

ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADA IS THAT WE DRAW OUR CITIZENS FROM ALL THE WORLD. MANY OF THE MOST ACTIVE CANADIANS WERE BORN IN YOUR COUNTRIES, AND MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE CONNECTION WITH YOUR CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES. IN ALMOST EVERY PART OF CANADA, YOU FIND A LITTLE BIT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. MORE OF OUR CITIZENS -- TOURISTS, BUSINESS-PERSONS, PARLIAMENTARIANS -- ARE COMING TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRIES. SO OUR LINKS ARE DEEPLY PERSONAL, AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL.

YOU HAVE OTHER INTERESTS IN THE WORLD THAN CANADA, AND WE MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN ALL COUNTRIES, ALL CONTINENTS. BUT THERE IS A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO BUILD ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF ASEAN. WE SHARE A COMMON VIEW ON BASIC QUESTIONS -- ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH, ABOUT THE ESSENTIAL INDEPENDENCE OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS. WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON AND A SHARED DETERMINATION TO BUILD ON THAT BEGINNING.