

Mi tierra – My land

Some reflections on land by Babette Wehrmann, Program Manager

Mrs. Chairwoman of the University Council, Mrs. Vice-President, Mr. Dean of Faculty, Professors, Friends of the University, Colleagues:

Thank you for joining us to welcome our first students to the Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure. You do us and them a great honour by your presence.

Dear students - welcome!

You came to Munich to study how to manage land: how to survey it, to administer it, to plan the use of it, to enable markets to buy and sell land, to guarantee everyone's access to land. What makes all this so complicated is that land is different from other goods and resources. Not only it is not renewable and nothing you can produce – even not with the most advanced technology of the world. Land is something special, something precious for all of us. When we talk about land it always evokes particular feelings. The land where we were born, the land where we played when we were young, the land where we now live on, the land of our ancestors and our children.

In her famous song “mi tierra” Gloria Estefan is praising the land where one is born:

Gloria Estefan: The land where you were born, you can never forget
 Because it holds your roots and everything you've left behind.

In German language as in Spanish, too, land even has the double meaning of land and country. “Land” or “tierra” is not only the ground, it also means homeland. And homeland is even more special to us than land. As Gloria Estefan puts it:

Your homeland hurts you
Your homeland strikes your soul when you're gone
Your homeland pushes you forth from its roots
Your homeland sighs when you're not there

I wish all of you who left your land to come to Germany that you feel at home in this land while you are here.

Let's listen to Gloria Estefan before Mrs. Kruk will continue with the program.

(music and slide show)