

from nationbuilding in Cambodia to the development of rule-based structures and institutions across the region -- is very much in our own long-term national interest and is a high priority in our overall foreign policy agenda.

I spoke earlier of the term "Pacific century." As an active participant in the events and the decisions that are shaping the new Asia-Pacific, Canada stands to be a major beneficiary of the progress that is taking place in the region -- economically, socially and politically.

Canada is very much an integral part of the Pacific century and many of you who are here today are the leaders in the process of converting opportunity into reality.

As I embark on this most important journey, I am confident that Canadians have both the energy and the initiative to take advantage of the Pacific century, and I know that I have your support.