

Program director

Prof. Dr. Holger Magel

Opening Ceremony
to the Master's Program Land Management and Land Tenure
Academic Year 2004 – 2006
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Ladies and gentlemen,

welcome to the fourth master program. We thank you for your applying and are happy to be with you in the next 18 months.

We have started this master program three years ago deeply convinced that there is a worldwide need for better skills and knowledge in Land Management and Land Tenure.

In the meantime some outstanding international events and a lot of regional and national developments have confirmed our decision and confidence and have even inspired us to intensify our efforts, to broaden as well as deepen our program.

What has happened since 2001?

Let me quote some events like the World Summit in Johannesburg 2002, the intensified global campaigns on secure land tenure and urban good governance, the World Urban Forum in Barcelona 2004, the UN Habitat Day on rural-urban-interrelationship 2004, the UN ECOSOC resolution 2003 about “bringing back the rural issues on the agenda” or the latest really inspiring good news, the awarding of Kenyan ecologist woman Dr. Maathej with the Nobel Prize. On country level a lot of initiatives and programs toward more good governance, democratization, decentralisation, land administration, SDI and sustainable development have been started. I've just come back from the large country Indonesia, which undertakes incredible steps towards more democracy, civil society and participation, towards strengthening local communities and sustainable land, marine and coastal zone management.

All these different developments and programs together give a very clear picture: It's time for more experts in Land Management, Land Tenure, surveying, GIS or risk management skills. It's time to better provide with appropriate institutions and legal and organisational frameworks. Last week our FIG Commission 7 chair Prof. Van der Molen has written to UN secretary general Kofi Annan and has reported about the outcomes of a joint UN-FIG-

Workshop on land administration in post conflict countries! One of the most important recommendations was that the establishment of a cadastre and land registry should happen at the end of the reconciliation process and not at the beginning!

You see, land administration is very closely linked with social and political development.

Our German president Prof. Horst Köhler has recently written, that only respecting and application of the three pillars “fight against corruption”, “secure legal frameworks incl. secure land tenure” and “civil society” will finally attract investors and contribute to reduction of poverty. He even pointed out that only thus we will get peace in the world.

That’s the background, that’s the dimension of our master’s program and of your decision to study at our university in this wonderful city Munich.

Against the problems of your country everything in Germany and especially in Bavaria seems to be at the best, seems to be wonderful. Please use the time and your stay to study the living conditions, to observe how politics and social society work in our country, which problems German people must face. Perhaps you even can early recognize which developments for example in the field of environmental development will or should happen in your country in the next years or decades.

At least you should get an idea of the consciousness and the technical background of experts of developed countries and of northern politics pressing developing countries to follow their policies and ideas. You see, this master program has manifold dimensions. And it is really more than only a scientific-technical program. It includes very important political, institutional and social-humanitarian aspects!

Back to you: We wish you a pleasant and fruitful time. Be sure that we do our best. Since we are still in the pioneer time you shouldn’t compare us with rich British, Dutch or American universities and facilities incl. more personal staff. The improvement in these fields must be done in the next years together with the board of our university and our faculty of civil and geodetic engineering. But in one field we already are the best: Serving this unique master’s program isn’t a business for us, but it is our passion! Please do response our passion by being very passionate students.

At the end we all will have reached our goal: to now better serve the society in our countries and in our **one** world!