

Palabras pronunciadas por el Profesor Francisco Orrego Vicuña

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En la ceremonia de graduación del LL.M. 2006 realizada en la Universidad de Heidelberg

Magnifizenz,
Professors of the Law School of Heidelberg University,
Professors of the Max Planck Institute,
Students of the LL. M. Program
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to once again represent the University of Chile on the occasion of the graduation ceremony of a new generation of students of the LL. M. Program jointly offered with the University of Heidelberg. This is also a happy occasion to meet yet again with so many distinguished scholars and friends with whom we share a common interest in the development of international law.

Allow me first to reiterate the importance of this very unique Program. As far as I am aware, this is the only LL. M. degree offered anywhere in the world in such challenging and interrelated new fields concerning international law, international trade and investments and international arbitration. At the same time, it is a unique experience that

brings together the effort of two major universities and the scientific support of two well established research institutions.

The Program is making steady progress and becoming better known with each passing day. The number of students admitted for this academic year has practically reached its limit and the inquiries for the years ahead are indicative of a growing interest. We are particularly pleased to have so many capable and devoted students coming not just from Chile and Latin America, but also increasingly from all over the world, including Germany.

The human and library resources of this Program are formidable, for which we are enormously grateful to the scholars of the University of Heidelberg and the Max Planck Institute who have visited us year after year, creating a most stimulating intellectual community.

New initiatives are also being developed to make of it a yet better opportunity for learning and research. May I mention in particular the initiative of making available on line the wealth of material that has already been cumulatively compiled for each course and research subjects.

May I also take this occasion to express our sincere gratitude to the academic coordinators in both Santiago and Heidelberg, who have devoted many efforts to the success of this venture.

One particular feature of this Program is that it is based on the complete equality of all participating institutions, students and scholars. There is no difference here between those who come from Germany or Chile, or from anywhere else. It is simply a common endeavor to allow for the development of academic objectives that are common to all.

Magnifizenz, you might remember that last year I invoked, in the same spirit of equality, the good taste of Chilean red wine and of German white wine. Yet, as from last November, there was in my mind a disquieting development seriously altering this equality.

Why could unruly Germans be governed by a distinguished lady and not so equally unruly Chileans? This was utterly unacceptable. So we have decided to become again equals and elected too a lady as our President. Yet, Chile now has an advantage over Germany, not in the world football cup, I am afraid. Our lady President studied in Germany. I am not aware that your lady Prime Minister has studied in Chile. So, if she really does well we

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might even admit her to our LL. M. in Santiago. We would then be entirely equals again.

But while we await for this development, let us congratulate and wish the very best to our participants who as from now become Masters of Law of the University of Heidelberg and the University of Chile.

Thank you all.

University of Heidelberg
March 29, 2006