



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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May 11, 2006

Hon. Francesco Rutelli
Deputy Prime Minister
Republic of Italy

Dear Hon. Rutelli:

The Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) would like to extend to you its sincere congratulations on your election as Deputy Prime Minister of Italy.

As you know, 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 from December 1 to 3 2006 which was excellently organized by your 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.

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 Rome meeting.

In behalf of CALD, we reiterate our warm congratulations and express our hope and confidence for greater cooperation.

Sincerely,

SGD
Senator Franklin Drilon
President of the Philippine Senate
& Chairman of the Council of Asian Liberals & Democrats