

businessmen have a great interest in the ASEAN countries but sometimes find that they are inhibited from investing by host government regulations. It is in our mutual interest to overcome this problem in a constructive manner. I therefore hope that, both within the JCC context and in our bilateral discussions, there will be opportunities over the next year for real progress which will in turn enhance the range of commercial cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, our joint experience has shown that Canada and ASEAN can work together very effectively. There is a sense of rapport which comes from many shared attitudes and shared objectives. We can talk frankly, and when we disagree, we can constructively seek ways to resolve our differences. ASEAN is a remarkable success story largely because this sort of spirit has prevailed amongst its members. Between Canada and ASEAN, the dialogue is of a similar nature. From my perspective, I see our relationship with some of the world's most dynamic economies as setting a high standard by which my country's commitment to international cooperation can be measured. I assure you that the Canadian Government is determined to respond effectively to this challenge. I look forward to discussing some of these subjects further with you as we move into the next stage of this Conference.