



Programme Director  
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## **Welcome Speech Land Management Master's Programme 2009 – 2011 Opening Ceremony, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and Dear Master's Students

Good morning!

It is a great pleasure that I have the opportunity to welcome you to the opening ceremony at the Centre of Land, Water and Environmental Risk Management, TUM. This celebration has been a part of our tradition and we are going to celebrate the inauguration of our new students who are representing a wide range of countries across the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my speech I frequently point out the importance of land management and land development because humankind and land relationship lies at the core of the struggle for sustainable development. It is linked with the pillars of millennium development goals. But land management is not the end; rather it is just beginning because we need good land governance also to ensure the decision-making framework with sound governing system which actually guides the operation and implementation of land management. Water governance has the same importance also because the management of water cannot be separated from secure access to land. We should not also forget the importance of environmental risk management. We know that just two weeks before Typhoon Ketsana has killed at least 49 people and caused widespread floods in Vietnam and Cambodia, adding to the 246 deaths in the Philippines. Is it not the right time to think seriously about environmental risk management? Simply the answer is yes. Therefore, the complexity of a sustainable development process cannot be understood and implemented unless question of land, water and environment is appreciated properly. Considering this interdependence therefore, the new future oriented name of our centre is TUM

Center of Land, Water and Environmental Risk Management by strong support of our dean.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Though the importance of land management is a widely recognized and a crucial issue at all national and international policy, decision making and discussion levels, still many developing countries are not able to exercise it properly due to serious lack of professional capacity. In Cambodia, for example, weak institutional and human resource capacity has severely hampered the country's ability to establish and operate a sound and working land management system. As land and its management is a complex issue and takes place under different contextual situation, the individuals and institutions need to respond its challenges effectively with proper knowledge and skills. Hence, capacity building through academic programmes in land management cannot be viewed in isolation. In fact this is the background or dimension and the scientific challenge to our master's programme Land Management and Land Tenure. I think it is an indispensable contribution to building the capacity of young professionals working in the relevant fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2001 we started our master's programme and we are going to celebrate the 10 years of 'start of the idea' of this programme. Now this is the year 2009. During this time 7 batches have been graduated. As an ambassador of our programme they are working in relevant fields of land management in their home countries. It is wonderful to think that we have over 80 alumni representing more than 30 different countries. That is truly international. No doubt that our centre is presently mobilizing support to strengthen the capacity of young professionals working in the field of land management towards its effective implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the journey of this master's programme, we have received manifold supports from different corners. In this happy day I would like to extent my gratitude and thanks to:

- TUM, i.e. its President, council and the Dean of the Faculty
- The Bayerische Staatskanzlei, DAAD, GTZ and Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and

- Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München with all its private sponsors

My special thanks go to foreign lecturers and many governmental agencies who are providing us support from the very beginning. And of course without my staff, nothing would be possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Presently we are not only confined with producing graduates, we are involved also in institutional development at international level. Last few years we have arranged several summer schools in Chile, Cambodia, Mongolia and Palestine and just one week before we have successfully finished another summer school in Cambodia. I have given input to workshop with several ministries to establish a spatial as well as a land use planning system. Without such system no sustainable development can take place. But without cadastre and land tenure, spatial planning especially land use planning cannot be ensured. We will succeed after we have succeeded to contribute to establish a land policy declaration which has recently endorsed by the prime minister. But the best story comes now. In both activities at summer school and ministerial workshop I have met 3 alumni of TUM and one current master student. They are presently holding very responsible positions. They have helped me and they contributed a lot of their gained knowledge about the whole issue being trained and educated from the TUM master programme.

Presently Centre of Land, Water and Environmental Risk Management is an academic member of FIG and one of the 12 International Training/Research partners of GLTN. We have academic exchange with Namibia and cooperation with ITC which is one of the best renowned universities in the field of international education and capacity building in geo-information science. Our recent partnership initiatives between ITC and TUM for the development and implementation of various land management related modules within a master's programme in Land Administration and Management at the Visayas State University in the Philippines is another milestone in the journey of our global academic partnership.

Dear Students,

Now you are going to disperse a new journey with a new task. I am sure that your time at TUM, and in Munich, will give you much knowledge, experience and skill that you need to move on in the world, and importantly, to contribute to the development of your country. During your stay in Munich you will be able to discover your strength and limitations. But, while recognizing your limitations do not let them constrain you. Rather focus on your strength. The world needs people like you. You have to contribute your knowledge and experience in every aspects of life which you will absorb during your stay in Munich. In your new journey you are not alone. We are looking forward to a challenging and enriching time with you over the next 18 months. Looking at you today, I know that all of you are ready for the actual journey which begins today.

I wish you all enthusiasm, happiness and success!

Thanks!