

Welcome Speech for Opening Ceremony 2007 of the Master's Programme Land Management and Land Tenure

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and Dear Master's Students,

Good morning to all of you. I would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you to this opening ceremony of the Master's Programme session 2007/2009. Today is a day of celebration and festivity dedicated to all new students who are going to join us from today.

Land –this is the platform for social, economic, political and cultural activities. Land is the prerequisite or success factor for poverty eradication, hunger reduction and sustainable development. Here I can recall the statement made in the famous Vancouver Conference on Habitat in 1976. One of which was:

“Land, because of its unique nature and crucial role it plays in human settlement, cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to pressures and inefficiency of the market”.

This brings us to the question of proper land management. Just think about one crucial issue of urban land and that is Poor's access to land. Quite understandably that the poor are the most handicapped group of people in the urban land market and their problem of land is getting more and more difficult every day. To change this situation government needs deep commitment and professional support with innovative strategies for land management.

In Johannesburg World Summit, the heads of states declared:

“All of us are united and moved by a deeply-felt sense that we urgently need to create a new and brighter world of hope”.

In fact this is the background or dimension and the scientific challenge to our master's programme Land Management and Land Tenure. I think it is an indispensable contribution to the promise of Germany's chancellor to implement the ethical sense of Johannesburg Declaration.

In 2001 we started our master's programme. Now this is the year 2007. During this time 5 batches have been graduated. As an ambassador of the centre of land management and land tenure they are working in relevant fields of land management in their home countries. We are contributing to the qualification of future experts in the field of land management through this programme. It is wonderful to think that we have total 72 alumni representing 23 countries. That is truly international.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the journey of this master's programme, we have received manifold supports from different corners. In this happy day I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to:

- TUM, i.e. its President, council and the Dean of the Faculty
- The Bayerische Staatskanzlei, DAAD, GTZ and Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and
- Förderkreis Bodenordnung und Landentwicklung München with all its private sponsors

Without their contributions it was not easy to make this programme successful one.

Simultaneously, I would like to extend my thanks to the lecturers of TUM and abroad and specially my staff.

Dear Students,

I am sure that like your predecessors your time at TUM, and in Munich, will have been an experience which will give you the skills and knowledge you need to move on in the world, and importantly, to help you discover that you have choices. The world needs people like you to contribute all the things you have absorbed –some of this is formal learning through books and through the talented teachers that TUM will offer you. But probably the most important one is the international experience and background of TUM that you will gather during the next 18 months. I believe your achievements on an individual level and the University's on an institutional level will complement and enhance each other.

Looking at you today, I know that all of you are ready for the actual journey which begins today.

I wish you all enthusiasm, happiness and success!

Thanks!