

And I was deeply gratified to know that Canada, through 35 years of development cooperation with that part of the world, has played an important part in that progress. The lesson I draw from what I saw in Asia is that progress is in fact possible - that persistent efforts and well directed investments will eventually pay off, to everyone's benefit. I am confident that what is happening in Asia can also happen in Africa.

I would like to leave you with the words of my colleague, the Honourable Monique Vézina. Speaking yesterday to CIDA employees, she said:

"The budgetary reductions should not be interpreted as a change in philosophy or objectives. We have a collective commitment to the principles and objectives of development which has made our record in this field one of the best in the world. It goes beyond bureaucratic infrastructures and budgetary allocations. We are talking about human will and political will. We must and will maintain the integrity of our development programme so that Canadians can continue to take pride in their place in the world."