

Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure

President's award;

Speech by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Wolfgang A. Herrmann, President of TUM

Distinguished alumni, dear colleagues, honourable Ministers, ladies & gentlemen, I am very delighted to be with you this evening and to have the opportunity to honour all graduates from our Master's program *Land management and land tenure* year 2005. Furthermore the presentation of the President's award is my pleasure.

Our Master's program *Land management and land tenure* provides the necessary theoretical and practical background for future experts dealing with land rights, land policy, land management and land administration to cite a few examples. Our university have a range of science subjects unrivalled in Europe, but in this way no other program in the world combines political, socio-economic and technical aspects concerning land.

Over the next five decades, the world's population will grow from today's figure of six billion to some ten billion - 90 percent of this population growth will take place in the developing world. These countries will undergo socio-economic and political changes, even if inadequate living conditions still are unresolved problems. Linked to this they need the support of top-developed nations such as Germany. We have the potentiality to stimulate the capability of young people by our curriculum framework. Hence the responsibility lies with us and with our scientific understanding.

In consideration of these facts the *Centre of land management and land tenure* has a key-position to qualify young professionals all over the world. It is the core of many international activities in the field of land management with focus on crucial topics. Our Master's program strives to impart knowledge which fits out our graduates with high-level expertise combined political awareness. Thus they are competent to act as global peacemakers by enhancing sustainable development at different levels.

But while doing this, we are reliant on ambitious efforts of our students. In return they may rely on our best efforts. By entering our Master's program you, distinguished graduates, entered a network of many lecturers from within and outside our university and many of them cooperate with international organisations. All of these lecturers

would appreciate to stay in contact with you. To have you as future partner is a firm basis for their work not only in your country but also on a topic of common interest. You are now alumni of the Technische Universität München. We would like to continue the cooperation with you as part of our network.

It is a privilege to present the President's award for the best master's thesis and the overall best student. Both graduates come from Africa, which is one of the threshold regions afore said.

The President's award for the best master's thesis goes to Zemen Gebyehu from Ethiopia. His study entails the inter-relationship of formal and informal land tenure and land management in the peri-urban areas of Sub-Sahara Africa. Zemen Gebeyehu impresses with two very convincing scientific models which he deduced from his own findings. He concludes his work with two scenarios which lead to practical recommendations. He gave a wonderful example how science and practice can be interrelated and how a single work can actively contribute to both – his thesis is therefore valuable for scientists as well as practitioner and politicians. Congratulation!

The President's award for the overall best student goes to Benjamin Armah Quaye from Ghana. He impressed with the highest grades possible just as he always took his time to help his class-mates understanding the topic or proof-reading their homework. Open-minded and committed he was an excellent learner with high social competences – in fine Benjamin Armah Quaye is an inspiring example. Congratulation!

As you see, if people cooperate for a common purpose it takes a step forward. This is my advice to you, distinguished graduates, if you apply your knowledge to attain sustainable development. As Peace Nobel laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai underlined it is the contribution to peace. And peace is the contribution to a good future. I wish you all the best for your new tasks. Congratulation to your graduation! We hope you will keep the years of study at our university in mind.

Sincere thanks are given to you all!