



JOINT STATEMENT
TWENTIETH BRUNEI DARUSSALAM – INDONESIA – MALAYSIA – PHILIPPINES
EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA MINISTERIAL MEETING
(20th BIMP-EAGA MM)
29 NOVEMBER 2016
PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

1. We, the Signing Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP-EAGA) met for the 20th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines on 29 November 2016. Secretary Datu Hj Abul Khayr Alonto chaired the meeting. We exchanged views on how to ensure an accelerated and sustained economic development in BIMP-EAGA given the current regional and global developments.
2. We note with satisfaction the good progress made in achieving the development goals set out in the BIMP-EAGA Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2012 – 2016. We are encouraged by the collective resolve and commitment of our relevant agencies to deliver results under the IB.
3. We endorse the “BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025” (BEV 2025) that aspires for a resilient, inclusive, sustainable and economically competitive sub-region (RISE BIMP-EAGA) to narrow development gap. This successor document to the IB builds on the progress and achievements made thus far and took into consideration lessons learnt. We look forward to its adoption by Leaders at the 12th BIMP-EAGA Summit in April 2017 in the Philippines.
4. The BEV 2025 aims to deliver three (3) main outcomes, namely, (i) competitive and green manufacturing, (ii) sustainable, competitive and climate resilient agro-industry and fisheries, and (iii) sustainable tourism destination. Noting the importance of infrastructure in achieving these outcomes, we task our Senior Officials to finalise the list of priority infrastructure projects (PIPs) for inclusion in the BEV 2025.
5. In realising the BEV 2025, we emphasise the urgency to strengthen implementation processes and institutional mechanisms of BIMP-EAGA to ensure these remain responsive to the requirements of the sub-region.
6. We note with satisfaction on the launching of the BIMP-EAGA Drivers’ Log Book that aims to ensure the safety of drivers and passengers as part of monitoring mechanisms in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Cross-Border Movement of Buses and Coaches. We look forward to the early signing by the Transport Ministers of the Protocol to Amend the BIMP-EAGA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Expansion of Air Linkages.
7. We commend the successful conduct of the BIMP-EAGA Air Linkages Roundtable with the theme “No Region Left Behind – Safe and Reliable Air Transport Key to Economic and Tourism Development” on 6 September 2016 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. We encourage the conduct of similar activities involving multi-sectoral agencies and private sector in addressing cross-sectoral initiatives.
8. We support the initiatives to pursue on a bilateral basis the negotiations and agreements related to the safe operations of non-convention sized ships (NCSS) across BIMP-EAGA waters and look forward to its early conclusion.

9. We are pleased with the steady progress for the establishment of safe, efficient and reliable shipping routes in particular the Bitung-Davao/General Santos which will further facilitate sub-regional trade, enhance people-to-people contacts as well as give the greater impetus to the multimodal transport connectivity of the sub-region. We look forward to its eventual launching next year.
10. We note with satisfaction the progress made in the BIMP-EAGA Submarine and Terrestrial (BEST) Cable project with the signing of the agreement which marks the Contract in Force (CIF) milestone for BEST Segment 1, Tungku, Brunei Darussalam to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. We are pleased with the progress on the MOU for Governance, Development and Cooperation in the Field of ICT and Multimedia for BIMP-EAGA and look forward to its early conclusion.
11. We are pleased with the establishment of Startup hubs in Bandar Seri Begawan, Kota Kinabalu, Davao City, and Puerto Princesa which aims to establish a network of Technology Business Incubators in the BIMP-EAGA that will facilitate exchanges of knowledge and resources. We also welcome the signing of the MOU for Cooperation, Promotion and Development of Crowdplus Asia between PROPELLAR Crowdplus Sdn. Bhd and Startup Hub Asia of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Philippines as the crowdfunding platform for SMEs in the sub-region.
12. We are pleased that the West Kalimantan and Sarawak Power Interconnection project was commissioned and energised on 21 January 2016. We are pleased with the completion of the Priority BIMP-EAGA Enclave Power Connection and Interconnections Pre-Feasibility Study and the recommendation on the three (3) priority BIMP-EAGA Power Enclaves namely: (i) West Kalimantan – South Kalimantan Link; (ii) 275kV Eastern Kalimantan backbone linking Banjarmasin to Bontang; and (iii) North Kalimantan – Sabah Interconnection. We also note the outcome of the Renewable Energy(RE) and Energy Efficiency and Conversation (EE&C) Workshop held on 25- 26 July 2016 in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia which identified potential BIMP-EAGA RE&EE projects.
13. We are pleased with the completion of the study on Investment Profiling in BIMP-EAGA's Priority Economic Corridors that identify investment opportunities and provide information to potential investors in the sub-region.
14. We welcome the publication of the BIMP-EAGA At A Glance: A Statistical Information Brief. We also note the formalisation of a new Working Group on Statistics in the development of a sustainable BIMP-EAGA database that will provide useful information to stakeholders and development partners.
15. We commend the successful conduct of the 3rd BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Trade Expo, Conference and Business Matching on 14-16 October 2016 in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. We note the positive outcome of the events in building partnership on trade and investment, and to strengthen economic, social and cultural relations among Member Countries and private sector.
16. We acknowledge the BIMP-EAGA Business Networking Session on 28 November 2016 in the Philippines in conjunction with the 20th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting. We also recognise various trade events conducted by Member Countries in advancing private sector initiatives and in promoting sub-regional collaboration. We task our Senior Officials to evaluate the impact of these activities, and ensure the development of SMEs, particularly in building their capacity to participate in sub-regional supply/value chains.

