

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Albrecht, Dean of Faculty for Civil Engineering and Geodesy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Civil engineering and surveying is certainly needed all over the world – in developed as well as in developing countries. I am therefore very delighted that our faculty now can offer two English graduate programs – one in computational mechanics and one in land management. These two programs are our contribution to international development.

I am very pleased to have the honour, today, to welcome the first participants of the new Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure.

I hope that your expectations will be fulfilled and that you will acquire the skills you need to be able to make a contribution to the development of your country after you return. It will be in our interest to stay in contact with you when you go back to your country and to your job. We would like to exchange experience with you and to further deepen your knowledge on actual trends on land management. Therefore, today should not only be the beginning of your academic year in Munich but also of a long lasting relationship between you and TUM - Technische Universität München. Actually, some people have said that TUM should not only stand for Technische Universität München but could also mean Top University of Munich.

The importance of land management and land tenure for a sustainable development cannot be overseen. During the 1990s many international conferences and declarations have been focused on secure access to and sustainable management of land tenure and natural resources. No matter what the topic of the discussion has been: poverty reduction, environmental development, security of shelter, women's empowerment – it is all related in one way or another to land and resources tenure and management.

The faculty of civil engineering and surveying is very happy to contribute to the qualification of future experts in this field via the new Master's Program. I would like to thank all who contributed to its establishment. I also want to express my gratitude to GTZ, DAAD and Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung – our three partners in this program. DAAD is providing scholarships for five of the students, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and GTZ another one each. GTZ also contributes financially and with the qualified input of many of their experts to the Master's

Program. We are proud that our faculty could also contribute to the establishment of this program. We thank our TUM administration, especially our president Prof. Herrmann, for spending a lot of money on the international program. My final thanks goes to Prof. Magel and his team for their initiative. We are convinced that – with a longer time for preparation – there will be many more participants in next years' program.

I know wish you an intensive, profitable and enjoyable time with us at our faculty.