

*Check against
Delivery!*

Speech by the Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery, State Minister Siegfried Schneider, at the ceremony for the graduates of the International Master's Degree course "Land Management and Land Tenure" held in Munich on 20th March 2009

Welcome

- Professor Dr. Magel!
- Dear Graduates!
- Ladies and Gentlemen!

I should like to extend a most cordial welcome to all of you. It is a great pleasure for me to be here today at your **graduation ceremony**. My heartiest congratulations to you on passing your examination! And I should like to thank you, Professor Dr. Magel, for inviting me.

Appreciation of the Land Management study course

It was **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, probably Germany's greatest poet, who said:

*There are two things children should get from their parents: **roots** and **wings**.*

You have successfully completed the International Master's Degree in "Land Management and Land Tenure". I believe that the three semesters here in Munich have also given you **roots** and lent you **wings**:

Roots, because this is where you have received an academically sound education and training in the field of land regulation and land development. When you first came here, you already had a degree and initial professional experience. The interdisciplinary approach offered by Technische Universität München has now given you **a significantly broader foundation on which to base your specialist skills**.

Land management has made great progress in many countries. Land and property play a central role in the **achievement of economic and political objectives**:

- The lack of property and the unequal distribution of land are reasons for poverty.
- The lack of legal security as regards land and unsettled questions of ownership give rise to disputes that can even lead to armed conflicts.

- The lack of sustainability in the use of land is a major cause of environmental pollution and environmental destruction.

These examples show quite clearly the importance of the tasks that surveyors, land developers and geo-informatics engineers all over the world have to fulfil. Your work **lays the essential foundations for legal, economic and technical action.**

Good land management recognises the plurality of interests and reconciles competing claims on the use of land by maintaining a dialogue with all parties involved. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to land and property and makes an essential contribution to the sustainable development of urban and rural regions through a combination of land management, land register, land regulation, surveying, mapping, geographical information systems and spatial planning.

The course has certainly also lent you **wings**. You have earned a **Master's degree from Technische Universität München**, one of **the best universities** we have in Germany. It enjoys a great reputation at international level as well. The degree will make it a lot easier for you to return to your profes-

sional career. Your stay in Munich has also provided you with valuable experience of a foreign country. You are now going back to your home countries, where you will climb the career ladder in leaps and bounds.

Appreciation Prof. Dr. Magel

A great vote of thanks must go to the person responsible for the degree course, Professor Dr. Magel. You are an acknowledged expert in your field and your work has left its mark far beyond the borders of Germany. You not only have a complete mastery of the theory of land management but are also involved intensively with its practical implementation. For four years you were president of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and during that time you put down important markers. And all this time you were **a good ambassador for Bavaria** as well. For this, I owe you my **gratitude** and my **appreciation**.

Bavaria as Industrial Location

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have now lived in Munich for one and a half years and gained a great deal of personal experi-

ence in Bavaria. Politically speaking, the Free State of Bavaria is one of the 16 *laender* of the Federal Republic of Germany. The way we understand federalism in Germany gives us a **double statehood**. This is why Bavaria has a government, a parliament and legislative powers. We emphasise and live our **statehood**. Historically speaking, Bavaria has had its own governmental structures for more than a thousand years.

Our **population of 12.5 million** is larger than that of countries such as Sweden, Belgium and Greece. Our **economic strength** is considerable:

For almost all macroeconomic benchmark data, we achieve peak values at both national and European levels. Our state enjoys an excellent international reputation as an industrial, high-tech and service location. Last year our companies set up the **15th export record in a row!** We are always happy to cooperate with foreign partners.

Germany's federal structure offers Bavaria far-reaching **scope for political action**. And we make use of this scope. **Trademarks of Bavarian politics are:**

1. Social market economy

We consistently implement the German economic system, the **social market economy**. It leaves control to the market. In other words, prices are freely determined by supply and demand. Two of its main pillars are the **guarantee of freedom of contract and private ownership**.

