

Graduación en la Universidad de Heidelberg

Documentos

Palabras pronunciadas por el Profesor Francisco Orrego, Codirector del programa de Magíster en Derecho Internacional de la Universidad de Heidelberg y la Universidad de Chile, con motivo de la ceremonia de graduación realizada el 23 de marzo de 2005.

It is my honour to address this ceremony at the University of Heidelberg, in the presence of the Honorable Rector of the University and the Honorable Dean of the Law School, as well as the representative of the Program's co-Director for the University of Heidelberg and the Marx Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.

May I first express the greetings of the Rector of the University of Chile, the Dean of the Law School and the Director of the Institute of International Studies, the counterpart institutions of the Program in Santiago de Chile. It has been a most rewarding experience for all these institutions to work together with the University of Heidelberg and the Marx Planck Institute both at the Heidelberg Center for Latin America in Santiago and for the past few weeks in this beautiful city.

This is a happy occasion indeed as it honours the first group of graduates of the Program and those soon to follow. I can only extend to all of them our most sincere congratulations for the work done, the research undertaken in the preparation of their thesis and their contribution to the better understanding and the

development of many of the subjects chosen.

Four unique features of this Program are to be recognized as an expression of how fruitful academic cooperation can be. The first is the fact that among the graduates of the Program many countries of Latin America and the Pacific have been represented with distinction, thus making of it a genuinely international program. We look forward to expanding the geographical coverage of the Program to other regions and countries in the sincere belief that we are offering a world class LL. M. degree, with specialization in international law and the related fields of international trade and investment.

A second distinguishable feature of the Program is that it represents the first LL. M. degree offered by the University of Heidelberg Law School beyond Europe. This in itself must be commended as the expression of the globalization of knowledge and training in the law.

The third feature I wish to highlight is the fact that for the Max Planck Institute this constitutes the first occasion in which this prestigious research institution participates in a teaching program leading to a university degree anywhere in the world. May I express my gratitude to Professor Rüdiger Wolfrum, Co-Director of that Institute and of this Program, for the long-term vision embodied in this decision that will further extend knowledge and academic experience to the four corners of the world.

I cannot fail to add my gratitude to the many scholars, officials and practitioners that have participated in this Program from Heidelberg, Santiago and many other quarters, including international organizations, both public and private. Their contribution has been a major one as it has permitted the most up to date state of the art information and experience in the fields of law covered within the scope of the Program. So too, the facilities offered by the Heidelberg Center for Latin America in Santiago must be recognized with appreciation.

Thank you all for your help and goodwill, not devoid of a warm human relationship that we all cherish. We come from a country of red wine to a country of white wine. Not surprisingly, the vineyard is offering the best product of both.