



Deepak Obhrai, MP
Calgary East
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai Concludes Extensive International Diplomatic Engagement

(OTTAWA) On Sunday August 9, Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, concluded 6 weeks of diplomatic engagement on three continents. In addition to leading Canada's delegations to the African Union Summit in Libya, to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Post Ministerial Conference and Regional Forum in Thailand, and to the Pacific Islands Forum in Australia, he also made official Government of Canada visits to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

"It was a very productive trip," said Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai. "We strengthened our relations with dozens of states and regional bodies. I met with foreign ministers, prime ministers, and presidents from across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific and engaged in frank discussion on a wide range of issues."

At the ASEAN meetings Mr. Obhrai helped secure the unanimous adoption of a Joint declaration on an enhanced Canada – ASEAN partnership, which provides the opportunity to advance Canadian priorities in diverse fields, including human rights and fundamental freedoms, counterterrorism, security, trade, and sustainable development.

Mr. Obhrai's visit to Bangladesh was the first official Government of Canada visit to that country in seven years. Accompanied by Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Hasan Mahmud, PS Obhrai also officially opened Canada's new state-of-the-art high commission in Dhaka.

In Sri Lanka, Mr. Obhrai became one of the first Western political representatives to be granted permission to view the country's camps for internally displaced persons. He also held frank discussions with Sri Lankan officials on how the country was going to address the challenge of post war reconciliation.

More.....More.....

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Mr. Obhrai was also in Jakarta, Indonesia, on July 10, the day of the tragic terrorist attack there. He visited two Canadians injured in the blast and conveyed Canada's condolences to the Government of Indonesia.

"It was a long trip, but a productive one," said Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai. "Canada continues to be a key player on the world stage. Our government uses every opportunity to advance our principled foreign policy in the interest of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law."

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