



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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May 11, 2006

H.E Romano Prodi
Prime Minister
Republic of Italy

You Excellency:

The Council of Asian Liberals & Democrats (CALD) would like to extend to Your Excellency its sincere congratulations on Your Excellency's appointment as election as Prime Minister of Italy.

Last December, high-level parliamentarians from CALD member and observer parties including the Liberal Party of the Philippines, the Democrat Party of Thailand, the Sam Rainsy Party of Cambodia, the Democratic Party of Japan and the Democratic Party of Hong Kong together with the CALD Secretary General and the CALD Executive Director attended the Meeting on "Asia-Europe Strategic Partnership: The Future is Now" in Rome, Italy. This was sponsored by the La Margherita Party and the European Democratic Party.

Founded in 1993 in Bangkok, Thailand, CALD is an umbrella organization of liberal and democratic parties in Asia. Its partners include Liberal International, the Alliance of Liberals & Democrats for Europe, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

On the occasion of CALD's 10th Anniversary, H.E Kim Dae Jung, Nobel Laureate, Former Korean President and CALD Co-founder stated:

CALD has been the venue for various discussions related to democracy, and has developed as one of the epicenters in promoting democracy in Asia. CALD has greatly contributed to pursuing democracy as a common value of Asia beyond the differences in language, religion and culture. Compared to a decade ago, democracy has flourished in Asia. I would like to commend CALD for playing an important role in this outcome.

We in CALD are very pleased with the strengthening of alliances between European and Asian Liberals. The continuing political dialogue between the two regions as well as the establishment of a network of European and Asian democrats were two of the agreements made during the abovementioned meeting in Rome.

In behalf of CALD, we would like to express our confidence and optimism in a new era of political reform and economic progress for Italy as well as a new impetus for greater integration in the European Union under Your Excellency's vision and leadership.

Sincerely,

SGD
Senator Franklin Drilon
President of the Philippine Senate



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& Chairman of the Council of Asian Liberals & Democrats

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Hon. Francesco Rutelli

Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Italy
President, La Margherita

Hon. Gianni Vernetti

Senator and Deputy Foreign Minister, Republic of Italy
Head of the International Relations Office, La Margherita