



The 5th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle Summit

JOINT STATEMENT

Room 254, National Convention Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam,

28 October 2010

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THE 5TH SUMMIT OF INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH-TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)
HANOI, VIETNAM

28 OCTOBER 2010

1. We, the leaders of the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, met today in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the occasion of the 5th 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 lives. We recognize that IMT-GT cooperation has continued to perform an important role in sustaining our economic stability and resiliency in the aftermath of the recent global economic crisis. We believe that the accelerated pace of subregional integration in the IMT-GT will contribute to achieving our common aspiration for an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. We are committed to pursue regional cooperation with even stronger resolution to enhance the subregion's competitiveness and uplift our peoples from poverty.

2. We expressed our appreciation to our Ministers and Senior Officials as well as the private sector and other stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of programmes and projects for 2009 and 2010. We are pleased that a fast track process has been put in place to accelerate the implementation of priority connectivity projects based on the decision we have taken at the 4th Summit. We expressed our appreciation to the ADB in helping to start this initiative and for making available financial and technical support to help prepare pilot public-private partnership (PPP) projects from among the priority connectivity projects we have endorsed, and establish a permanent subregional project development facility. Once realized, these priority connectivity projects, will serve as concrete and visible building blocks of the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity.

3. We are pleased by the revitalized commitment and involvement by the IMT-GT states and provinces in identifying priority connectivity projects and urge them to work closely with the relevant central government in completing the required information on project scope, design and financing to expedite the process of implementation. We urged the Chief Ministers and Governors Forum to enhance their role in identifying, endorsing and implementing these priority connectivity projects.

4. We acknowledged various cases of progress on cooperation among IMT-GT private sectors and urged for further concrete actions. Although more cities in IMT-GT are now connected by low-cost air carriers, the private sector can further enhance intercity links by establishing more low-cost airline operations within the subregion. We acknowledged the completion of two flagship infrastructure projects that will bring new vibrancy in the movement of people, goods and services to the subregion. First is the Melaka Berendam Airport in Malaysia that has been upgraded to an international airport serving now as a new gateway into the IMT-GT subregion. Second is the Inland Port of Thungsong, Nakhon Si Thammarat in

Thailand serving as a new cargo distribution centre for the subregion. We acknowledged the readiness of Dumai Port in Riau Province, Indonesia to operate Ro-Ro services between Dumai and Melaka. We also acknowledged the role that the private sector has taken to complete new IMT-GT Plazas in Bukittinggi, Batam, Dumai, and Sabang in Indonesia; in Harbour City, Kelang, Selangor in Malaysia; and in Hatyai, Songkhla, Thailand. We urged relevant central agencies to support IMT-GT Plaza networking and to facilitate founding of more Plazas in the IMT-GT area. The completion of these infrastructure and facilities will no doubt further enhance tourism, trade and investment in the subregion.

5. We stressed the significance of software side aspects of infrastructure connectivity which will require equal focus while taking into account the related initiatives under the ASEAN framework. Improved logistics and customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) operations will be essential to better facilitate trade development in this subregion. This should be complemented by standard rules and regulations and supporting services such as Islamic and non-Islamic financing and insurance, to facilitate movements of traders, vehicles and goods across the borders. We commended the establishment of the IMT-GT CIQ Task Force and urged the Task Force to enable a platform for formulating and harmonizing rules and regulations on CIQ facilitation. We requested the ADB to assist the Task Force in this initiative.

6. We noted the progress in the development of the IMT-GT Database on Trade, Investment and Tourism through the inclusion of existing independently-sourced socio-economic data and urged the concerned officials to expedite the compilation of disaggregated data at the state and provincial level to enable an assessment of the socio-economic impacts resulting from IMT-GT cooperation.

7. We are pleased that the Mid-Term Review of the IMT-GT Roadmap has been completed. We noted that a great deal of work is still needed to realize the full benefits of cooperation in the remaining two years of the Roadmap and beyond. For this purpose, we requested relevant ministers and officials to focus on the 12 flagship programmes to further streamline the programme implementation for the remaining period of the Roadmap until 2011.

