300 students who are taught by over 100 teachers. We are all united by our love of technology and design, which we “live” in a wide range of courses.

At our vocational college, students can acquire all possible school qualifications, in addition to the various technical and creative professions – right up to the Abitur, the highest possible school-leaving qualification in Germany.

## After signing an MoU with Eastern Technological College (E-Tech) this year, what are the activities you have planned for 2025?

We are initially looking forward to an online exchange between teachers from E-Tech in Thailand, and our colleagues from Mönchengladbach. We want to get to know each other and find common ground. Of course, we won't forget the students, who will

be working together on joint online projects.

A visit by Thai students to Mönchengladbach is planned for April 2025. We want to introduce them to our school, our city and, of course, our students. And we would be happy to make a return visit to Thailand afterwards.

## Can you explain about implementing the sustainability concept in your school curriculum?

We strive to encourage our pupils to be mindful in their use of resources. This begins with the use of light and heat energy, and does not stop at consumables. PCs are borrowed and repaired again and again. A “repaircafe” is planned, in which defective electronic devices will be repaired by our pupils for a fee. As part of our learning projects, we pay attention to the reusability of product results. These should be available to as many work teams as possible.

## Based on your experiences in training students, what kind of topics are most challenging for this generation?

In Germany, the issue of global climate change plays a very important role. Our

young people see themselves as the last generation that can actively take action against global warming and the destruction of our planet. However, issues of self-determination and personal freedom are also frequently discussed. The topics of respect for one another and across generational boundaries are also frequently discussed at school.

As a school, we responded to this need three years ago by becoming a “school without racism – a school with courage”. This is both a distinction and a constant incentive.

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