Opening Speech at the 47th ARA Congress

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Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, friends, and members of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences,

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the 47th ARA Congress.

This annual gathering remains one of the most important events for our Academy, a moment when outstanding minds from Romania and the Romanian diaspora come together to celebrate excellence in science, culture, and education. Last year's congress carries special significance as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the American Romanian Academy. This landmark moment highlights our continued dedication to strengthening academic and cultural ties between Romania and its global intellectual diaspora, while promoting Romanian excellence on the world stage.

Also Last year, during the ARA Congress at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, we took another important step forward by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the National University of Science and Technology, and Danubius International University. This agreement symbolizes our shared commitment to fostering international collaboration in research, education, and innovation.

I am especially delighted to announce a major milestone for our institution: since last November, the American Romanian Academy has established an official Center at the Politehnica University of Bucharest (UPB), located in the Central Library Building. This generous grant by Rector Mihnea Costoiu marks a new chapter in our history. This new strategic partnership significantly strengthens our presence in Romania and creates exciting new opportunities for research collaboration, academic programs, and joint initiatives between American and Romanian scholars. This Center represents not only an institutional achievement but also a powerful symbol of our commitment to building strong and lasting bridges between the Romanian academic community and the international arena.

Today, this congress serves as both a celebration of Romanian academic excellence and a dynamic platform for building sustainable partnerships. Over the coming days, I encourage you all to engage fully, through high-level dialogue, the sharing of ground-breaking research, and the creation of new collaborations.

Thank you all for being here and for your continued support of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences. Let us now begin the 47th ARA Congress with enthusiasm, vision, and a shared commitment to advancing Romanian excellence worldwide!