

## MESSAGE FROM DR. NOELEEN HEYZER

I have the honour to offer my personal congratulations to NIST International School on the significant occasion of its twentieth anniversary.

In celebrating this important milestone, I am very pleased to recall that members of the United Nations community in Thailand, including my predecessors Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria and Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, played a major role in getting the School under way more than two decades ago.

The performance of NIST over the past 20 years has indeed vindicated their hard work and the bold policy initiatives taken by Thailand's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote truly international educational opportunities for the children of various communities represented in Bangkok, including those of the United Nations family, various diplomatic missions and many others.

It is heartening to know that NIST has remained true to the vision of its founders in terms of educating children in a setting marked by diversity, and through a curriculum designed to educate them in a manner consistent with the principles of the United Nations. I understand that the School has institutionalized some of these links with the United Nations, inter alia, through student participation in the Model United Nations programme and the celebration of United Nations Day every year. It is also significant that the wife of former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali planted a tree on the NIST campus during their official visit to Bangkok, as a symbol of our shared values.

Owing to the importance of education in the development process and the positive role it plays in promoting international understanding and respect for diversity, it is my hope that the School will continue to instill in its students the values espoused by the United Nations, not just for their personal benefit but also for the betterment of all humanity.

My best wishes to the NIST community for a very happy twentieth anniversary!



**Noeleen Heyzer**

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and  
Executive Secretary of ESCAP