

Gabriele Kruk, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

Dear Madams and Sirs,

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Participants of the Master Program,

I am most grateful taking part in the opening ceremony of the Master's Program "Land Management and Land Tenure" as representative of the GTZ – the German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The GTZ and especially the Sector Project "Regional Networks of Competence on Land Policy and Land Tenure" awaited the development of this Master Program full of suspense and we have been looking forward to celebrate this event with you.

The postgraduate course "Master of Science in Land Management and Land Tenure" has been developed and integrated in the Technische Universität München in a very short time because of the extraordinary commitment of some persons and institutions. We would like to thank all these persons who have been involved in the arrangement and the preparation of the program in due form and we want to send our compliments and to express our recognition for this great achievement. In particular, we would like to thank the colleagues of the Institute of Geodesy, GIS and Land Management for the active and dynamic cooperation during the developing process of the Master Program. Special gratitude goes to Prof. Dr. Holger Magel and Mrs. Babette Wehrmann for their tireless efforts throughout the last year. Together with my colleagues Christian Graefen and Willi Zimmermann from Eschborn and Cambodia I would like to congratulate and to wish full success.

In our view, the establishment of the Master Program was enabled because of the existence of six complementary components:

1. the existence of a certain demand in the context of international cooperation,
2. the strategic partnership between the Institute of Geodesy, GIS and Land Management within the Technische Universität München and the GTZ within the scope of the Sector Project “Regional Networks of Competence on Land Policy and Land Tenure”,
3. through the mobilization of the interdisciplinary cooperation with relevant institutes and professorships within the Technische Universität München,
4. through the integration of complementary knowledge of international cooperation experts,
5. through the support of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD),
6. through the cooperative work of personalities that are highly involved and highly motivated in development policies.

The postgraduate course “Master of Science in Land Management and Land Tenure” closes a gap between the contents of training institutions in the partner countries and the challenges of a holistic contemplation of the land sector with regard to a sustainable development and a reformed predictability of legal decisions. In particular a good mixture of the theoretical and practical training contents should guarantee that these contents are in alignment with the practical needs of development cooperation.

Our expectations to the Master Program are:

1. to establish a well-grounded relationship to the international network of land-related research and teaching and
2. to adapt the training contents permanently to the challenges of the partner countries and to the needs for a successful implementation of the international conventions of the 1990's.

Above all, we hope that the Master Program will be an attractive offer and could act as a signal to raise up interest among German Professionals in the Land Sector. We expect that these professionals will be able to regard Land Policy, Land Management and Land Tenure not only from an Euro-centric view but also to get more interested and adaptive towards the rapidly changing geo-political and structural framework-conditions and for the complexity of the accosted topics within and outside Europe.

The fascinating task within the International Cooperation is on the one hand to focus on the conceptual alignment of sustainable development, socio-cultural variety, decentralization and the participation of affected persons to the relevant decision-making processes. On the other hand the big challenge is to support the implementation of these elements into the specific context of development and culture of the Partner Countries and to mobilise local partnerships. For these tasks it is absolutely essential that we train professionals who are committed, eager to learn, cross-cultural sensitised and international qualified.

We are sure that this Master Program will contribute to the development of these professionals. GTZ will support this process of capacity building with different inputs:

1. numerous GTZ-colleagues with different backgrounds and experiences will train the students in different courses within the Program,
2. we offer to the participants and the graduates our institutional network and our contacts to German and international organizations,
3. we are willing to support the participants and the graduates within the scope of their Master Thesis to get contacts to projects of German Development Cooperation,
4. our Sector Project “Regional Networks of Competence on Land Policy and Land Tenure” is open for any kind of questions and is willing to give professional advice and information.

We are looking forward to an effective and fruitful partnership with you and we wish all involved and concerned persons and participants success and – of course – pleasure.

Good Luck !!!