

region, means a commitment not only over time but across many fields of human endeavour. It covers personal ties between leaders; acceptance of certain responsibilities in areas such as peace, human rights and democratic development; recognition of the value of educational and cultural links; and sharing of experience in specific areas such as research and development, environmental preservation, or other challenges of public policy.

For me, there is a special meaning to the engagement, indeed the mobilization of Canadians of Asian origin in the building of our Asia-Pacific partnerships. Canadians of Asian origin, whether representatives of big companies or entrepreneurs from our dynamic small and medium-sized companies, can contribute to the national effort we need. They will add empathy to our Asia-Pacific ties, the kind of cultural affinity so long of benefit to our North American and European links. Much of our success in realizing our aspirations in business will have to do with the success we have in linking our peoples.

For the past year, I have been doing my part and will continue to do so. I hope you can join me in these efforts.

Thank you.