



JOINT STATEMENT

**THIRD BRUNEI DARUSSALAM-INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-PHILIPPINES –
EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA SUMMIT
(3rd BIMP-EAGA SUMMIT)
12 January 2007, Cebu City, Philippines**

1. We, the Leaders of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) had a productive meeting on 12 January 2007. We took special note that BIMP-EAGA has moved forward with very concrete results. We reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen our cooperation within the overall objective of narrowing development gaps in ASEAN and for the realization of the ASEAN Community.
2. We exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern and on deepening the cooperation among the BIMP-EAGA member countries in the economic, security, energy, environment, and social and cultural areas and have resolved to address various issues and concerns facing BIMP-EAGA's cooperation.
3. We were encouraged with the progress achieved in the implementation of the BIMP-EAGA Roadmap to Development 2006-2010, including the initiatives to facilitate the accelerated implementation of the flagship projects; completion of the BIMP-EAGA database on cross-border trade, investment and tourism; development of the implementation mechanism for the Roadmap; preparation of the energy action plan; conduct of joint trade and tourism promotion activities; finalization of the guideline on pilot-testing ASEAN measures/program in BIMP-EAGA; and forging of stronger partnership with our Development Partners and international development

agencies. We, therefore instructed our Ministers and Senior Officials to more intensively pursue, monitor and review the implementation of all the programs and projects in order to ensure attainment of the BIMP-EAGA development goals and targets set forth in the Roadmap.

4. We recognized the importance of transport connectivity towards accelerating the economic development in the subregion. We commended the initiatives undertaken by the Transport Ministers in improving air travel in BIMP-EAGA with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Expansion of Air Linkages including the granting of fifth freedom traffic rights for passenger and cargo services in the airports of (i) Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam; (ii) Balikpapan and Pontianak, Indonesia; (iii) Kota Kinabalu and Kuching, Malaysia; and (iv) Davao City and Zamboanga City in the Philippines. We also expressed our support for the Transport Ministers' decision to adopt a subregional multilateral or bilateral interstate transport and transit transport agreements in order to further facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods. We tasked our Transport Ministers to implement measures towards promoting an efficient and integrated sea transportation system in the sub-region including the designation and establishment of priority routes linking the focus areas as well as improving the maritime transport infrastructure facilities.
5. We acknowledged the role of the tourism sector, as one of the primary users of transport services, in ensuring the sustainability of existing transport linkages. We directed our Tourism Ministers to strengthen their marketing programs and to aggressively promote BIMP-EAGA as a single tourism destination.
6. We recognized the initiatives taken towards enhancing cooperation among our customs, immigration, quarantine and security (CIQS) agencies. We also noted the efforts undertaken to simplify, mutually recognize and harmonize CIQS processes to facilitate intra-EAGA movement of people and goods at initially designated ports. We directed our ministers

responsible for CIQS to work on measures to intensify cooperation to facilitate trade by initially establishing one-stop CIQS facilities at designated entry points.

7. We urged the private sector and particularly called on the BIMP-EAGA Business Council to intensify their cross-border trade, investment and tourism activities. In this regard, we called on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist in establishing a BIMP-EAGA Private Sector Development Fund particularly for the SMEs to support enterprise and business development in the subregion.
8. We underscored the pivotal role of our local governments in realizing the goals of BIMP-EAGA cooperation and the importance of mainstreaming sub-regional level policies and initiatives within the local governments. We, therefore welcomed the successful convening of the First BIMP-EAGA Chief Ministers' and Governors' Forum in Kota Kinabalu on 9 November 2006. We called on our chief ministers and governors together with the private sectors to formulate and adopt a common strategic plan of action to further accelerate and deepen economic cooperation and integration in BIMP-EAGA.
9. We welcomed the Heart of Borneo (HoB) initiatives to establish a network of protected areas, productive forests and other land-uses, that transcends across the borders of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia, and which aims to maximize transboundary linkages, promotes the expansion of the Protected Areas, maintains forest connectivity, and ensures sustainable land use practices. We will ensure an effective management, development and conservation of the areas, which they will designate as the HoB, within their own respective legal and institutional frameworks, with full respect to each country's sovereignty and territorial boundaries and without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations on land boundary demarcation. We tasked our ministers to study the feasibility of setting-up some parts of the HoB as a heritage site. We note with appreciation the assistance being given by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in the

planning and implementation of the HoB initiative. The Declaration/document on the HoB Initiative is attached as Appendix 1.

