



JOINT STATEMENT
FOURTEENTH INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE SUMMIT
14TH IMT-GT SUMMIT

10 NOVEMBER 2022
PHNOM PENH, THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

1. We, the Leaders of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, meet today in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia for the 14th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit under Thailand's Chairmanship.
2. We are aware that the current global geopolitical instability, energy price volatility, and global supply chain disruption have challenged our subregional economic growth and may also impede our recovery progress in the coming years. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the global economic growth will slow to 3.2 percent and 2.7 percent in 2022 and 2023, respectively. We are cognisant that the toughest challenge is yet to come. Therefore, we encourage all stakeholders to explore and initiate strategic actions so that the subregion remains resilient and able to achieve its long-term goals to become an integrated, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable subregion as envisioned by Vision 2036.
3. We recognise the enhancement of national immunity levels in our member countries that significantly suppress the spread of the 2019 Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) and enable us to resume our economic and social activities. With the end of the pandemic in sight, we reiterate our concrete effort in resuming and reviving the subregional economic and social development to accelerate the post-pandemic recovery. We acknowledge the sign of reviving economic growth from the increment of total trade from 350.9 billion USD in 2020 to 618.1 billion USD in 2021 and the investment values from 26.1 billion USD in 2020 to 58.5 billion USD in 2021. In this regard, we remain steadfast in strengthening our collaboration to accelerate the full recovery in the earliest.
4. We prioritise the recovery of the subregional tourism industry which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also underscore the importance of shaping sustainable tourism that serves the needs of visitors, the tourism industry, and the community, whilst embracing the environmental concerns. We are glad that several tourism activities in the subregion are resumed and facilitated by digital technology in promoting tourism products and services. We strongly support the initiatives of our tourism stakeholders to safely reopen our tourism destinations, revive connectivity routes amongst IMT-GT cities, and build confidence of international tourists to visit our subregion. In this regard, a new tourism recovery communications plan is being implemented. We, therefore, adopt the **IMT-GT Visit Year 2023-2025** as the subregional campaign to accelerate tourism recovery in conjunction with the celebration of the **30th IMT-GT Anniversary in 2023**. Hence, we call the ministries in-

charge of tourism to spearhead the implementation with the state and provincial governments, relevant agencies, and other IMT-GT stakeholders in executing the collective activities under the IMT-GT Visit Year 2023-2025 campaign.

5. We are mindful that climate change causes an adverse impact on the productivity of our agricultural sector. We are also aware that food security is becoming very critical to our subregion, considering the disruption of the global food supply chain. Therefore, we are committed to strengthening our cooperation to build a resilient subregional food supply chain. We also underscore the necessity of innovation and adoption of new technology as well as implementation of sustainable agriculture to ensure the sustainability of our food supply. Moreover, we also urged our stakeholders to promote collaboration in developing the strategic agriculture commodities of the subregion, such as palm oil and rubber, to be high value-added and competitive products. We will continue to provide support to strengthen the IMT-GT subregional cooperation towards increasing the capacity of the strategic commodity industry of palm oil and rubber. We expect the continued effort and collaboration in IMT-GT will help improve the livelihood of palm oil and rubber smallholders and further develop the downstream industries for palm oil and rubber.
6. We are cognisant of the critical global environmental and sustainability issues we are facing today. It is also critical that we increase our efforts and cooperation in ensuring the sustainability of our subregional development. We acknowledge that many green projects have been initiated in our subregion and they need financial and technical support. Whilst we appreciate the current collaboration between IMT-GT and external international organisations such as UN-ESCAP, IGES, and DEEP in sustainable projects, we welcome more development partners to collaborate with the subregion and urge all stakeholders to pursue green investments to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of our green projects. We call for close collaboration of local governments and the private sector to implement the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) projects.
7. We emphasise that halal products and services remain prominent strengths of the IMT-GT subregion. We appreciate the progress in several capacity-building programs conducted in halal certification and registration. We expect to see the continuity of halal expertise exchange amongst member countries to foster our strength. Acknowledging the potential growth of the halal service sector, we commend the IMT-GT to continuously collaborate in promoting the subregion as a Muslim-friendly tourism destination. In this regard, we tasked relevant stakeholders to further expand collaboration with strategic partner including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and strengthen the subregional halal ecosystem and its interconnectedness as the basis to lay down a solid foundation to become a global halal hub. We also encourage more projects to be initiated to support the growth of the halal industry, including the initiatives to leverage Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to be halal export-oriented entrepreneurs. We expect to see more halal products and services from IMT-GT penetrating new potential global halal markets in the coming years.
8. We underscore the Physical Connectivity Projects (PCPs) as the backbone of subregional development under the basis of the economic corridor approach. We are proud of the progress made in undertaking 36 projects worth 57 billion USD, aim to improve connectivity and facilitate economic activities in the subregion. With the principle of the PCPs, we commend our Ministers and all IMT-GT stakeholders for the effort that has been dedicated to expediting the implementation of these projects

alongside soft infrastructure to facilitate the economic recovery and development of the subregion. We vision to optimise the functionality of the PCPs to achieve integrated, competitive, affordable transport and logistic for mobility of people and goods in the subregion.

