



**The 19th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle
Ministerial Meeting**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand

13 September 2013

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THE 19TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND
GROWTH-TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)
KOH SAMUI, SURAT THANI, THAILAND

13 SEPTEMBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The Nineteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (19th MM IMT-GT) was held on 13 September 2013 in Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Thailand. H.E Mr. Varatthep Ratanakorn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, chaired the Meeting. H.E Dato' Razali Ibrahim, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, and H.E. Dr. Rizal Affandi Lukman, Deputy Minister for International Economic and Financial Cooperation, attended the Meeting. Mr. James Nugent, Director General of Southeast Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Mr. Tran Dong Phuong, Director at the ASEAN Secretariat, were also present. The Meeting was preceded by the 20th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the IMT-GT, the 10th Chief Ministers and Governors Forum Meeting and the 2nd IMT-GT Ministerial Retreat.

2. We the Ministers, in celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year of IMT-GT, are aware of the need to be constantly vigilant given the global uncertainties that surround us. In this regard, we are pleased with the progress made in the IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism Database (ITITD) and call for the database to be regularly updated and, in light of the global challenges, request ADB to continue its assistance in ensuring accurate, reliable data at the Subregional level. We recognize the important contribution from our respective Departments of Statistics, and note ADB is to provide a statistician for Centre for IMT-GT Subregional Corporation (CIMT) to coordinate and consolidate country data.

3. We are pleased to note the successful signing of the CIMT's Establishment Agreement that took place in Brunei Darussalam on 25 April 2013. We thank the host country, Malaysia, for according CIMT with International Organisation Status on 21 June 2013. We urged member countries to expedite necessary support to strengthen CIMT into a fully functional secretariat. We requested ADB to continue providing capacity building support to CIMT.

4. We are pleased with the progress made in developing the IMT-GT Green Cities Framework that will be used as guideline for urban development in the Subregion in their effort to develop sustainable cities. We took note of the completion of the ADB scoping study for Melaka, Malaysia under the Green Cities Initiative and

we encouraged the fast implementation of projects. We are also pleased to announce the confirmation that Medan, Indonesia will also taking part in the initiative, and urge ADB to commence the respective studies for Medan and Songkhla components.

5. We are pleased to note on the progress made by the Working Groups in developing the IMT-GT subregion, and the commencement of the 2nd Rolling Pipeline 2013-2014 guided by the Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016. We commend highly the Working Groups in successfully finalising their respective Working Groups Terms of Reference (ToR), a document which will guide them on their respective responsibilities, improving their reporting mechanisms and identifying respective focal persons in each member country.

6. As one of the main driving force in IMT-GT, we express our appreciation on the significant contribution by the Joint Business Council (JBC) in identifying and implementing projects from the private sector. We tasked our Working Groups to subsume JBC's recommendations into each sector strategy, and to keep close contact between stakeholders and improving the monitoring process. We urged the states and provinces of the IMT-GT to closely collaborate with the JBC, in line with the roles outlined for the states and provinces from the previous Leader's Directive.

7. We commend the Chief Ministers and Governors Forum (CMGF) leadership in promoting the Green Cities Initiative, and welcome their strong interest in participating in this important initiative. We express appreciation to ADB's support in providing technical assistance in the scoping studies for the three pilot cities involved namely Melaka, Malaysia; Songkhla, Thailand; and Medan, Indonesia.

8. We note the urgency of accelerating the study on the Special Border Economic Zone (SBEZ) and announce that the scoping study will be undertaken by ADB and encompass the three countries of IMT-GT by January 2014 and include stakeholders' comments and views. The scoping study will define the terms of reference for the future in-depth study and identify potential sources of financing. The findings and recommendations of the scoping study will be reported at the Leader's Summit in April 2014.

9. Leveraging on the IMT-GT potential to be a delivery vehicle of ASEAN towards achieving the ASEAN Community, Ministers urge Senior Officials to outreach other Subregional Frameworks and explore strategic linkages with the wider fora in ASEAN, commencing with the transport sector. We are encouraged by the expressions of support from the ASEAN Secretariat to this end.

10. We acknowledge the need to strengthen our cooperation with development partners, particularly Japan, South Korea, India, China, Australia and other willing partners in South Asia and the Pacific, including regional institutions such as ERIA.

We tasked CIMT to come up with concrete scope of cooperation in order to identify greater opportunities with each development partner.

11. We commended Dumai, for its significant progress made in developing for the Melaka-Dumai RoRo signature project and look forward to Melaka's progress in developing for the project which will enhance maritime connectivity in IMT-GT and the ASEAN region. We also took note of the route of Belawan-Penang-Trang which was proposed as another critical maritime route.

12. We tasked the Senior Officials to further develop the concept of Inclusive Growth for IMT-GT cooperation for consideration as a possible topic for the next Summit. We also requested ADB to provide information on the possible adoptions of Inclusive Growth in other regional cooperation programmes which are relevant to the IMT-GT Subregion.

13. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the successful organisation of the 19th IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting.

End of Joint Statement.