

**Graduation Ceremony**  
**Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure**  
**Academic Years 2006 – 2008**

Welcome Speech of Programme Director Prof. Dr.-Ing Holger Magel

Dear graduates, distinguish guests and ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony at the Centre of Land and Environmental Risk Management, TUM. As well, I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this celebration.

This celebration is now a part of a tradition at TUM. This tradition allows us to reflect on the achievements of the institution. The Centre of Land and Environmental Risk Management has been a unique forum which gives the opportunity to the international students to broaden their knowledge base. By holding its sixth graduation ceremony, it is demonstrating again the output of hard and successful work that has led to the graduation of its sixth batch of graduates. Today, we are presenting to you skilled and knowledgeable young men and women in the broad and existing field of land management which is a hard issue in many political agenda around the world.

Ladies and gentlemen

This is not unknown to us that majority of the developing countries are still experiencing absence of secure tenure, inadequate land and water management capacity as well as serious problems precipitating existing land and water crises. Prof. John Ratcliff (famous British urban planner and author of several books on urban planning) said that

“As a common factor and denominator in the framing and execution of the social and economic policies of nations, use and management of land should be done to guarantee access and equity”.

And the land tenure officer of UN FAO Dr. Mika-Petteri Törhonen points out:

“Providing secure access to land and other natural resources is essential for achievement of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals”.

In fact this is the background and scientific challenge of our Master's Programme and it is the background also for the increasing importance of disaster and risk management.

Once again let me quote my surveyor colleague Dr. Törhonen from FAO -

"We are now focusing on climate change, emergencies, compulsory purchase, state land management, low-cost solutions, land information and good governance. We publish a set of 'guides' aimed at grassroots organizations, technical authorities and policy-makers, and a practice oriented journal. We also assist in the field projects of member countries and are currently working with sixty projects across Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America. These include land policy, land consolidation and land reform projects, but most concern land administration'.

I am very proud to say that our programme has been able to fulfill its target and commitment. Every year we are educating young professionals and after completion of the programme they are going back to their countries, contributing their knowledge and experience for proper land management. It's wonderful to think that we have total 72 alumni representing 28 countries. We have strengthened recently international level cooperation with Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, Mongolian National University and Renmin University of China where we are trying to continue to build up 'cluster' of alumni like Ghana, Georgia and China. We arranged summer school in Mongolia in 2007 and we have also plan to a arrange summer school in Cambodia in November/December in 2008. We have received several doctoral students from China. Thanks to Hanns-Seidel Stiftung for their strong support. Now, we are waiting for the first Humboldt scholars for Renmin University in autumn.

Dear graduates

I am sure, like preceding graduates you will go back not only as a new Master of Science, but also as a friend of TUM, Bavaria and Germany.

In this journey of this Master's Programme we have received manifold supports from different corners. On the day of celebration I would like to extent my gratitude and thanks to

- TUM, i.e. its president, council and the dean of our faculty
- The Bayerische Staatskanzlei, DAAD, GTZ and Hanns-Seidel Stiftung and
- Foderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München with all its private sponsors. Especially its chair and executive manager of Bayerischen Bauindustrieverbandes e. V. Mr. Senator E.h. Gerhard Hess.

Without their contribution it was not easy to make this programme successful one. Simultaneously, I would like to extent my thanks to the lecturers of TUM and abroad and especially my staffs.

Here, it will not be irrelevant to mention that on 16th of July 2007 Mr. Senator E.h. Gerhard Hess invited our master's students and programme management to Chiemsee, to visit the largest lake in Bayern. It was a fantastic time we spent. I am sure the day in Chiemsee with Mr. Gerhard Hess is one of the memorable days for our students during their stay in Munich.

Dear graduates,

The degree you have earned attests to your acquiring some breadth and depth of knowledge. Beyond acquiring knowledge and skills during your stay in TUM as well as in Munich, I am sure you have passed some way in discovering your strengths and limitations. While recognizing your limitations, do not let them constrain you. Rather, focus on your strengths.

This day is for you. On the day of celebration of your success I would like to encourage you all to welcome the challenges of the world we inherit today and to seek the opportunities that lie beyond the complexities.

Let me conclude quoting Tom Brokaw, an American journalist and author

'You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world'.

Thank you!!!