

**Welcome Remarks
Klaus Preschle, Country Representative of
the Konrad Adenauer Foundation**

**32nd Globalization Lectures'
'Rebuilding Iraq: Challenges and Opportunities for Business'**

Shangri La Hotel Makati, May 3, 2004

Her Excellency Nesreen M. Sideek-Barwari,
President Roberto de Ocampo,
Ms. Amina Rasul,
Honorable Manuel Imson,
Mr. Sostenes Campillo, Jr.,
Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, I welcome you all to this gathering on Rebuilding Iraq.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is a German Non-Governmental Organization mainly focusing on political education and counseling. We have been a long-term partner of the AIM Policy Center with the purpose of providing think-tank activities from which both the government and the private sector can benefit from.

I would like to use my five minutes as a German citizen representing our Foundation which carries the name of the first German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, whose name is a brand for credible, reliable and value-based policies as well as it stands for the period of rebuilding Germany after World War II. If there was ever a country completely destroyed, destroyed in a political, economic and moral sense, it was Germany in 1945. And the Germans could not even claim "not guilty". What the National Socialists did

with their humiliating ideology is unforgivable. But we were able to overcome this dark era in our history. The Germans rebuilt the nation with the will of the people, political leadership and foreign help, especially from the United States of America, which is something that we will never forget.

Of course, we got this support in a specific political situation. There was political motivation for humanitarian aid. In the post-war era, Germany was still a battlefield, the country in which a wall divided the so-called Free West from the hemisphere of the Soviet Union. So there was massive interest in making the western part work to avoid the spread of revolutionary socialist and communist ideas.

The situation in Iraq in 2004 is different. History does not repeat itself but nevertheless, the rebuilding of Iraq as the rebuilding of Germany 60 years ago is in the interest of the international community. We should not forget that although it was also possible to oust a dictator, the justification of this war is still questionable for the majority of the people.

I do not want to compare the threat of international terrorism with effective organizations like Al Qaida on top with the destructive ideologies of the 19th and 20th century, although both downsides are definitely not in the interest of peace and development and seeking the way to world dominance. And every person, every nation who is in favor of freedom, justice and solidarity should be prepared not only with weapons and intelligence services but, with concepts of justice and development. Today, we are facing a spiritual battle again. I do not like the interpretation that September 11 happened because of hunger and poverty in the world. But nevertheless, poverty and hunger, the absence of basic services like

water, food, shelter and education is the oxygen for terrorist groups of all kinds. And these seeds of terror are avoidable.

Rebuilding Iraq is a humanitarian aid, a peace work that includes essential contributions to the partnership between the muslim and the non-muslim world.

Unlike Germany, which was not part of the coalition of the willing, the Philippines do have the support and the protection of the Americans for all kinds of rebuilding activities. And although, it looks for some observers that even the Filipinos with their 8 million Overseas Contract Workers try to conquer the world, nobody should be afraid of this kind of imperialism. It is not based on ideology or weapons, but on skilled and hardworking people who have given evidence that they are very flexible and able to adjust all over the world.

So I am sure that Iraq can benefit from the Philippines and the Philippines from Iraq. So we will listen with interest to your speech and your message
Her Excellency Nesreen M. Sideek-Barwari.

Be assured that the Germans are willing (now) to help the Iraqi people and to help the Filipinos. So I wish this gathering great success.