

## **Words of Welcome by Prof. Dr. Reiner Rummel, Dean of Faculty**

**Dear ALMOST NO students anymore,**

**Dear Professor Magel,**

**Dear Mrs. Wehrman**

**Dear honorary guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen**

**Let me first congratulate you, the young masters, on behalf of the faculty of civil engineering and geodesy. Indeed one hour from now you will hold your diploma in your hands and you will be a MASTER, a true master in the field of land management and land tenure.**

**What does this step imply?**

**First of all, that you should be proud, that after one and a half years of hard work you have succeeded in this study. This means a lot. And I would recommend that you share your joy and your pride with your partners, your family and your friends, in short with all those who supported you with their friendship, good feelings and encouragement.**

**Second, you are now master, in a field of very high importance, may be of highest importance at all for your country and for almost any other country too. It is so important because land development and land property is a precondition for economic and ecological development and welfare of any country.**

**I remember when this course started, Professor Magel cited John F. Kennedy, who once told his people that “they should not so much occupy themselves with what their country can do for them but rather think about what they could do for their country.” We are in Germany in a very difficult public debate, because people find it very difficult to accept that things do not come for granted anymore, that they have to think what they can contribute actively. I would like to remind you of these words of Kennedy. Please go back with the basic idea that you can contribute something special to your country, something that others cannot provide. And that usually your country has done already much for you in providing you with education that it is now time in turn to pay something back.**

**There is a third and last thing I would like to say to you: It would be wonderful if you would carry the feeling that this course has been something precious to you, that you return to your country and do not forget Munich and our**

**university, that you stay in contact with us (Christmas card) and let us know about your career and that you recommend us to others.**

**And when you pass by Munich in the future give us a call and pay us a visit. Thus, again congratulations and a BRIGHT FUTURE!**