

LUIS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION AND FOR ALL THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE 35TH ANNUAL HEMISPHERIC CONGRESS.

I KNOW THAT AN EVENT LIKE THIS TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT TO PREPARE, AND A DEDICATED GROUP OF PEOPLE TO GET IT DONE.

ALL OF YOU HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB SO I WANT TO THANK YOU.

LET ME RECOGNIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS, A CITY OF MIAMI COMMISSIONER AND LONG-STANDING FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE CAMACOL, THE HONORABLE WILLY GORT.

MR. PETER HILL, PRESIDENT OF AICO, THE ASSOCIATION OF IBERO-AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE...

THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH CAMACOL TO MAKE THIS EVENT AND OTHER INITIATIVES POSSIBLE.

MR. MARIO GUTIERREZ, PRESIDENT OF CAMACOL...

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND CAMACOL DO TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF COMMERCE HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

AND ONE FINAL SPECIAL MENTION OF GRATITUDE IN MEMORY OF THE MAN WHOSE VISION LIVES ON AT THIS CONGRESS...

FORMER CAMACOL PRESIDENT LUIS SABINES.

LUIS SABINES WAS A VERY SPECIAL MAN AND HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT HIS DREAM AND LEGACY CONTINUES TODAY AS WE GATHER FOR THIS CONGRESS.

QUIERO DARLE LA BIENVENIDA A TODOS USTEDES...

Y LAS GRACIAS POR SU TRABAJO EN ESTE CONGRESO DE CAMARAS DE COMERCIO.

TAMBIEN, QUIERO HACER UNA MENCION ESPECIAL EN MEMORIA DE LUIS SABINES, CUYA VISION CONTINUA HOY COMO PARTE DE ESTE CONGRESO.

DEAR FRIENDS, ESTIMADOS AMIGOS...

THE WORK OF CAMACOL AND OF ALL THE CHAMBERS REPRESENTED HERE FORMS THE BASIS FOR STRENGTHENING THE CHANNELS OF COMMERCE AND CULTURE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY RELIES ON THE ABILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY - TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE.

THIS IS WHY EVENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE ARE SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER BY ENHANCING COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES.

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO WORK CLOSER TOGETHER THAN IN A CITY THAT HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM THESE CONNECTIONS.

TODAY, MIAMI IS THE GATEWAY NOT ONLY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, BUT INCREASINGLY TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND BEYOND.

THIS HAS MADE US A CROSSROADS OF COMMERCE AND CULTURE, AND WE HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE PLACES IN THE WORLD.

IN FACT, CLOSE TO 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

MIAMI IS THE LOGICAL MEETING POINT FOR GOODS, SERVICES, AND PEOPLE FLOWING THROUGH EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN, TO AND FROM THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE ALSO POSSESS THE HUMAN CAPITAL, RELATIONSHIPS, LINES OF COMMUNICATION, AND VITAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT FACILITATE THE FLOW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE.

WE CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY INVEST IN ALL THE FACTORS THAT CREATE A POSITIVE AND ROBUST CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. AND OUR INVESTMENTS ARE PAYING OFF.

FOR 2013, THE VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE THROUGH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TOPPED \$93 BILLION.

AND WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND TRADE BY REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD.

LAST SUMMER, I LED A VERY SUCCESSFUL TRADE MISSION TO SPAIN AND FRANCE.

THIS YEAR, WE'RE GOING TO OUR NUMBER ONE TRADING PARTNER, BRAZIL.

THROUGH THESE AND OTHER EFFORTS...

A LARGE NUMBER OF MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES ARE PLANNING TO EXPAND OR LOCATE IN MIAMI WITHIN THE NEXT 12 TO 18 MONTHS, AND IT'S THE HIGHEST LEVEL WE'VE SEEN IN MANY YEARS.

I ALSO KNOW WE HAVE A GROUP FROM POLAND HERE WITH US.

JUST THIS PAST NOVEMBER, THROUGH THE WORK OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HERE IN MIAMI...

WE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR AIRPORT AND THE "ZEH-SHUV" - "YA-SHON-KA" INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO EXPAND PASSENGER AND CARGO CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HUB AIRPORTS.

AND I KNOW THAT CAMACOL IS WORKING ON AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PORT MIAMI, AND TWO PORTS IN POLAND.

CURRENTLY, OUR TOTAL TRADE WITH POLAND WAS OVER \$58 MILLION, AND OUR EXPORTS INCREASED BY OVER 18% LAST YEAR.

BUT I KNOW WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE!

