

Master's Programm 2009/2011

Impulse Speech on behalf of Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung

By MDirig. Maximilian Geierhos

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Dear Mr. Dean Dr. Norbert Vogt

Dear Prof. Magel

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

First of all, allow me to extend a warm welcome to all of you. It is an honor to me to be speaking to you today; students, staff and friends of this Master's Programme. I would like to welcome you as a member of the Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München e.V., but also as a representative of the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry with its essential responsibility for rural development and Land Management.

Above all, I would like to welcome the young professionals who today take a starting position for their way to the degree of Master of Science in Land Management and Land Tenure. The access to this Master Course is, as you know very well, highly competitive. So I would like to express my respect and my congratulations to every single student, who has managed to be part of this Master Course.

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 has significantly promoted a number of projects in the broader field of land management. However, the variety of support provided to the Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure has been and will remain to be our first priority. So, since the year 2002 we were able to grant the considerable sum of more than 120 000 € to cover the university fees for this Master's Programme.

So, if all this sounds interesting to you, let me take the opportunity for some public relations: The Förderkreis would be happy about new members and supporters who could help us to strengthen our efforts. You can find further information about us on the webpage of the Chair of Land Management!

Anyhow, there are also activities beyond the Master Course. One of those activities leads me to a very rewarding task today. I have the pleasure to hand over the Promotion Award, which the Förderkreis bestows since several years for outstanding efforts and results on the scientific field of Land Management and Land Tenure.

This year's prize winner is Dr. Fahria Masum, the first Alumna of this Master's Programme to receive a Dr Degree. Her thesis topic was "Actors and processes behind urban fringe development: Mechanism to guide urban land management. Study on Dhaka, Bangladesh". Her thesis was graded with a 1,0, which means, as I'm sure all of you know very well, "Summa cum laude".

The prize is hence awarded to her by the Förderkreis for her outstanding performance in her doctoral research and includes a promotion award of 2000 €.

The prize winner Dr. Masum is member of The Alumni Network of the Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure, which is composed by over 80 high level land-professionals from more than 30 countries. Today we welcome another 13 (14?) candidates for this network, another 13 (14?) high potentials from 9 (10?) African, Asian and South American countries. I welcome all of you to Munich and to Bavaria. You will have to work hard in this Master Course, but you will also have the opportunity to learn to know our country, its people and its culture. So I wish you, on one hand, best success in your Master Course studies, but on the other hand I also wish you to make a lot of interesting experiences in Bavaria and to make friends with the Bavarians!

There is an old rule, given by an obviously very wise man: Impulse speeches should never take longer than the speaker is able to stand on one leg. My leg starts hurting now, so I come to an end and thank you very much for your attention!