

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
THE 22ND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH-TRIANGLE
(IMT-GT)
PHANG-NGA, THAILAND

23 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. We the IMT-GT Ministers held our 22nd Meeting on 23 September 2016 in Phang-Nga, Thailand under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand.
2. We take note of the IMT-GT impressive growth of 4.7% in 2014 which is equal to ASEAN growth and higher than the average growth of the three countries. GDP per capita in IMT-GT in current PPP has also been steadily increasing over the years with a downward trend of the unemployment rate and the decline of poverty incidence since 2005. We wish to see this economic achievement to continue in years to come.
3. We the Ministers congratulate the achievement and successful concluding of the IMT-GT projects and programmes for the year 2016 which is the final year of IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2012-2016. We are pleased with the works undertaken by all IMT-GT stakeholders in this effort. We applaud the detailed report of the 23rd Senior Officials' Meeting, incorporating the individual work plans of the respective 6 Working Groups; and the 13th Chief Ministers and Governors' Forum (CMGF), incorporating the reports of respective states and provinces in IMT-GT.
4. We emphasize the utmost importance of the formulation of the new Implementation Blueprint (IB) (2017-2021) based in part on the ongoing Comprehensive Review. We congratulate the successful undertaking of national consultations in identifying the vision, goals, and strategic directions towards the improvement of the quality of life in our sub-region. We welcome the significant progress made in formulating the new Implementation Blueprint (2017-2021) with sector strategies and project development being in line with respective national development plans and closely coordinating with ASEAN strategies. We are encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of states and provincial governments as well as the private sector in the process of the Comprehensive Review and the formulation of the new IB. This will lay down the foundation for IMT-GT stakeholders to work together inclusively to achieve ambitious but desirable outcomes for the equitable sharing of benefit and well-being of 81 million people in IMT-GT.
5. We congratulate CMGF for a remarkable progress on the implementation of IMT-GT Green City Action Plans (GCAP) for Melaka; Songkhla and Hat Yai and encourage the forthcoming completion of the GCAP for Batam and Medan. We recognized that enhancing the implementation of GCAP represents an opportunity to promote continued climate-friendly economic growth and in particular note, the prospect of IMT-GT green cities becoming engines of growth for the subregion. We appreciate the hosting of First CMGF Green Council in Melaka

in 2016 and welcoming the hosting of the Second CMGF Green Council in Songkhla in 2017. We are pleased with the private sector participation in the implementation of the GCAPs. In this regard, we welcome the investment of foreign companies to invest in energy saving initiative through a new model of public-private partnership in energy saving and LED projects in Melaka, Songkhla and other potential IMT-GT cities.

6. To create stronger and continued growth momentum in the Subregion requires the acceleration of development and implementation of new sources of growth. To this end, Ministers welcome the collaboration between Malaysia and Thailand in the commencement of the first phase of the SBEZ. We take note that the Chuping Valley Project under the Northern Corridor Implementation Agency (NCIA) in Perlis has been proposed for the SBEZ on the Malaysia side. In the case of Thailand, Sadao Special Economic Zone and the Rubber City project under supervision of Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand are prompt for linking on potential value chains with Malaysia.
7. The increasing economic integration in IMT-GT demand a freer flow of goods and people at border checkpoints. We recognized the need to fast track the implementation of trade and transport facilitation under the ASEAN Transport Agreements with a high level of priority given to enhancing effectiveness of CIQS system. We task the Senior Officials to coordinate with relevant agencies to finalize the drafting of Memorandum of Understanding on Cross Border Transport Facilitation between Thailand and Malaysia soonest. In order to overcome the anticipated bottleneck at the Sadao-Bukit Kayu Hitam CIQ, we task the Senior Officials to accelerate the construction of the said CIQS and to take into consideration the need to facilitate efficient cross border movement of goods and services.
8. We took note that IMT-GT Melaka-Dumai Ro-Ro is one of the priority projects listed under Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and support to connectivity in the sub region. As to date, construction in Dumai terminal for Ro-Ro services is 95% completed and State Government of Melaka is committed to continue developing the Tanjung Bruas terminal, expected to be completed by 2018.
9. We congratulate the conduct of IMT GT Smart Travel Forum in Sabang, Indonesia on 3-4 August 2016 as a showcase of private sector participation to support air and maritime connectivity within the subregion. We encourage similar events to be implemented in other places within the region.
10. We underline the significance of IMT-GT UNINET in enhancing the role of IMT-GT universities in advancing collaboration with private enterprises and government agencies on R&D, capacity building and talent mobility programs. It is vital for IMT-GT universities to actively engage in social, culture and community development with a view to promoting people-to-people connectivity through the medium of culture and education, thus create better understanding among our people. We are encouraged by the outcome of the IMT-GT UNINET Strategic Action Plan workshop in Aceh, Indonesia on 2 August 2016 and look forward to its successful implementation in the years ahead.

11. We reiterate the important roles of agriculture in the social and economic development of IMT-GT, and reaffirm our commitment to strengthen cooperation in the sector. We task Senior Officials to put in place a comprehensive plan on creation of regional and global value chains and promotion of higher value products through advanced technology and innovation.
12. We take note of the current low commodity prices and its severe impact on the subregion economy, especially on farming communities in IMT-GT. In this connection, we welcome IMT-GT initiatives to focus on high value and nutritional safety agriculture cooperation in Songkhla, Perlis and Aceh. We note the proposal of Joint Business Council to establish an IMT-GT Rubber corridor.
13. We affirm our determination to further strengthen the strategic partnership with ADB to promote sustainable and inclusive development of IMT-GT. We are pleased with the continued support of ADB to IMT-GT in developing green cities and special border economic zones, improving tourism planning and competitiveness, and enhancing capacities of IMT-GT officials; as well as strengthening the subregional statistical database.
14. We encourage the work on the new Implementation Blueprint (2017-2021) as a strategic guideline for IMT-GT in the next 5 years. Under the context of the new Implementation Blueprint, especially in the area of trade and transport facilitation, we support CIMT to work closely with ASEAN sectoral bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure synergy of this collaboration.
15. We agreed to convene the 23rd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting in Indonesia in 2017.
16. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Royal Thai Government, and Phang-Nga province for hosting the 22nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to us during the Meeting.

The meeting was attended by :

1. H.E. Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand.
2. H.E. Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia.
3. H.E Mr. Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Chairman of Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board.
4. Hon. Dr. Ekowati Retnaningsih, Representing Governor of Sumatera
5. Hon. Dato' Ku Rahman Ku Ismail, State Exco Member of Kedah, Malaysia
6. Hon. Phakaphong Tavipatana, Phang Nga Governor.
7. H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.
8. Hon. Mr. James Nugent, Director General, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank.

Dated on 23rd September 2016