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL HERE.

LET ME TOUCH UPON SOME AREAS OF INTEREST WHERE THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

FIRST, AS WE CELEBRATE THE 4TH ANNUAL MIAMI MEDIA AND FILM MARKET AS PART OF THIS CONGRESS, OUR FILM IN INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO EXPAND.

FROM 2010 THROUGH 2013, THE FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY BROUGHT MORE THAN \$923 MILLION IN DIRECT SPENDING INTO THE MIAMI-DADE ECONOMY.

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU A MORE TANGIBLE EXAMPLE OF THE IMPACT OF THE FILM INDUSTRY ON OUR COMMUNITY.

WE HAVE A COMPANY HERE IN TOWN THAT MAKES NEON SIGNS...

THEY WERE ABOUT TO LAY OFF EMPLOYEES BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.

WELL, WHEN THE MOTION PICTURE "ROCK OF AGES" WAS FILMED HERE, THE MOVIE ORDERED SEVERAL SIGNS FROM THIS COMPANY.

INSTEAD OF LAYING PEOPLE OFF, THE EMPLOYEES WORKED OVERTIME FOR THREE MONTHS!

THIS IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE FILM INDUSTRY.

AND THIS IS WHY WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO FUND THE FILM, TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM AT THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

ANOTHER AREA WE'RE FOCUSED ON IS DERIVING THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, OR P3-S.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS AMONG THE FASTEST GROWING COUNTIES IN THE NATION.

AS SUCH, WE'RE FACED WITH THE CHALLENGE OF HAVING TO RENEW OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AT A PACE THAT MATCHES THIS RAPID GROWTH.

THIS IS WHY WE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE BENEFITS OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

ONE EXAMPLE IS THE RECENT PORT TUNNEL AT PORT MIAMI...

A ONE BILLION DOLLAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT WHERE THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR JOINED TOGETHER TO FINANCE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THIS TUNNEL.

WE'RE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY ALL ABOARD FLORIDA, A PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORT TO LINK MIAMI TO ORLANDO VIA RAILROAD.

THESE ARE THE SORT OF INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WE ARE LOOKING THROUGHOUT ALL INDUSTRIES.

FINALLY, MIAMI IS GROWING AS A TECHNOLOGY HUB, ESPECIALLY FOR LATIN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS.

WE ARE FULLY EMBRACING THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME FROM TECHNOLOGY, AND I AM PROUD TO BE KNOWN AS A TECH MAYOR.

JUST LAST MONTH, WE HELD THE FIRST E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE, WITH 6,000 OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY.

I ALSO HOSTED A MAYORAL INNOVATION SUMMIT WITH MAYORS REPRESENTING CITIES RANGING FROM MADRID, BARCELONA, BUENOS AIRES AND MEXICO CITY, TO SANTO DOMINGO AND KINGSTON.

AS A RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS, MICROSOFT ANNOUNCED THE FIRST EVER MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LAUNCHED HERE, IN MIAMI.

THE M.I.C. WILL WORK TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, AND FURTHER STIMULATE OUR TECH ECONOMY THROUGH TRAINING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND INNOVATION.

AND THIS IS HOW OUR COMMUNITY GROWS AND PROSPERS, THROUGH EXPANDING CONNECTIONS, AND BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

POR LARGO RATO, MIAMI HA SIDO LA PUERTA A LATINO AMERICA Y AL CARIBE...

Y HOY, TAMBIEN SOMOS LA PUERTA A EUROPA, AFRICA, Y OTROS LUGARES.

SOMOS UNA COMUNIDAD DIVERSA, Y PREPARADA PARA EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL.

HEMOS AUMENTADO NUESTRAS INVERSIONES EN ATRAER EL COMERCIO, Y HOY SOMOS LIDERES EN VARIOS SECTORES, INCLUYENDO LA TECNOLOGIA...

PERO SIEMPRE ESTAMOS DISPUESTOS A TRAER MAS OPORTUNIDADES PARA AUMENTAR EL COMERCIO.

QUEREMOS TRABAJAR JUNTOS CON USTEDES PARA LOGRAR ESTO.

LET ME CLOSE BY SAYING THAT YOU ALL HAVE A PARTNER IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

USTEDES TIENEN UN SOCIO EN LA ALCALDIA.

AND WE WILL ALWAYS WORK TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE TIES BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

AND THIS CONGRESS GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD THAT.

WE ARE TRULY HONORED THAT YOU ARE HERE.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH - *MUCHAS GRACIAS A TODOS...*

