

**WELCOME ADDRESS OF MRS. M. DÜRKOP**  
 President of the Humboldt University Berlin

Mr. Chairman,  
 distinguished Guests,  
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

as President of the Humboldt-University it is a great pleasure for me to offer a warm welcome to all participants of this symposium.

Although I am not well acquainted with either Agriculture or Forestry, both fields, which represent more than 80 % of the total land area in Europe, play a fundamental role in human responsibility for a reasonable land use policy and for the maintenance of sound environmental conditions for the health and welfare of mankind.

After having looked at your program it appears to me that there is a great amount of research being done in these fields, and, further, that there is still greater demand for scientific investigation and practical application in what is outlined by the term „Agroforestry“. Agroforestry opens up new possibilities for a sustainable use of natural resources for plant production in the future.

Humboldt University very much appreciates that you have chosen Berlin as venue for your symposium, which is, as I am informed, attended by representatives of 18 nations.

The choice of Berlin and its Humboldt University has, of course, reasons which also date back to history. Humboldt University can look back at a considerable number of pioneers who helped to develop the scientific fundament in environmental and ecological studies through physiographical investigations of landscapes and natural ecosystems. In this context a Forestry Faculty was established already in 1821 at the Humboldt University. Among others it was Alexander von Humboldt who suggested to translocate this faculty to Eberswalde which was carried out in 1830. Already at that time this institution was strongly engaged in reforestation research and in investigations focusing on the establishment of a sound forest policy based on sustainable management.

Moreover, Berlin itself is an attractive place, rich in history and full of surprising impressions.

The „Brandenburger Tor“ has become a symbol of freedom and unification. A nation which had been suppressed by separation for nearly 50 years is now trying to overcome confrontation, and therefore Berlin may be an ideal place for discussing problems and issues on a world-wide scale.

Its surroundings offer many pretty sites for recreation in a landscape of great beauty, in which numerous, picturesque lakes are contrasted with the impressive background of wonderful and silent forests.

I hope that the excursion, announced in your program, may convey to you some of the rural scenery with stimulating effects on your work.

I hope that all participants will have a successful meeting in order to further your important task for the future.