



**TOGETHER**  
*for a sustainable future*

## OCCASION

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For the past 10 days you have been working closely together in studying industrial free zones as a means of promoting export-oriented industries. You have heard from experts from many parts of the world, including UNIDO, on the problems and prospects of utilising this concept for development purposes. You have seen for yourselves the progress that has been achieved here at Shannon, and you have been briefed on all relevant aspects of our experience. I understand that you have reviewed the present state of development of free zones in your own countries, and have had an opportunity of discussing problems of common concern.

My first duty, in bringing this Workshop to a close, is to congratulate all of you on the businesslike and enthusiastic manner in which you approached the Workshop. It has given us great pleasure to be associated with UNIDO, and in conjunction with the Department of Industry and Commerce and the Industrial Development Authority, in the organization of this function, and I know that I speak for all those concerned in its organization when I say that the quality and quantity of your participation in its deliberations have made the exercise very worthwhile and rewarding. I hope that the practical benefits which will flow from the Workshop will suitably repay your efforts.

Although I was able to be present with you only on the opening and closing days I have kept in touch with the progress of the Workshop and I look forward with great interest to reading the report of your proceedings, which I believe will be published by UNIDO in the near future.

So much has been said about industrial free zones in the course of this Workshop, that it would be difficult to add to, or summarise, what you have already heard. I would, however, like to make one general observation and suggestion. We at Shannon have, over the years, been much assisted by being able to call for advice and information from other developing areas including free trade zones. In return we have been most anxious to let new centres of development have the full benefit

of our experience. The contacts between you which have been initiated by this Workshop should not be allowed to lapse, but should be maintained and built up over the years ahead. Whether this is achieved through the good offices of UNIDO, or by direct personal contacts, I have no doubt that you will find it very much worthwhile. Let me assure you of a quick and ready response from Shannon if there is any way at all in which we can be of assistance to your countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been an honour and a privilege to have you as guests in our country. I hope you take away pleasant memories of your brief stay in Ireland, and I wish you a safe journey home.

Ta suil agam go gcuirfidh Mac De agus A Mhathair na ceadta beannachtai ar an Saothar ata curtha idir lamhaibh ar an gcruinniu seo.