

**Dear Alumna, dear Alumnus of the Master Program  
Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics of Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences,**

Another busy year has almost passed by. Thus let me take the chance to send you season's greetings and all my best wishes for the New Year. I wish you and your family strong health, a lot of happiness and both work and personal success in 2016.

To keep you informed about what is going on at HFT, here some updates.

The most important event for our department this year was the 150 years anniversary of Surveying and Geodesy education at HFT. According to the annals the first study course really started in 1865, a long time ago! Thus we have had the celebration of the jubilee in November with a lot of politicians, representatives of the professional bodies, alumni, etc.

Besides that, here at HFT we have had business as usual. In October this year we started with a new batch of 25 students. Thus all 25 study places have been filled. In the batch are 8 students with DAAD scholarships, and we just finished the selection for the intake 2016 with again 8 scholarships. Thus thanks a lot to all of you who have been engaged as facilitator or by adding reference letters to the applications.

The cooperation with DAAD and the AGEF group is getting more and more important. There are a lot of activities going on, for active students as well as for alumni. There was the winter school at the University Hohenheim in Stuttgart titled *A World without Hunger* with the focus on Sub-Saharan countries. I am very proud that the alumni of *Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics* have been the biggest group at the conference. Organized by AGEF, there are also from time to time Webinars offered; the last one titled *After Paris: How can Universities fight Climate Change?* only some days ago. All the Webinars are available on the DAAD Alumni portal in the AGEF group <https://www.alumniportal-deutschland.org/community/pg/groups/13677150>

Thus those of you who didn't join the group so far, here and now is the chance! In my opinion there are really some benefits for all of you to join, as there are a lot of interesting activities going on. The portal is open not only for former DAAD scholarship holders, but it is open to all alumni who have studied in Germany.

Alumni are very important for us as facilitators to our study program. So we are very glad to have met some of you again during our travelling this year, e.g. by Prof. Coors in Malaysia, by Prof. Hahn in Sri Lanka or by me in Uzbekistan. Hopefully we will be able to meet some more of you in the coming year! In this context I want to mention the re-invitation program for the former DAAD scholarship holders. Please check the DAAD homepage for the specific requirements to stay for some weeks at HFT for some research – or some individual advanced training program. There is also some small budget available from HFT to invite Alumni (not related to DAAD) to give some seminar or workshop for the actual students – if someone of you is interested, please let me know. The budget will cover the travel cost plus some daily allowance.

The senior students are just now working very hard on their thesis projects. Let me take the chance to remind you that we are very happy for any thesis topic suggestions – in particular in the context of real world projects from any company or in collaboration with any research institution – just send me an email.

For those working in the academic field let me mention also the Erasmus + program of the European Commission which supports any cooperation not only between European Universities but also the Eastern neighbouring countries of the EU plus Latin America, Asia and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. So if you have any ideas about cooperation – just contact me.

I would like to thank all those who have sent some job offers for graduates. We have forwarded all of them to the Alumni-group. I think this is really a good example to show your still ongoing bond to the study program *Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics*.

If you are not just visiting our homepage but visiting Germany itself, please don't forget to come to Stuttgart and the HFT. Just drop in – as some of you did this year, you are welcome anytime!

In behalf of all colleagues and staff members engaged in the course Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours Sincerely

Dietrich Schröder