

REPORT OF IMT GT DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS AFTER SPEECH

- **IMT-GT is in the second year of implementing the IMT-GT Roadmap (2007-2011).** The Third IMT-GT Summit held in Singapore in November 2007 has endorsed the importance of taking concrete steps in several key economic cooperation areas namely in energy and environment -- because of its high potential and impact for growth and prosperity of the IMT-GT subregion, infrastructure, transportation, and logistics and connectivity development, with the inclusion of the new six provinces i.e. Surat Thani, Chumphon, Ranong, Phuket, Phangnga, and Krabi of southern Thailand to be the member of the IMT-GT. Moreover, the Ranong-Phuket-Aceh corridor had been endorsed by the leaders as the Fifth corridor in the Roadmap together with the announcement of the Visit IMT-GT Year 2008.

- Much satisfying progress has been done in the IMT-GT cooperation:

In infrastructure development and transportation, after completing the construction of Buketa Bridge over the Kolok River at the end of last year, the construction of CIQ complex on the Thai side at Buketa bridge is underway together with the construction of road linking this complex to Natawee District. The studies of another two bridges across the Kolok River, by the Thai and Malaysian governments are in much progress. The expansion of Andaman seaports such Tammalang port, Satun province, and Kantang Port are in various stages of implementation. The Ro-Ro port in Dumai was completed. For air linkages, new airports in Indonesia had been developed namely Palembang International Airport, Minangkabau International Airport and Banda Aceh International Airport.

In trade and investment, the first phase of the feasibility study of Sadao- Bukit Kayu Hitam special economic zone undertaken by Thailand had been completed and the second phase of the study has already started this month for the detailed design of facilities and land use. Also the establishment of IMT-GT Plazas in Trang, Songkhla, Port Dickson (Negrisembilan, Malaysia), and Pakanbaru, Riau Province, Indonesia are underway.

In tourism: several activities have been done namely tourism promotion exhibition and activities throughout the year (42 events), tourism festival in the three countries, formulation of tourism potential development and marketing plan in collaboration with World Tourism Organization focusing on the IMT-GT connectivity corridors. These activities aimed to help stimulating economic activities and increase income of the local people from more tourists from within and outside the sub-region. - enhance effectiveness of IMT-GT

In Halal product and service sector; improving capacity of Halal science lab . there have been strong cooperation especially in Halal certification, marketing and promotion of halal products and services, The Halal Maolid Nabi in Krabi had been was successfully organized. New initiative on Halal ICT superhighway is to be promoted together with promotion of Halal brand.

In Human Resource Development: there are more intensified cooperation particularly on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement in key sector areas which are necessary for the IMT-GT development - open up more opportunity for free flows of labors., exchanging of training and study programs, as well as the arrangement of seminar to promote women's role in labour market.

In agriculture, agro-industry and environment: there have been discussion on cooperation on the cross border plantation and research in the oil palm production, and the use of technology to reduce environmental impacts in agro-industrial activities. The IMT-GT fisheries EXPO will be held in November this year in Phuket Province, Thailand.

Establishment of CIMT is in advanced stage.

In response to the Leader's directive, there have been discussion on the formulation of IMT-GT database which needs to be materialized before the 4th Summit.

In energy and environment, there is a need to continue brainstorming and try to come up with the good idea for cooperation in these areas.