

COLLEAGUES,

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU HERE AGAIN AT THE ANNUAL ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

I OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HOST, THE VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SALVADOR LAUREL. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK HIM AND HIS MINISTRY FOR THE EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS THEY HAVE MADE FOR THE CONFERENCE AT A TIME WHEN HIS GOVERNMENT IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER PRESSING MATTERS.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER WITH WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN ON THE ROLE OF COORDINATING PARTNER FOR CANADA'S DIALOGUE RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN.

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