

quality of life and more social acceptance in Philippine society. We should recognize that these privileges bestow upon us a responsibility to continue to project a positive image of Chinese entrepreneurs as model citizens of this country. We likewise have duty to our elders and to our own children and future generations, to uphold our community's time-honored tradition of dynamic entrepreneurship and service to Philippine society.

The entrepreneurs of our young generation should champion the ideals of free enterprises and reaffirm the positive role of the private sector as the primary engine of Philippine economic and social progress. Apart from civic and social welfare undertaking, we should support the cause of social justice. Our generation should take the lead in supporting the campaign to enhance our ecology and to protect our natural environment. We should likewise spearhead strong private sector support for the promotion of arts and culture. We should help modernize and revitalize the Philippine economy, preparing our industries to aggressively compete in global markets.

We should take the lead in supporting President Ramos in his vision of the Philippines emerging as a Newly Industrializing Country (NIC) by the year 2000. For many of the young Chinese entrepreneurs, the leadership of President Ramos is reassuring, for he had pledged greater socio-political stability, better peace and order, improvement in our electric power supply situation and a more pragmatic approach in economic development. I believe there is a growing consensus among our generation that all sectors of Philippine society should now close ranks and help the government succeed in its socio-economic development programs.

In this final decade of the 20th century, the torch is being passed to a new generation of young Chinese entrepreneurs—born and raised in the Philippines, educated in the best of Asian and Western cultures, imbued with growing sense of social idealism, proud of our ancient heritage and devoted to the future of this country.

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