9. We are determined to pursue seamless cross-border trade in the subregion and envision creating an investment-friendly subregion by further improving trade and investment procedures. We acknowledge the importance of industrial cooperation to promote trade and investment in the subregion. In this regard, we also congratulate the successful signing of the MoU on the IMT-GT Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation that brings IMT-GT cooperation forward to advance the subregional rubber industry. We encourage all relevant stakeholders to explore and initiate concrete projects under the MoU to uplift the livelihood of smallholder rubber farmers and strengthen the competitiveness of our rubber industry in the global market. We highlight the potential opportunities from the developed Special Economic Zones located in the subregion. To attract investment and maximise the infrastructure, we expect the integration between the Special Economic Zones and Economic Corridors to be in place with the active involvement of local government and the private sector. We urge all parties to explore the potential linkage to intensify cross border supply chain and explore further integration with other subregional cooperation.
10. We acknowledge that digitalisation is essential to immerse society with innovations that are relevant to future social interaction patterns and economic activities. In this regard, we encourage IMT-GT to accelerate the digital transformation process whilst assuring inclusivity to make sure the MSMEs and other marginalised groups are also included in the transformation process. We anticipate a close and well-connected digital nation through the robust digital transformation process across the subregion. We hope IMT-GT cooperation could be advanced through digital literacy for our people which will bring direct benefit to the community. We foresee digitalisation will bring advantages to other sectoral areas and hence we encourage more initiatives or programmes involving all working groups to be further explored.
11. We are aware of the importance of human resource development in subregional development. However, we are cognisant that certain vocational skills are not yet equally recognised within the subregion. In this regard, we support the initiative to standardise vocational competency certification to promote skill acceptance within the subregion. We further commend relevant agencies' efforts to continuously provide training programmes to prepare a competitive workforce in the subregion. We urge relevant stakeholders to continuously update its vocational programme to meet the latest skills required in the labour market whilst assuring the inclusivity of the programme. In the end, we envision creating a competitive labour force and labour market mobility in the subregion.
12. We commend progressive development under the IMT-GT institutional structure. We underscore the role of the private sector in taking the leading role to drive the IMT-GT economy and explore significant business opportunities in collaboration with all working groups and local governments. We also look forward to the strategic contribution of UNINET as the subregional think tank to all sectoral areas of cooperation. With the inclusion of Pahang, Terengganu, and Johor of Malaysia, we look forward to a stronger collaboration and potential execution of more complementarity projects with other member provinces and states in the subregion. Moreover, we support the initiative to empower the role of provincial and state

governments in driving subregional development through the revitalisation of the Chief Ministers and Governor Forum (CMGF). We encourage the local governments to identify economic potential and maximise cooperation under their respective Economic Corridors to attract more investment and accelerate project implementation along the corridors.

13. We appreciate the contribution given by IMT-GT Senior Officials, Working Groups, ADB, and all stakeholders in collaboration with CIMT in finalising the formulation of the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2022-2026. We, hereby, adopt and inaugurate the implementation of IB 2022-2026. We envision that the strategic frameworks of the new IB are relevant to the emerging economic trends and the change in social landscape. Therefore, we urge all IMT-GT stakeholders to further pursue the strategy and accelerate the implementation guided by the IB, especially the projects that support economic recovery. We also look forward to seeing the achievement of the flagship projects to push our subregional cooperation forward.
14. We recognise ADB's valuable support as our Regional Development Partner especially its unwavering support in our quest for post pandemic recovery. The important ADB studies on economic corridors and SEZ collaboration identified critical recommendations to foster recovery, boost trade, tourism and investment, and stimulate employment which are reflected in game-changing initiatives in the newly adopted IB 2022-2026. We also thank ADB for assistance in promoting green recovery via smart and liveable cities, green investments, and low carbon transport; fostering tourism recovery communications and capacity building; boosting healthy oceans and blue economies; building capacities of IMT-GT government officials in COVID-19 recovery and resilience; and deepening cooperation with ASEAN and other subregions. We request ADB to continue and expand its support for IMT-GT cooperation especially in building back better and achieving the goals set out in the IB 2022-2026.
15. We reaffirm our commitment to align our subregional development with the ASEAN frameworks, particularly to support the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework's broad strategies. We appreciate the development of the Plan of Action between IMT-GT and ASEAN Secretariat on three proposed areas of cooperation in tourism recovery; green cities/sustainable urbanisation; and clean energy under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework's broad strategies. We underscore the benefit of establishing partnerships with other countries which will bring more opportunities to the subregion and look forward to strengthening cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners.
16. We welcome the Republic of India as the first country IMT-GT development partner. We believe that the partnership cooperation will open an avenue for cooperation between the IMT-GT and the Republic of India. In this regard, we encourage IMT-GT stakeholders to explore potential areas of collaboration and implement projects/programmes for the benefit of people in the subregion.
17. We note that IMT-GT will enter its 30 years of cooperation in 2023. We take pride in our long-term partnership that contributes to the development of the subregion. We take this opportunity to celebrate this milestone and increase recognition of IMT-GT in the subregion. We encourage all stakeholders of IMT-GT to evaluate the accomplishments and deliverables that occurred during the long-standing cooperation to advance future collaboration. In this regard, we tasked the relevant ministers to take the necessary action to support the 30th IMT-GT Anniversary celebration.

18. We express our gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia as our host and for their warm hospitality and to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the excellent arrangements and chairmanship for the 14th IMT-GT Summit.

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