

(Final speech)

Henry, on the other hand, was delighted with the canals we visited in Brugge, despite their huge difference to the waterways of the strait of Malacca, between Indonesia and Malaysia. From the coast of Medan -his working town- he admires the largest ships ever built navigating to the far east; ships which may once berthed in the Deuregangdok, here in Antwerp, moving thousand of TEUs in one stay.

So believe me: we are more connected than ever and less than in the incoming days. Kozeta might share this thought after working in the Cruise industry, in the Adriatic sea, before becoming an engineer director at Durres, Albania.

Liu, Mei and Chai, from the eastern cities of Wuhan and Tianjin, came here because they understand that connections are necessary. So did their ancestors, since Chinese merchants have been trading for thousands of years with the western world. Their ports are focussing the attention on every single person in the world, and certainly their will to learn about occidental culture will tear down language barriers between us.

One of the things I've admired most during this short stay, is how the Flemish people live among water quite naturally, making a rational use of it as it is an increasingly scarce resource. There's much to learn about you, and probably Sussana and Caroline will bring back to Nigeria a full spoon of knowledge on how to face the impacts of future developments in water pollution. Andrea, will also be concerned on these matters while planning a new facility in any of those sites along the Brazilian coast, which might be one of the most beautiful pieces of coast I've ever visited.

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So madams and sirs: it's our duty, in this connected world, to give adaptive answers as responsible beings in environmental and productive matters, considering the role of our local communities and all the complexities which may arise. In doing so, we must think globally and act locally, with ethics and sensitivity; we must learn and share our knowledge; we must work as partners. This big opportunity given to us by the Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center will certainly help us to follow this path. Therefore, I offer in the name of all my colleagues, infinite thanks to the Flemish Government, the Antwerp port authority and specially to the APEC staff, who treated us as real VIPs (I'm certainly far from being one).

To end up, with my friend Mauricio we'd like to invite you to come to Chile, to learn about our culture, which from now on is also yours. As a small country, we are aware that the global village is expecting some contribution from us and therefore we are eager to follow what APEC has done for us.

And to finish, I thank to everyone of you who made this short stay in Flanders a very special one.

Shalom	(Israel)
Nägemist	(Estonia)
Dovjdanë	(Bulgaria)
Zai Gijen	(China)
Selamat Berpisah	(Indonesia)
Mirupafshim	(Albania)
Hasta Siempre	(Colombia, Chile, Cabo Verde)
Good Bye	(Nigeria, Gambia)
Adeus	(Brasil)
Czesc	(Polonia)
	(Jordania)
	(Lituania)
	(Belga)

