

THE OPENING REMARKS OF GOVERNOR OF RIAU  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF  
THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMT-GT PLANNING MEETING  
20 MARCH 2009 IN PEKANBARU

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*Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh*  
Selamat pagi, Good Morning and Sawaddi Krap.

Your Excellency Bapak Raldi Koestoer, Senior Officials of IMT-GT Indonesia.

Your Excellency DR. Poramiti Vimolsiri, Senior Officials of IMT-GT Thailand.

Your Excellency Puan Norani Ibrahim, Acting Senior Officials IMT-GT Malaysia.

Honorable Chairmen of IMT-GT Working Groups.

Honorable Mr. Rony Soerakoesoemah, Assistant Director of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Honorable Mr. Pradeep Srivastava, Economist of Asian Development Bank

Honorable DR. Hassan Ibrahim, Director of CIMT

Honorable Chairmen of the National Secretariat of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Honorable Bpk. Johar Firdaus, The Spokesman of Riau  
House of Representative,

Honorable Encik Zamani Ismail. Consul Malaysia in Riau  
Province.

Honorable Chairmen of IMT-GT Joint Business Council  
Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Praise to Allah SWT, the Almighty God for His guidance and help that this morning we are still given opportunity to attend the opening ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMT-GT Planning Meeting.

First of all, allow me to welcome all participants of IMT-GT Planning Meeting to Pekanbaru, the capital city of Riau Province. I hope that your visit to this province bring a better future and strengthen the relationship among the three countries of the cooperation.

**Excelencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On this opportunity, I would like to inform the meeting that the economic growth of Riau province for the last five years is 8% above the average national growth which is 6,3% and Sumatera island 7,3 %. And the Provincial Domestic Bruto Ratio of Riau Province increases every year. In 2007, it is one hundred seventeen trillion rupiah for non oil and gas, and two hundred 10 trillion for oil and gas.

The Investment of private sector to Riau Province is fairly high. In 2008, Domestic investment is one point one four six Trillion rupiah and foreign investment is four hundred sixty point nine million US Dollars. With reference to this investment, Riau has a big potency of investment and has put Riau as the fourth biggest investment province in Indonesia. Therefore, we hope that through IMT-GT 3rd POST-SUMMIT PLANNING MEETING, various strategic policies and projects can be formulated to equalize the perception and to strengthen cooperation in various areas, so that, it can create new fresh power against the current global crisis.

**Excelencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

As we are all aware that since the formation of IMT-GT Cooperation in 1993, there have been indeed some achievements in terms of cooperation, collaborations and exchange of views to accelerate the trade, tourism, and investments in our region. However, we believe there are still lot more concrete measure and activities would have to be done to fulfill the potential business rooms available in the IMT-GT area.

Riau province, due to its geographic position which lies at one of the busiest shipping and trade lanes in the world (Straits of Malacca), has been long undergoing close interaction with its

surrounding neighbors and the melting pot of various ethnic groups in Indonesia. Therefore, Riau is also known as a little Indonesia in itself. Many ethnic groups from other parts of the country are living in harmony with their brothers, the native ethnic communities, and step forward together for the best of this province.

Not only is Riau strategically located in terms of economic perspective and geographical position, but the province is also endowed with rich and varied natural resources of high economic value (one of the richest in Indonesia), relying mainly on the sectors of mining and energy (the largest producer of natural oil and gas), plantation and agribusiness (major producer of CPO, rubber and coconut products), forestry (main producer of pulp & paper and plywood products), as well as fishery and marine products.

Therefore, we expect Asian Development Bank as the partner of IMT-GT Cooperation to give special attention to Riau Province in terms of the financial aid to support the faster development of our province as the most active IMT-GT member in Indonesia.

**Excelencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

With the spirit of IMT-GT relationship, through our JBC representatives, I would like to invite business people and investors to do business and invest in Riau province. We are committed to provide the best support and facility to guarantee the security of your investment.

Before I end my speech, let me again wish you a very fruitful meeting and wish you a pleasant stay in Riau and kindly accept my apologies should there be any inconvenience or discomfort that we, as a host, may cause in the course of the event.

Finally, with the words: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,  
THE 3<sup>rd</sup> IMT-GT PLANNING MEETING is now open.

Terima kasih // Thank you // Khop Khun Khrap.

**Wassalamualaikum Wr.Wb.**

Pekanbaru, 20 March 2009  
**GUBERNUR RIAU**

**H. M. RUSLI ZAINAL, SE, MP**