

Entwurf / Vorschlag für Rede von Frau Dr. Keidel
Opening Ceremony des Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure,
am 11.10.2004

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very delighted to welcome the fourth group of international students participating in the Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure. I am very pleased to see the increasing number of students showing interest in this program; also representing the growing support of foundations such as DAAD and Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung.

The university management is very happy to contribute to the qualification of future experts in the field of land management via this Master's Program. I would like to thank all who contributed to make this program a successful one. I want to express my gratitude to GTZ (the German Development Cooperation), DAAD, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and the foundation "Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München" – the four main partners of this program: providing scholarships, contributing financially and supporting the program with the qualified input of many of their experts. I am also very pleased that more than a dozen chairs from different faculties are participating in the Master's Program. I want to thank all participating lecturers for this common effort. My final thanks goes to Prof. Magel, Mrs. Wehrmann and their team for their initiative.

This Master's Program represents an important step in the internationalisation of our university. During the last three years we could see that this program adds many positive aspects to the life at our university. Students and lecturers from different parts of the world contribute with new ideas and perspectives to science and teaching at our university and establish friendships with our German students as well as lecturers.

After three years, during which this program is successfully running, it stills remains a very singular and special program at our university: It is the first Master's Program explicitly addressing the situation in developing countries and countries in transition. The Master's Program is also a novelty in other respects:

- 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 perspective.
- It is the first Master's Program with relevance to developing countries in Bavaria, being included in the corresponding program of DAAD.
- It is the first postgraduate course at TUM; thereby addressing a new kind of student. These students have already gained several years working experience and are now coming back to school to deepen their knowledge in a field they are already accustomed with.

All this required a new concept of a Master's Program. This program is, therefore, characterized by a combination of an academic input including the newest theories, models and approaches and a practical input allowing students to get acquainted with practical methods and policies that have been successfully applied elsewhere and which might also be solutions for their countries.

Dear students, 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 countries after you return to South-Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa or South America. It will be in our interest to stay in contact with you when you go back to your countries. 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.

I now wish you an intensive, profitable and enjoyable stay at our university.