

of pluralism, tolerance and diversity. We can build upon the highly successful Canada-Indonesia McGill Islamic Studies relationship, which has been running for more than 30 years. It is significant to note that dialogue and cooperation of this nature also helps Canadians to develop a more accurate understanding of Islam and the Muslim communities of Indonesia. Indonesians also gain a greater awareness of Canada's experience in managing diversity.

These then are three areas and a few ideas where we can make a difference if we concentrate our efforts, identify concrete initiatives, and develop broad partnerships with Canadians and Indonesians alike. In doing so, we can apply fresh thinking and new energy to the bilateral relationship. Answering the question 'How?' is of course the hard part. That is the part with which I would like your help today.

Given the importance of Indonesia to Canada, the region and the world, I believe it is essential to strengthen and expand our bilateral partnership at this historic time of democratic consolidation in Indonesia.

As we have seen so vividly over this past year, Indonesia is on the move. Her needs are great, but so is her potential. The Indonesian economy is bouncing back; our shared economic interests suggest Canada needs to be there. Indonesia is an important front in the fight against terrorism; our mutual security interests mean that we need to be partners in the struggle. Indonesian democracy is in bloom; Canada ought to help nurture the roots of pluralism and tolerance in the world's largest Muslim population and help Indonesians in their desire to show the world that Islam and democracy can, indeed, co-exist.

Today's symposium is a good starting point for dialogue. I think we need to do more of this. Let's make sure it isn't just a one-off event. We need to find ideas and think of ways of following up. Our goal must be the effective, sustainable promotion of a common bilateral agenda. We must work to deliver results for Canadians and Indonesians through partnership in an ever-changing, risky, yet rewarding international environment. I am looking forward to hearing from all of you today. For now, thank you for your kind attention.