

**Visit to the UUNZ Institute of Business, Auckland at 12 Noon on  
September 4, 2010**

I am glad to be here in New Zealand, considered the youngest country on earth, which is also a country of spectacular variety and breathtaking beauty. Lush rainforests, impressive glaciers, active volcanoes and geothermal areas, high plateaus, rushing rivers and waterfalls, and countless miles of island-dotted coastline cast a magic spell on the mind. Like India and Australia, New Zealand is also known for its rich biodiversity. I do not have the time and opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature your country offers by visiting places, but the glimpses of beauty I got have certainly filled my heart. I thank the authorities of the institute for inviting me here.

I know, New Zealand has a rich and fascinating history, reflecting both Maori and European heritage. Amazing Maori historic sites and *taonga* (treasures), some dating back almost a thousand years, speak volumes of its glorious past. The country also has many beautiful colonial buildings. I know that your country ranks high on many counts--education, economic

freedom, and lack of corruption. Your cities offer the best civic facilities and are among the world's most livable cities.

New Zealand is also a country where most people are educated. The Education Index, published with the UN's Human Development Index in 2008, based on data collected in 2006, lists New Zealand as 0.993, amongst the highest in the world, tied for first place with Denmark, Finland and Australia.

I am really happy to be here in Auckland, popularly known as the "City of Sails". The harbour is often dotted with hundreds of yachts. I heard that about one in three Auckland households owns a boat.

Auckland is home to many cultures. The majority of inhabitants are of European descent, but substantial Māori, Pacific Islander and Asian communities also live here. Ethnic groups from almost all parts of the world have a presence in Auckland, making it a fine example of perfect harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Auckland has some of the finest educational institutions, including some of the largest universities in the country. The city is a major centre of overseas language education, with

large numbers of foreign students, especially East Asians, coming to the city for several months or years to learn English or to study at universities. The city has some of the important universities including the University of Auckland, Auckland College of Education, Massey University, the Manukau Institute of Technology and Unitec New Zealand.

The goal of the UUNZ Institute of Business is clearly spelt out in its prospectus: “Educating aspiring minds.” I heard that the Institute started as a language academy providing English language courses to international students in Auckland. Within months of commencing its operations, UUNZ evolved into a tertiary education provider offering business qualifications ranging from certificate to degree-level in addition to the original English language programmes. I came to know that this institute is a member of the University of Southern Queensland partnership model. Those studying here get two qualifications, one from New Zealand and the other from Australia. USQ qualifications gained at UUNZ are identical and equivalent to those studied in Australia. Students have the opportunity to study the entire programme in New Zealand or

part of it in New Zealand and part in Australia. This sort of partnership, I am sure, is beneficial to students and also to both the institutions.

Business education has assumed great significance in today's world. In a climate of globalization and liberalization, the key to success now lies with effective management practices based on application of technology. However, these practices alone are not enough. The management must also keep it in mind that while making profit the firm should also give back to society from which it has received all its resources. I hope a reputed institute like that of yours must be teaching the students how to be efficient, effective and responsible.

Business can thrive in a peaceful and stable environment. But we know that we are living in world where terrorism poses a serious threat to peace, democracy, human rights, security and development. It pulls down the pillars of democracy and destroys the most fundamental of all human rights—the right to life. Terrorism, by its very nature, denies all that is legitimate in a civilized society and threatens its very existence. It undermines the very foundation every civil society. It replaces the civilized

law by the law of the jungle and results in violence and bloodshed. I recall an incident that rocked a crowded market in Delhi two years ago. A 10 year old boy picked up a plastic bag which was dropped by two men on a motorcycle and shouted, "Uncle, you dropped something." Immediately afterwards, the bomb in the plastic bag exploded and the boy's head was blown off.

These forces of violence and terror can be defeated by the power of peace and goodwill. Peace initiatives can bring a solution to the problem of violence. We must understand the genesis of this evil. What is stated in the Preamble of the UNESCO Constitution is particularly apt in this context: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." Poverty, hatred, discrimination and lack of sensitivity -- all contribute to the nurturing of such evils. Every one of us must shun violence and work towards having lasting peace. Peace will ultimately prevail. I shall end with a Maori blessing: *Kia hora, te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana. Kia tere, te karo hirohi* (May the calm be widespread, may the sea glisten like the greenstone,

may the shimmer of summer dance forever across your pathway.)

I hope students pursuing their studies here will “seek those distant horizons and cherish those they attain.” They will strive to achieve excellence in every field and will succeed by virtue of their persistent endeavour and hard work.

Thank you again, ladies and gentlemen.