



Lisbon, 3 June 2014

I am delighted to welcome to Lisbon the participants of this 16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

The conference theme, **Descobrir a Comunicação - Discover Communication**, perfectly exemplifies the spirit of Portugal. During what is now known as the Age of Discovery, Portuguese maritime explorations over the centuries resulted in the discovery and mapping of lands far and wide, the opening up of new means of communication between Continents and their respective Peoples, and allowed for a very rich and diverse exchange of cultures and perceptions.

This July ISAAC brings to Lisbon a great challenge that further exemplifies the concept of discovery: How can we ensure that people who communicate with little or no speech, anywhere in the world, have the resources to achieve the most effective communication possible? From July 19 - 24, 2014, in close collaboration with others from many different countries, you will explore this question by meeting together, sharing information, and working towards solutions. Congratulations to ISAAC and its local team of organizers for making this event a reality.

You are certain to find a warm welcome from the people of Lisbon as you embark on your voyage of discovery at ISAAC 2014. My very best wishes for an excellent stay in Portugal! I wish you every success.

Pedro Passos Coelho

Prime Minister

Mr. Franklin Smith
Executive Director
International Society for Augmentative
& Alternative Communication