

Congratulation Speech of Master's Program Director Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel at the Graduation Ceremony on March 26th 2004

Ladies and gentlemen, dear master students, that's a great and even historical day in your life but also in our life. Now you, the students, can be grateful to God, you can thank him as you have already done it in your dedications in your master theses I was deeply impressed as well by your thanks to your wives, families, friends, employees and to your German supporters like DAAD or World Bank.

Now you can be very proud as well – after a hard work and study you will get today your master certificates! You are the first one in the history of our institute, faculty and TUM too. So it's also a great day for us – we are proud as well.

You are the living proof and evidence that our master's program is attractive for the elites of foreign countries and worth enough to go to Munich!

Our dream or vision about an important Centre of Land Management and Land Tenure in Munich becomes more and more reality – thanks to the strong support of our lecturers and many friends and institutions inside and outside of TU as they are partly represented here today. Let me thank you very hearty – without your help we couldn't have succeeded!

And I can tell you that more than ever the topics Land Management and Land Tenure are relevant and hot issues on the international Agenda of the global community and many many countries. Our university can be very happy to offer beside of its high-tech knowledge a special high knowledge and competence in a field which probably decides about global equity, justice, sustainability and peace.

I am very happy that this insight becomes more and more the opinion and standpoint of the German government. She has decided to strengthen her efforts in the field of poverty reduction by providing more contributions to more secure tenure, access to land, disaster risk prevention and management as well as to urban and rural development. Our outgoing German President Johannes Rau was recently in Africa and once again he complained the big divide between the rich and poor countries as he has already done at our Conference rural 21 three years ago. I'm hopeful that probably our next president whether it will be a male or female one will hold and express this opinion. If you read the Süddeutsche Zeitung of today you can find opinions of one candidate like we must help to reduce poverty and provide secure tenure and access to land. Then hopefully we can reduce one of the most dangerous resources of the growing terrorism!

As President of FIG I'm privileged to meet important leaders of the world – therefore I can confirm again that the goals and contents of our master program are a hot issue on national agendas and a crucial contribution of our university, of our country Bavaria and of Germany to building a better world.

It's an unique chance to educate future excellencies of foreign countries and to get new long standing friends!

Mrs. Chair of our University Council Vigdis Nipperdey, our university has set up very ambitious goals. One goal is to increase the rate of foreign students to become really more international, the other one plays an important role in the future contract between Ministry and University: the goal is to reduce students drops out and to increase successful completion of the studies after a reasonable time.

Dear Madame, please notice and report this to the members of your Council and to the President: our master program students are totally foreign students from more than 20 countries from all over the world! This is a 100 % quota!

But we can offer you a second 100 % quota:

All students were successful, all have finished their studies within three semesters.

This was only possible because of three reasons:

1. We've got the elites of the countries.
2. We could select the students by ourselves together with our scientific committee and our partners.
3. We could provide in a nearly Anglo-Saxon way an extremely intensive Tutoring and Mentoring – thanks to an extremely engaged personal staff at my chair and within our faculty!

Let me give very cordial thanks especially to our “general manager” Babette Wehrmann, to Michael Klaus and all of my staff. I know we all have reached the limits of our capacity and strength.

But we did it and we enjoyed it because we had so wonderful students – students who are not students anymore. Now you are graduated masters of science after having received your certificates. We thank you for the enrichment we got and enjoyed by having worked with you.

In Germany we do have a proverb. It says:

“If you have succeeded to become a professional master you should start in a new field as a student again.”

In fact I don't want that after your return to your home countries you should leave your professional field to start as student in a new field. But you should remember what I want to give you as a reminder:

André Gide once has said:

“A good teacher has only one goal – to teach the students that they don't need him anymore, that they can do their job without his support.”

Let me add to this wise words:

“But it doesn't matter if the students or masters come back again to TUM and to wonderful Munich City for refreshing their knowledge in the sense of Continuous Professional Development.”

So we are quite confident that our first new masters will come again. So it is really our deep wish, when we say to you: “Auf Wiedersehen!”