

I will be speaking at greater length about the Centre on Monday. But I would like to stress this morning that I see the Centre and its activities as serving both your and our objectives. I would welcome your guidance and suggestions on how it can help bring us closer together.

During its first year of operations, the Centre will serve as the base of our development co-operation program with ASEAN and regional institutions. After that, I hope it will evolve to cover a broader mandate.

Education and training will form a large part of the Centre's future work. I hope that it will bring together ASEAN and Canadian professionals as well as the young people of our countries. It is in non-traditional areas of cooperation and contacts where I see the Centre enriching our relationship.

Your Highness, Canada strongly supports the emphasis which His Majesty, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, placed on developing cooperative programmes for our youth. I hope to continue initiatives such as Canada's sending a young scientists delegation to the Second Asean Science and Technology Week, held in Manila last January.

Ministers will recall the successful MTN briefing program which we organized for Asean representatives early in the Uruguay Round. We are currently examining the possibility of having Carleton University in Ottawa provide a specially designed course on negotiating skills as a follow-up to that initiative. The course has received wide praise and is designed to focus on issues drawn from the professional activities of the participants. I hope it will be possible to have representatives from each Asean country join in the course.

Another area of future cooperation is the establishment of professional links between Canadian Law of the Sea Specialists and those from your countries. There is already some work underway in this area and I am hopeful that this can be expanded in the coming months.

Through such efforts as this, Canada can make a contribution to the realization of the Asean objective of fostering regional cooperation, including in respect to maritime issues.

Your Highness, we will look for other ways to ensure Canada-Asean collaboration on regional security issues, reflecting our support for the objective of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South East Asia. I should note that we also agree entirely that Asean and its dialogue partners should proceed with caution and care with a clear appreciation for what may be possible and practical.