

BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS BEFORE US, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK OF INCREASED TRADE, INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT.

CANADA AND THE MEMBER STATES OF ASEAN ARE TRADING NATIONS. WE BOTH RELY HEAVILY ON A TWO-WAY FLOW OF GOODS AND SERVICES AS AN IMPORTANT UNDERPINNING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE BOTH OBSERVED IN THE PAST THAT CANADA-ASEAN TRADE IS RELATIVELY MODEST AND THAT THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR TWO-WAY GROWTH. WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS POTENTIAL.

AS A RESULT OF MY GOVERNMENT'S INCREASED FOCUS ON THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION, CANADIAN MINISTERS AND BUSINESSMEN ARE INCREASINGLY FREQUENT VISITORS TO ASEAN. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THIS TREND IS NOT ONE WAY--INDEED, WE HAVE WELCOMED THE THAI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, THE INDONESIAN TRADE MINISTER AND A SENIOR DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE TRADE OFFICIALS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. EARLIER IN JUNE, BOTH THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES VISITED CANADA AND EXPO 86. I HOPE THE INCREASE IN THIS TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WILL CONTINUE.

YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED FOR PARTICULAR EMPHASIS, ENHANCED COOPERATION INVOLVING INVESTMENT THROUGH JOINT VENTURES, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND AN INCREASED MARKET PRESENCE IN CANADA. WITH