

**OPENIING REMARKS CHAIRPERSON - INDONESIA SENIOR OFFICIAL**

**THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING IMT-GT**

**HON. FIRMAN M. U. TAMBOEN**

**Palembang, 21 October 2008**

Honorable Dato' Dr. Ali bin Hamsa,

Honorable Dr. Poramete Vimolsiri

Country Chairmen of IMT-GT Joint Business Council,

Representatives of Asian Development Bank

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our relations and cooperation have seen much progress since the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMT-GT Summit in Philippines in 2007. It is nearly two years have passed since we agreed upon the IMT-GT Roadmap for Development for 2007-2011. Although, there are numbers of obstacles and challenges we have faced together, I am confident that we could find the answer of the problems. In the end, I am delighted that there are also a number of activities have been implemented since the Roadmap has been carried out.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to recall our Leaders' strong mandate and commitment to strengthen our cooperation under the framework of IMT-GT. Our Leaders reiterated that IMT-GT Roadmap is an important instrument, as a guidance to achieve the ultimate goals. That is to raise the quality of life of the people in a seamless, progressive, prosperous and peaceful sub-region. However, the Roadmap is not without flaws. Together, we should strive at the utmost in

making this Roadmap a better guidance for the IMT-GT. That is why clear directives are needed to further advance the IMT-GT.

Excellencies,

Let us now, begin to push forward endeavours to nurture public-private partnerships under the framework of IMT-GT. We shall strengthen cooperation at the governmental level, cooperation between government and business and most importantly cooperation between business and business. In light of this, Indonesia fully supports the efforts to enhance partnership between the private sectors and the governments.

It is Indonesia's hope that through the forthcoming Leaders' Meeting, we will be able to develop an enhanced and more concrete partnership under the framework of IMT-GT cooperation.

I have always believed that cooperation among us is essential to the accomplishment of the IMT-GT aims and objectives. As we gather here today, there are many issues to be settled during this meeting. One of the issues is the legalization of the Centre of IMT-GT Sub Regional Cooperation (CIMT), which we have all agreed to sign the agreement in the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the IMT-GT in December 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely hope that in the meeting we have today, we will move closer to solving some of the most perplexing challenges that IMT-GT has to confront. It is by no means an easy task but by now it is absolutely clear: we have the commitment.

Beyond commitment, we have the resources to make an auspicious start, the institutional instruments to aid us in whatever initiatives we must take, and the

creativity to produce feasible ideas. So much is at stake—we cannot fail. We must succeed in this endeavour.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all delegates every success in your endeavors and a very pleasant and memorable stay in Palembang. I sincerely hope that the meeting will enrich all countries. Together we can forge in and cement mutual understanding and relations among countries in this region.

I Thank You.