The state has important tasks to perform in a social market economy: it protects competition, **determines the framework conditions** and **intervenes actively** when results prove to be socially undesirable. For example, we consider it absolutely necessary to have a fair social balance. What we do not want are extreme differences between rich and poor.

The current global economic crisis makes it clear just how **shaky** American capitalism can be. We are convinced that our economic system, the social market economy, creates a lot of stability, releases a great deal of dynamism and provides reliable social security for everyone.

2. Trademark: high-tech orientation

The promotion of high-tech is a focal point of Bavarian economic policy. In the past 15 years, special programmes have made funds of 5 billion Euro available for science and research. Expenditure on research and development amounts to 2.9 percent of the gross domestic product, which puts us among the international leaders. Bavaria is an internationally acknowledged centre for progress and innovation.

3. Trademark: Education

We are especially ambitious when it comes to educational policy. International studies, for example the PISA Study, show that Bavarian schools are among the best in the world. Our dual system of vocational training interlinks theory and practice. Our **eleven universities and seventeen universities of applied sciences** also enjoy a great reputation and, in terms of quality, need not fear comparison with their counterparts abroad. This is why our universities attract students from all over the world.

4. Trademark: sound public finances

In many countries of the world, public debt has unfortunately assumed alarming proportions. The current economic crisis is contributing massively to aggravating this problem even more. This means that today's generations are living at the expense of future generations.

By imposing **strict statutory provisions**, we in Bavaria have called a halt to the march towards a state based on debt: Since 2006 we have **not incurred any more new debts!** Bavaria is the first German state to have successfully restored its budget. This success has become a model for Germany as a whole. At the moment, a **debt brake** is being introduced for all the German states and at federal level as well, and this will be embodied in our Basic Law.

5. Trade mark: State development

All over the world, a considerable trend towards migration from the rural areas to the conurbations can be observed. This can lead to wrong developments – in the **big cities** as well as in the **rural areas**.

In the past decades, Bavaria has successfully ensured that people have **good and equal opportunities in all the regions**. Now and in future, we want to positively develop the competitiveness, the quality of life and the future prospects of the rural areas even further. We want a well functioning interaction between town and country, a partnership on equal terms.

Our policy is determined by two guidelines: on the one hand, we have firmly embedded the **objective of equal living and working conditions in urban and rural areas**. And we will continue to hold firmly to this objective. On the other hand, we have introduced a **priority principle** for certain rural regions whose development needs to be especially strengthened. In other words, when it comes to supporting structurally weak areas, we shall establish a clear political priority.

International Relations

Even if we Bavarians are strongly attached to our homeland and keep up our traditions, we nevertheless **rely strongly on exchange with partners all over the world**. Our objective is to secure Bava-

ria's international competitiveness and to make our country an interesting partner in the world. Along with intensive contacts in Europe, we have also been cooperating for many years closely with Quebec in Canada, Shandong in China, Western Cape and Gauteng in South Africa, and Sao Paulo in Brazil. Our commitment in **development assistance** consists mainly of consultancy services. Let me give you three examples from three continents:

- Our work in **Shandong** focuses on the promotion of **professional education and training** and, of course, **land management**. Professor Magel has carried out some successful village renewal and land consolidation projects there.
- In **South Africa**, preventive health care, especially the **fight against AIDS**, has priority. Just a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to obtain information about our projects on the spot.
- And our focus in **Sao Paulo** is on **environmental protection**, on issues of waste disposal and waste recycling and water quality control.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is hardly an aspect of human life to which the profession of surveyor has not made a contribution. Even **Galileo Galilei** (1564-1642), at the time of the Renaissance, demanded that we:

“Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not so.”

I am convinced that you will all make a contribution to the fulfilment of this never-ending task in your home countries. As you are now going home I wish you all

- a pleasant journey back to your homeland,
- a successful return to your professional career and
- all the best for your personal future.

Thank you for your attention.