

Opening Speech

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Ladies and gentlemen,

distinguished delegates from more than 20 countries,
honourable representatives of FAO, the European Parliament,
the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, the GTZ and TUM,

it's a great honour for me to welcome you to Munich, at our university to this important international Symposium on Land Fragmentation and Land Consolidation in CEEC: A Gate towards sustainable rural development in the new millennium.

First of all I would like to thank FAO and GTZ that they have asked my chair to organise this conference and that they — once again — have trusted in me and my team; many thanks to the German Bund-Länder-Arge Landentwicklung, especially to the Bavarian administration for rural development for its kind co-operation and helpful contribution and hospitality on Wednesday by organising the field trip to Lower Bavaria. I'm sure that Minister Huber will explain the importance of rural development in Bavaria and the special relationship and fields of co-operation with many CEEC. Many thanks to FIG as co-organiser – as some of you probably know FIG is very interested in supporting the communication between the member associations. The new head of FAO Land Tenure Service Paul Munro Faure has been the chair of FIG Comm. 7 'Cadastre and Land Management for the last four years. The incoming German FIG Council will continue this successful co-operation with UN- and national Institutions. This morning, I have got the draft for the Mutual understanding between FAO and FIG.

Ladies and gentlemen,

two years after the world congress rural 21 in Potsdam in June 2000, arranged by the German Federal Government and with the outstanding keynote speaker FAO Director General Jacques Diouf, once again there is an important international symposium in Germany on the future of rural areas. I would like to remind you of the Potsdam Declaration rural 21 of 7 June 2000, which strongly underlined the need of secure tenure, access to land and resources, functioning land markets, sustainable reforming and reorganisation of property relations and of comprehensive rural development strategies. It was emphasised: Modern Land Management requires legal and planning certainty concerning the property and use of land.

This will be the challenge to CEEC and CIS-Countries and to this conference: to do the right things right in the right sequence, but at any time embedded in an overall sustainable strategy. This needs the right paradigm and is not simple to do. As you know, there is partly a huge difference between the agrarian rates in West and East, and I can imagine that in some countries it isn't so clear to decide for integrated concepts instead of sectoral, purely agrarian solutions!

In Western Europe it took a long time and it was a hard way towards the current integrated strategies and programmes. Fortunately, the European Council Regulation No. 1257/1999 on support for rural development underlines the multidisciplinary approach to a complex rural development policy including for example measures like reparcelling, setting up of farming relief and farm management services, basic services for the rural economy and population, renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this development was indispensably supported by scientific education and by research work for example in the field of efficiency of Land Consolidation, impacts of rural development on rural communities, implementation of ecological and esthetical aspects in land development measures etc. We are happy to have an own chair for land readjustment and land development as one of the basic chairs of the so called "Munich Geodesy and Geo-information".

On behalf of FAO and GTZ we have invited experts from the whole continent to discuss and exchange theoretical and practical approaches and experiences and to work out new ideas on improvements of existing procedures etc. As experts we ourselves are responsible for the results. Many thanks to all speakers and moderators for their contributions. As mostly we are no native speakers, I would like to ask you all as I do it when being chairing within FIG: please speak clearly, slowly and loudly.

I am confident that the results of this symposium can be an important contribution to the intended new FAO-guidelines on Land Consolidation and even to the World Bank Conference on Land Issues in Budapest, April 2002.

Please feel well in the next days at our University and in Munich. I know it's a strong programme and there is only little time for social activities. But we trust in your interest and discipline to join the whole programme. If you have wishes or problems please don't hesitate to contact the manager general of this Symposium Mrs. Babette Wehrmann. She and her international team already did a great work. Many thanks in advance!

Now I would like to ask our TU Vice-president Dr. Hannemor Keidel to deliver her welcome address.