8. As the strategic thrusts of the IMT-GT Roadmap remain relevant, we urged the IMT-GT stakeholders to further pursue these strategies through an Implementation Blueprint that will guide the IMT-GT cooperation beyond 2011. This task will further involve translating the sector strategies into a coherent and logically sequenced set of projects that could be reflected in a revised Action Plan Matrix for the next phase of development. We requested the assistance of ADB in working with us to develop the Implementation Blueprint for the period 2012 – 2016.

9. We recognized that the effective implementation of the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint will only be possible if improvements in IMT-GT's business processes are conducted. We extend our appreciation to the Eminent Persons Group for completing their report on the Business Process Review which contained innovative approaches and fresh insights to improvements in IMT-GT structures and processes. We urged the Ministers, Senior Officials and other IMT-GT stakeholders to attach great importance to this report and to incorporate its

recommendations into future strategies in order that a concrete implementation plan can be realized within 2011.

10. We reaffirmed the important role of the private sector in IMT-GT cooperation. 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 continue in their efforts to expand their membership and promote business-oriented and joint-venture projects. We commended the private sector on the establishment of the Contact Centre that will serve as a global window to showcase IMT-GT to the rest of the world.

11. We welcome the interest of the Government of Japan to be a new Development Partner of IMT-GT and look forward to forging partnership arrangements on long-term goals of food security and food safety. We highlighted the need to place *Food Safety and High Value Agriculture* as a key area of engagement with Japan under the IMT-GT-Japan cooperation. We tasked the relevant Working Groups to host a *Joint Food Safety and High Value Agriculture Conference & Exhibition* with Japan as a pathfinder initiative towards charting a Framework of Cooperation (FoC) between IMT-GT and Japan. We also tasked CIMT to draft the Framework of Cooperation in all potential areas to be deliberated at the next IMT-GT Senior Officials + Japan Meeting as a guide and reference for future cooperation.

12. We also welcome *Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)* as a new Partner Organization of IMT-GT and commended ERIA on its work on the *Comprehensive Asian Development Plan (CADP)* to further enhance the economy of the subregion. We requested ERIA to hold dialogues with the IMT-GT Member-Countries and IMT-GT Joint Business Council to exchange views on macro and micro strategies that would be consistent with the Roadmap and subsequent Implementation Blueprint and could further enhance the economic growth of the subregion. In the area of sustainable energy we also commended ERIA for organizing a successful *Symposium on Energy Saving and Biodiesel Utilization* on 1-2 September 2010 in Songkhla, Thailand, jointly with IMT-GT Secretariat, Centre for IMT-GT Subregional Cooperation (CIMT) and Prince of Songkla University. The symposium perceived that sustainability is a priority in developing biofuels, and identified further key research issues such as infrastructure development for biofuels and study on Asian potential biofuel markets as well as the need to develop IMT-GT biofuels standard utilizing but not limit to the efficiency of ERIA-EAS. We look forward for ERIA to implement the positive and concrete outcomes resulting from this event as well as to provide policy recommendations with close cooperation with IMT-GT secretariat.

13. We acknowledged our growing and deepening relationship with the ADB, our Development Partner and Regional Advisor for IMT-GT subregional cooperation. We appreciated the assistance provided by ADB in the Mid-Term Review, the Business Process Review, the fast-track initiative for the priority connectivity projects, including with respect to the preparation of pilot PPP priority connectivity projects and the establishment of a subregional project development facility, and called for their continued assistance in the required follow-on activities. In addition, we requested ADB support in the areas of customs, immigration and quarantine and other software initiatives. We commended the effort made by

ADB in completing the First Phase of IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism Database by accommodating basic socio-economic statistics and we request ADB and CIMT to undertake an Impact Assessment of IMT-GT Cooperation utilizing the trade, investment and tourism database once completed. We tasked our Senior Officials to work closely with ADB on these initiatives through dialogues and other appropriate measures.

14. 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 endeavors will always seek convergence with those of ASEAN's goals, and consistent with the ASEAN Charter to which our Governments have ascribed. We view the IMT-GT subregion as both a test-bed and key building bloc toward realizing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015. We will continue to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure that our activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

15. We expressed our gratitude to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the Meeting and to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand as the Host of the Meeting.

End of Joint Statement.