

## **APEC Closing Session**

**Santiago, Chile, November 20, 2004**

I will be very short. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for the work that you have done this year. It has been hard work. Sometimes, it has been quite ambitious work. And I would say that some of your proposals are rather bold ones. We leaders are here to try to figure out what to do with your proposals. This is what we are supposed to do.

Nevertheless, you will see in our statement tomorrow that some of your initiatives have been taken into account, with regard to the issue of corruption, regarding the so-called Santiago Initiative, with regard to trade, and how we're going to be able to put together several trade agreements among ourselves, and at the same time, in a more multilateral way, within the APEC region.

And I hope that you will continue the way that you have been working next year, when we meet in Korea.

Therefore, some kind of feasibility studies can be done, through the APEC leader countries, in order to make sure that what you pushed for this year continues. We have to be realistic. At the same time, it's going to be essential, I'm sure, that the Doha Development Round will receive a big push from the APEC leaders tomorrow. In other words, I think it's extremely important to have this opportunity to exchange ideas about your view, the business community's view, of the real world. I think that the proposals you have made are bold, creative and quite interesting. Tomorrow, you will have an answer regarding what you have been working on this year.

And now let's have our talk around the tables. Here, behind my back, you have the Central Valley of Chile. To my right, you have the northern part of Chile, about 2,000 km north of where we are now, and there you have the southern part of Chile, another 2,000 km south of where we are now. And of course in front of us we have the Pacific Ocean, with some seats there, and we hope that those seats represent the way that the Pacific Ocean is the bridge among our nations.

And now, let's have a good discussion. Thank you.