



**MESSAGE BY H.E. LEE HSIEN LOONG  
PRIME MINISTER  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**TO THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT  
DOHA, QATAR, 15 - 16 JUNE 2005**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. ZAINUL ABIDIN RASHEED  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to convey to this meeting, the following message from my Prime Minister, H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, who is unable to be with us today.

"I warmly congratulate His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting this significant event. I am confident that under the able co-chairmanship of Qatar and Jamaica, we will achieve the objectives of the Second South Summit.

Mr Chairman,

World Leaders agreed on a development vision five years ago, as laid out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We set clear targets for eradicating poverty and improving the social and development conditions of countries by 2015.

To fulfil our vision, we must seize the opportunities of globalisation, while overcoming the challenges. Globalisation can be a powerful driver for economic growth. It spreads ideas and knowledge, opens up markets, and brings significant economic benefits to the people. However, globalisation also poses tough competition to local industries, and can overwhelm local traditions and culture. We must ensure that no country should be left behind or overwhelmed in the tide of globalisation. Every country must have the opportunities to participate in the economic and development progress of the world.

The developed countries play an important part to ensure this. First, by fulfilling their ODA commitments under the Monterrey Consensus, they help developing countries.

Second, it will mean a great deal to developing countries for developed countries to liberalise their agricultural sector, so that the poor countries could increase their exports and stand a chance to come out of their poverty trap. We need to make progress in opening up the agriculture sector

under the Doha Development Round, so that developing countries too will benefit from the global trading system, and have a stake in making it succeed.

A third area which developed country can help is to rethink their approach on the debt problem. Debt is a huge impediment to development, because highly-indebted poor countries spend an inordinate amount of their limited budgets servicing debts. They have little left to invest in infrastructure, improve education and healthcare.

Fourth, the developed world can share their wealth of experiences and expertise. They can also help build up the local capacity and galvanise international action.

Globalisation is here to stay. We all share the common challenge to maximise the opportunities that globalisation promises and minimise its risks and costs.

For a country to reap the benefits of globalisation and achieve economic growth, it must take tough decisions, mobilise its people, and implement a plan for development. Every country must do so taking into account their own circumstances and priorities. But while there is no one-size-fits-all recipe, the options are increasingly narrow in a globalised world. For example, we will need to have free trade, so that we can produce whatever we have a comparative advantage in and export it to the world. Governments will need to invest in education and training, to prepare their people well. They need to maintain high standards of governance, legal and regulatory systems, to win the confidence of investors.

Singapore is doing its part to share our development experience with other fellow developing countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP). The SCP is Singapore's modest contribution to South-South cooperation. It reflects our own belief that education and training is the best gift to people in need of help. Since its establishment in 1992, over 35,000 participants from 159 countries have taken part in the SCP, which has been expanded to include such areas of importance as the environment, sustainable development, and capacity building for trade and economic development.

At the same time, we should advocate free trade amongst developing countries. Over 40 percent of developing country goods exports are destined for other developing countries. And such South-South trade is increasing at an annual rate of 11 percent. We can grow it further and benefit from it.

In conclusion, while the support and commitment of the wider international community is important, it is really up to us, the developing countries, to determine our own fate. It is our collective duty to find realistic and workable solutions to tackle the various development challenges facing the South.

I wish the Second South Summit every success in its important deliberations."

Mr Chairman,

This ends the message from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. My delegation looks forward to the exchange of views that will take place at this Summit. We also pledge our support to the Chair as you guide our discussions towards a successful conclusion.

Thank you.

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