



**The 6th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle
Summit**

JOINT STATEMENT

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

4 April 2012

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THE 6TH SUMMIT OF INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH-TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)
PEACE PALACE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

4 APRIL 2012

1. We, the leaders of the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, met today in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 6th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit to review the progress of cooperation and provide further direction in pursuit of our shared vision of a seamless, progressive, prosperous and peaceful subregion with improved quality of life. We believe that an accelerated pace of subregional integration in the IMT-GT will contribute to achieving our common aspiration for an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and the realization of ASEAN as a region of equitable economic development as envisaged by the 18th ASEAN Summit in May 2011, Jakarta, Indonesia. We therefore reaffirmed our commitment to pursue regional cooperation with even stronger resolution to enhance the subregion's competitiveness, narrow development gaps within and among our countries, and uplift our peoples from poverty.

2. We expressed our appreciation to our Ministers and Senior Officials and other stakeholders on the progress made in the preparation and implementation of projects and activities in 2011. We noted the importance of deepening the involvement of the IMT-GT states and provinces, including through the identification, preparation, and implementation of projects and activities consistent with national development priorities, to help narrow development gaps within and among the member countries of the subregion. We commended the efforts of the IMT-GT Joint Business Council in bringing about greater awareness on the potentials in IMT-GT and urged them to redouble their efforts to expand their membership and promote business-oriented and joint-venture projects.

3. We adopted the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint (2012-2016) as the strategic guiding document following the conclusion of the IMT-GT Roadmap to Development (2007-2011). The Implementation Blueprint comprises a range of projects, including priority connectivity projects, and activities designed to implement the strategic thrusts of the subregional grouping over the next five years in infrastructure and transport, trade and investment, agriculture, agro-based industry and environment, halal products and services, tourism, and human resources development, along and around the five designated economic corridors. To help ensure concrete results, the Implementation Blueprint comprises a rolling pipeline of projects and activities which are ready to start implementation within a two-year period. The initial two-year rolling pipeline, which will cover the period 2012-2013, includes 25 projects and activities, with an emphasis on improving physical connectivity and facilitating the movement of goods and people within the subregion. The two-year rolling pipeline would be updated annually. The Implementation Blueprint also reflects a revised institutional structure and enhanced operational mechanisms to enable sustainable project development from 2012 onward. In that connection, we mandated closer involvement of all the relevant line Ministries and agencies, including, where relevant, in IMT-GT Ministerial Meetings, to ensure more effective cross-sectoral coordination and accelerated implementation.

4. We acknowledged that IMT-GT cooperation aimed at physically integrating the subregion involves close collaboration among the three countries in the spatial planning of infrastructure connectivity, improving transport facilitation, and promoting air services and facilities as well as sea linkages through ports and ro-ro services. We therefore were pleased to note the commencement of priority connectivity projects under the initial two-year rolling pipeline of the Implementation

Blueprint. These include the CIQS Facility at Sadao-Bukit Kayu Hitam border-crossing, where both Thailand and Malaysia are upgrading the border facilities to relieve capacity constraints, and enhance trade facilitation measures to reduce time and cost of border-crossings; and the feasibility study for the Hat Yai - Sadao Intercity Motorway, to be completed in early 2013, which would ease existing traffic congestion and enable the development of this economic corridor with northern Malaysia, including through the development in the border economic zones on both sides of the border. We welcomed Thailand and Malaysia initiative to create greater linkages through a new bridge linking at Tak Bai, Narathiwat - Pengkalan Kubor, Kelantan and the second bridge at Sungai Golok, Narathiwat - Rantau Panjang, Kelantan with integrated border economic activities including border economic zones. We also welcomed the ambitious plan of the Indonesian Government to develop the Sumatra corridor under the Masterplan on Acceleration and Expansion of Economic Development, which will over time have beneficial spill-over effects for the connectivity of the sub-region.

5. We were also pleased to note the enhanced air connectivity in the sub-region with the new Melaka-Medan route of Melaka Air, and the new route of Ipoh-Medan by Firefly. With the entry into force of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services (MAFLPAS) and its two Protocols signed on 12 November 2010 in Brunei Darussalam, we encouraged further private-public cooperation to maximise the potential of air linkages in the subregion to enhance trade, investment and tourism. To facilitate further the connectivity in the subregion, we also called for all IMT-GT Countries to expedite the ratification and implementation of the various ASEAN Transport Agreements.

