

Graduation Ceremony 2009
Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure
Academic Period 2007 - 2009

“Land Management for Sustainable Development”

Speech by the Chairman of the Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München e.V., Mr. Senator E.h. Gerhard Hess, March 20th 2009

Dear State Minister Mr. Siegfried Schneider,

Dear Vice-Dean Prof. Dr. Uwe Stilla,

Dear Mr. Programme Director Prof. Dr. Holger Magel,

Dear Mr. Willi Lange (Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung),

Dear graduates, dear students, dear friends of the Technische Universität München and the Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure,

We celebrate today the end of another successful academic period of this international postgraduate master's course.

As Chairman of the Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München e.V. and Managing Director of the Bayerische Bauindustrieverband e.V., it is a pleasure for me to be speaking to you in this important occasion.

Above all, I would like to congratulate the young professionals who today celebrate the attainment of their degree of Master of Science in Land Management and Land Tenure of the Technische Universität München.

I would like also to congratulate TUM's Chair of Land Management, for the excellent work you have accomplished in the development and consolidation of this master's programme.

Each and every day I realize how important topics such as infrastructure and housing development, secure property and fair access to land are as prerequisites for a just and sustainable development and hence for the welfare of every country.

From its very beginning, our Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München e.V. has supported the programme through various financial initiatives, personal support and political lobbying.

The spectrum of supportive activities provided by our Förderkreis ranges from promoting research and publishing, providing teaching material and granting scholarships to students, to promoting symposia and colloquia as well as informative field trips for educational purposes.

Till now, the Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München e.V. has significantly promoted a number of projects in the broader field of land management, but the manifold support provided to the three-semester Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure at TUM's Chair of Land Management, has been and will remain to be our topmost priority.

Since its creation, over 75 professionals from more than 30 countries have completed the Master's Course – a success in itself from every point of view, but especially if we talk about the global challenge of developing a worldwide partnership for the attainment of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and thus for establishing a more fair society.

In the speech given by our Chancellor Angela Merkel on January 29th 2009 in Berlin, with regard to the Millennium agenda and the impacts of the financial crisis on developing countries, she said "the crisis-year 2008 has pushed the world backwards. If we don't do anything, the situation in many developing countries will change for the worse"

Dear graduates, we cannot let this happen. We have to engage in key issues such as education and capacity building, providing security of tenure, development of infrastructure and sound urban as well as rural land management. We rely on you and in your capacities attained at TU München for moving our countries forward in the achievement the Millennium Development Goals.

The Alumni of the Master's Programme are already ambassadors and facilitators of such a relevant task in countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Therefore, we can be sure that the Chair of land Management and our Förderkreis contribute significantly to an effective collaboration among experts, development institutions and also the German and Bavarian private sectors.

Sustainable land management will continue to be a common task beyond national borders in the future. In this context, you can be sure that our Förderkreis will continue supporting numerous land management projects, and will continue to be deeply committed to ensuring that young professionals, like yourselves, contribute actively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Dear graduates, I would like to congratulate you once more and to ensure you that we will keep working hard so that other young professionals are able to come to Munich to study at the Technische Universität München. Therefore I hope that you understand and actively assume the responsibilities which come along with a high level professional development such as the one you have undertaken. You are now part of this global network in the field of land management and thus I would like to encourage you to act as our ambassadors in your respective countries. I wish you all the best and hope to see you again in Munich or anywhere else.

Thank you very much for your attention.