

Welcoming Remarks
By
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**Workshop on International Cooperation
in the War Against Terror in the Asia-Pacific Region**

March 8, 2006

Welcome to Mississippi State University. Thank you for honoring us with your presence for this intensive discussion of an issue of worldwide importance. We are greatly pleased to serve as the host institution for such a distinguished gathering, and I hope that you will not hesitate to let us know how we can assist in making your deliberations more pleasant and productive.

The specter of terrorism directed toward the people or infrastructure of any nation is a matter of deep concern to all of us. And the possibility of attacks on internationally vital assets such shipping lanes clearly demands a coordinated, multinational response.

The fact that so many highly knowledgeable representatives of Southeast Asia nations and other countries surrounding the Asia-Pacific region have convened here to discuss the security of the Malacca Strait and related issues is a cause for optimism. We applaud your efforts and wish you the greatest success over the next two days in finding common ground from which to approach this pressing need.

We are grateful to each of the presenters and participants in this workshop; to the organizers from Vanderbilt University, the Asian Security Forum, and Mississippi State; and to the several foundations and organizations that have provided generous support for this event.

Sponsors are

- *The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership,*
- *Bradley Foundation,*
- *The Earhart Foundation,*
- *Center for International Peace and Security, NAFCO Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan, and*
- *Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, MSU*

Please enjoy your stay in our community and on our campus, and return whenever you have the opportunity.