6. We reiterated the significance of putting equal emphasis on software aspects of infrastructure connectivity, consistent with ASEAN-related initiatives. We therefore tasked the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) Task Force to expedite the finalization of the IMT-GT Cooperation Framework, as well as its implementation action plan, to reduce the time and cost of border-crossing procedures and facilitate trade development in this subregion. We commended the IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism Database (ITITD) Task Force in the completion of an initial database on relevant socio-economic, trade, investment, and tourism data at both national and state/provincial levels. We requested ADB to continue its assistance in enhancing the database and ensuring its sustainability to enable close monitoring and effective impact assessments of the IMT-GT cooperation programme.

7. We reaffirmed our commitment to improve food security in the subregion and are pleased to note the advanced preparations for the joint IMT-GT and BIMP-EAGA High-Value Agriculture Business Conference and Expo with the theme *Promoting High-Value Agriculture through Public-Private Subregional Partnerships*, which will be organized in Melaka, Malaysia in 2012. We encouraged all IMT-GT stakeholders to maximise this opportunity to share experiences and expertise in innovations and good practices of multi-pronged approaches to achieving quality and sustainable food production, taking advantage of technology advances. We expressed our hope that this event will result in higher intra- and inter-regional trade and investment among business players in food items, and thereby enhance food security for all in the subregion.

8. We reaffirmed our shared vision of an ASEAN Community of enduring peace, stability and shared prosperity in the subregion. As members of ASEAN, our IMT-GT cooperation programme shall always seek convergence with those of ASEAN's goals, including the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), and be consistent with the ASEAN Charter to which our Governments have subscribed. We view the IMT-GT subregion as both a test-bed and a key building bloc toward realizing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 as reiterated during the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium in Nusadua, Bali in 2011. We look forward to seeing more joint initiatives

between IMT-GT and ASEAN and financing of some IMT-GT's priority connectivity projects from the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF). We will continue to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure that our activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

9. We acknowledged our growing and deepening relationship with the ADB, our Regional Development Advisor for IMT-GT subregional cooperation. We appreciated the strategic policy advice and practical technical assistance extended to IMT-GT that enabled us to progress in our cooperation, particularly in the preparation of the Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016, Promoting Links between ASEAN, BIMP-EAGA, GMS and IMT-GT, the compilation of the initial IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism database; and the development of the Framework Cooperation of IMT-GT Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Agencies. We requested ADB to continue providing strategic, technical, and operational advice and support to the subregional grouping, including in strengthening the Centre for IMT-GT Subregional Cooperation (CIMT). We tasked our Senior Officials and relevant working groups to work closely with ADB on these initiatives through dialogues and other appropriate measures.

10. We commended the initiation of a research project on Asian Potential of Biofuel Markets as a follow-up of the Symposium on Energy Saving and Biodiesel Utilization held successfully in September 2010 in Songkhla, Thailand. As a outcome of the symposium, through cooperation with members from IMT-GT countries, we are looking forward to materialize development of suitable design to nurture and deploy healthy biofuels market in the subregion. We expressed appreciation to Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for the support on this initiative and expressed hope for ERIA to continuously provide support to the subregional activities through its expertise towards a prosperous subregion with close cooperation with IMT-GT secretariat.

11. We tasked our Ministers to monitor the progress in cooperation with the Government of Japan, the IMT-GT development partner in creating joint activities in potential areas. We also expressed our interest to expand our relations to other potential development partners, especially in South Asia and the Pacific in order to reach greater opportunities in reaching regional transportation and logistics network and potential markets for IMT-GT products, exchanging of expertise in potential areas such as alternative energy, tourism, halal science and technology, food security and human resource development.

12. With the launching of the Implementation Blueprint, we tasked the Ministers to explore ways to further strengthen CIMT to enhance its important role in facilitating various consultation processes among the IMT-GT stakeholders. These, among others, include improving the institutional framework for the private sector activities, effectively evaluating and monitoring projects, encouraging the establishment of closer relationships with potential investors and donors, and extending its outreach activities to better disseminate information within and outside the subregion.

13. We expressed our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Cambodia for the successful organisation of the 6th IMT-GT Summit.

End of Joint Statement.