



MESSAGE FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA



Jean Chrétien

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Indonesia-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) on its publication, "Indonesia-Canada, Into the New Millennium." I was pleased that the ICCC was launched during the 1996 Team Canada Trade Mission to Indonesia. It has grown into an effective forum for sharing ideas, making contacts, and strengthening trade and investment ties.

Canada and Indonesia share common concerns. We both face the challenges of developing infrastructure over large geographic expanses and across several time zones. And while our countries are rich in natural resources, we both face the challenge of developing them in a sustainable manner, for all of our citizens. I am sure you will find that Canadian expertise is well suited to Indonesian requirements in energy and resource development, infrastructure, transportation, communications, financial services and agri-food products.

Since the 1950s, Canadian companies have been active in Indonesia. Today, it is Canada's largest export market in Southeast Asia. Combined two-way trade between us stood at \$1.4 billion in 1998, and Canadian investment in Indonesia has grown to almost \$8 billion. I am confident that, with strong ties between Canada and Indonesia, and a return to political stability, we will see a strengthening of our economic ties in this important market.

Our partnership also extends to development and bilateral political ties. Canadian projects in human rights, governance and election assistance are contributing to Indonesian objectives and democratization. Our people to people ties have been enhanced through education exchanges, tourism and trade.

Our mutual commitment to free and open economies in APEC and the World Trade Organization are important to business in the new millennium. We want even more trade, investment and technical co-operation that will translate into jobs and prosperity for the people of both countries.

I applaud your vision to expand trading possibilities into and beyond the year 2000. ■

Jean Chrétien