10. We recognized the need to put at the fore our environmental concerns beyond borders in the sub-region. We encourage more cooperation among member countries in responding to environmental and natural disasters. We also encouraged further joint rescue efforts in emergency response and disaster management.
11. We encouraged our Energy Ministers to undertake joint efforts in the development of bio-fuels as a flagship project to maximize the potentials of the sub-region. We likewise encouraged our Ministers to work on the possible harmonization of bio-fuel standards and practices. We requested the Asian Development Bank to help explore possible financing schemes for energy projects.
12. We were pleased to note that our collaboration with Development Partners, in particular with the Northern Territory of Australia, had been further strengthened. We welcomed the cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, natural resources exploration, tourism and human resources development.
13. We urged BIMP-EAGA to capitalize on the existing ASEAN Economic Community initiatives in order to further strengthen its sub-regional agenda. In this regard, we agreed to have BIMP-EAGA as the test-bed for accelerating the implementation of relevant ASEAN agreements to contribute towards acceleration of ASEAN economic integration. We tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to assist and to collaborate with the BIMP-EAGA institutions in implementing the pilot-testing measures, including but not limited to sharing its technical expertise and helping in mobilizing related resources. We directed the ASEAN Secretariat to assist in promoting the BIMP-EAGA development agenda among ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and at regular ASEAN meetings and fora as well as to secure funds for BIMP-EAGA programs and projects

14. We thanked the Asian Development Bank and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) for the unwavering support extended to BIMP-EAGA. We requested ADB, as Regional Cooperation Advisor, to strengthen its provision of technical and financial services to deepen regional cooperation and integration in BIMP-EAGA by sharing and transferring knowledge, experience and best practices gained in its support of other growth areas and to assist in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the BIMP-EAGA Roadmap initiatives. We requested GTZ to continue providing institutional strengthening and capacity building support to BIMP-EAGA institutions, and to assist in the implementation of crossborder pilot projects in trade, investment and tourism.
15. We acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of the local private sector media in increasing public awareness on BIMP-EAGA. We encouraged the BIMP-EAGA Media and Communicators Association (BEMCA) to intensify their efforts in disseminating positive information on BIMP-EAGA.
16. We recognized that the young people are our best resource for the future. Hence, we encouraged the strong involvement of the young in our BIMP-EAGA initiatives by creating cooperation programs on research, sports, among others. We also encouraged more socio-cultural exchanges to include University linkages as well as other academic, and development activities.
17. Finally, we directed all our relevant ministries at the national government level to undertake necessary policy improvements and support including necessary resources for EAGA's priority development agenda as stipulated in the Roadmap



**DECLARATION ON THE HEART OF BORNEO INITIATIVE
Three Countries, One Conservation Vision**

We, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia, recognizing the importance of the Island of Borneo as a life support system, hereby declare that:

- With one conservation vision and with a view to promote people’s welfare, we will cooperate in ensuring the effective management of forest resources and conservation of a network of protected areas, productive forests and other sustainable land-uses within an area which the three respective countries will designate as the “Heart of Borneo (HoB)”, thereby maintaining Bornean natural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, with full respect to each country’s sovereignty and territorial boundaries, and also without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations on land boundary demarcation.
- The HoB Initiative is a voluntary trans-boundary cooperation of the three countries combining the stakeholders’ interests, based on local wisdom, acknowledgement of and respect for laws, regulations and policies in the respective countries and taking into consideration relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as existing regional and bilateral agreements / arrangements
- We are willing to cooperate based on sustainable development principles through research and development, sustainable use, protection, education and training, fundraising, as well as other activities that are relevant to trans-boundary management, conservation and development within the areas of the HoB

To support this Declaration, we, the three countries will prepare our respective project documents incorporating the strategic and operational plans, which will form the basis for the development of our roadmap towards realizing the vision of the HoB initiative.