17. We are pleased to note the development of sub-regional supply/value chains for five (5) priority commodities: (i) shrimp; (ii) rice; (iii) coconut; (iv) cattle; and (v) seaweed which have the highest perceived potential for intra-EAGA and extra-EAGA trade and processing.
18. We note with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the tourism sector in packaging and promoting Community-based Ecotourism (CBET), UNESCO World Heritage sites, and National Parks as ecotourism products of the sub-region that at the same time enhance the livelihood and incomes of affected communities. We are pleased with the cooperation among the tourism and transport stakeholders to enhance the development of tourism destinations by addressing sustainability of intra-EAGA air services, and in the development of cruise tourism.
19. We underscore the urgency of mainstreaming sustainable management approaches in critical BIMP-EAGA ecosystems and urge our relevant agencies to implement initiatives that adopt best practices in addressing environmental challenges. We also note the proposal to establish a BIMP-EAGA Green Cities Initiative in response to rapid urbanisation.
20. We are pleased with the conduct of the 1st BIMP-EAGA Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Forum; and the BIMP-EAGA Halal Congress- An Academe perspective on 18 – 19 July 2016 and 1 – 3 March 2016 respectively in Davao City, Philippines. We note the conduct of the Flavours of BIMP-EAGA and Beyond: Culture and Food Expo held on 30 March – 2 April 2016 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. We look forward to the 1st Budayaw Festival to be held on 29 September - 4 October 2017 in General Santos City and Sarangani Province, Philippines and we also support its institutionalisation as a biennial event in promoting the diversity of BIMP-EAGA culture and heritage.
21. We recognise the ever-increasing initiatives that are currently being pursued under the BIMP-EAGA cooperation and the need to effectively coordinate and monitor them through a fully-functioning central secretariat. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the institutional capacity of the BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Centre (BIMP- FC) and look forward to signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the BIMP-FC during the 12th BIMP-EAGA Summit.
22. We recognise the vital role of the private sector in BIMP-EAGA and commend the BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC) and industry players under the respective Clusters in supporting various initiatives, including identification of cross-border projects and business opportunities.
23. We express appreciation to our Regional Development Advisor, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for its continuing support and assistance in the areas of transport, power interconnection, environment, database development, economic corridor development, and in capacity building and institutional strengthening. We also thank ADB for facilitating the preparation of the BEV 2025. We urge ADB to continue and possibly expand its technical assistance and projects in the implementation of activities in key sectors and strategic pillars of BIMP-EAGA.
24. We welcome the outcome of the 10th BIMP-EAGA and China Senior Officials Meeting on 28 November 2016 and appreciate China's continued support, particularly in providing capacity building and we look forward to collaborative activities in agriculture, ICT, trade and investment promotion.
25. We are pleased with the results of the 4th Darwin Dialogue (BIMP-EAGA and Northern Territory) held on 27 April 2016 in Darwin, Northern Territory of Australia. We look forward to the implementation of specific activities under the Plan of Action for the BIMP-EAGA and Northern Territory Cooperation 2016-2020.

26. We reaffirm BIMP-EAGA's strategic role in the ASEAN Community building process and its potential contribution to the implementation of ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. We encourage greater synergy between the sectoral bodies under both fora and look forward to closer cooperation between the ASEAN Secretariat and the BIMP-FC.
27. We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, the Provincial Government of Palawan, and the City Government of Puerto Princesa for the warm hospitality and the excellent meeting arrangements.

List of Signing Ministers

1. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. Ambassador Johny J. Lumintang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, Indonesia
3. Dato' Sri Devamany s/o S. Krishnasamy, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
4. Secretary Datu Hj Abul Khayr D. Alonto, Chairman, Mindanao Development Authority, Republic of the Philippines

List of State Ministers / Provincial Governors

5. Dato Sri Dr. Stephen Rundi, Minister for Public Utilities, Sarawak, Malaysia
6. Datuk Rozman Bin Datuk Haji Isli, Chairman of Labuan Corporation, Federal Territory of Labuan, Malaysia