

proud of all the positive signs that your country has sent in the past few months:

- the democratic elections in September,
- the acceptance of the visit of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in February,
- the hosting last week in Bangkok of the Asian Regional Meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights, and
- the initiative last month of the Thai government to host the first of a series of meetings to establish mechanisms to enhance co-operation between ASEAN and the United Nations in the area of preventative security.

All of these are very positive signs, like the first flowers of spring in Canada -- always a hopeful event -- and like the promise and hope of the New Year that you will celebrate.

This is only my second trip to your wonderful city, to your exciting country. I love Thailand. I hope I shall have the opportunity to return many times.