

**Dr. Hannemor Keidel, Vice-President of TUM**

**Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure  
(October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001)**

**Good morning ladies and gentlemen,**

**Dear Mrs. Nipperdey as chairperson of the University Council,  
dear Dean Albrecht and Prof. Magel, as initiator of the program.**

**On behalf of myself and the TUM it gives me great pleasure to welcome you as the first students of the new Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure. Dear students, coming from various countries in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and Africa: Willkommen an der Technischen Universität München.**

**Internationalisation is an important aim at our university. And we all feel that after the horrifying events of the September 11, this is more true than ever. Getting to know each other, studying and living together - together and not isolated from the hosting society - profiting from each others culture is the essential mean to hopefully prevent further hostilities and atrocities.**

**The Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure represents another important step in our international strategy. In many aspects it shows pioneering elements. It is the first Master's Program explicitly addressing and dealing with the**

**situation in developing countries and countries in transition. This will add new aspects to the academic life at Technische Universität München. You as students are the first we have the pleasure and honour to host this year in this program. But throughout the coming academic year, we will also have the pleasure to welcome professors and international experts who live and work in different parts of the world and who come to share their knowledge and experience with us. I am convinced that both, students and lecturers, will contribute with new ideas and perspectives to science and teaching at TUM.**

**This leads me to another achievement initiated by this Master's Program. Five different faculties and more than a dozen chairs of our University are participating in this Master's Program, taking advantage of the variety of excellency in teaching and research at our University. The proof is given that interdisciplinary programs responding to international demands are viable and that we as an institution are capable to put them into action. On behalf of myself and the President Prof. Herrmann, who cannot be with you today, I would like to thank Prof. Magel for taking the initiative, but I also want to thank all the other participants in the program for this truly common effort.**

**The Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure has even more novelties to offer:**

- It is the first Master's Program world-wide explicitly focussing on land management and land tenure from a technical, administrative, political, social and economic point of view.
- It is the first Master's Program with relevance to developing countries in Bavaria, being included in a corresponding program of DAAD.
- It is the first postgraduate course at TUM, thereby addressing a new kind of student: The students in this program have already gained some working experience and are now coming back to school to deepen their knowledge in a field they are already accustomed to.

Through the cooperation with GTZ, the German Development Co-operation, it is furthermore possible to create strong links between theory and practice allowing students to apply the theoretical knowledge they are gaining during the study courses right away upon practical issues.

This kind of co-operation between experts and institutions which work in the field are vital for science and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I would like to express my gratitude to GTZ that they entered into this co-operation with us. I am looking forward to a long lasting partnership in which both sides may give and take.

**We are convinced that this master's course is coming at the right time. The presidential board was therefore quite willing to support the organisers with staff and put some efforts in helping to get the master course started after a brief period of preparation.**

**In concluding I would like to wish you and us that this program may be highly successful. I also want to wish you, the participants - students, researchers and teachers - fruitful studies and an enjoyable stay at our university.**