

**INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND
GROWTH TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)**

**THE 4th IMT-GT
GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS' FORUM**

REPORT

**Songkhla Province, Thailand
5 September 2007**



**REPORT OF THE 4TH GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS' FORUM
OF THE INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND-GROWTH TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)**

5 SEPTEMBER 2007

SONGKHLA PROVINCE, THAILAND

INTRODUCTION

1. The 4th IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum was convened in Songkhla Province, Thailand on 5 September 2007. The Indonesian delegation was led by H.E. Eko Maulana Ali, Msc, Governor of Bangka-Belitung Province. The Malaysian Delegation was led by the Honorable Dato' Tang See Hang, State Executive Councillor, Selangor State Government. The Right Honorable Dr. Sondhi Tejanant, the Governor of Songkhla Province headed the Thai delegation and acted as the Chairperson of the Forum.

The list of delegation appears as Annex I.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

2. The Honorable Dato' Tang See Hang as the outgoing Chairperson expressed his special thanks to the Governor of Songkhla and the organizing committee for their great efforts in organizing the 4th IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum. He was honoured to chair the Meeting and warmly welcome the new Chairman, Governor of Songkhla Province. He hoped that the new Chairman will contribute his full commitments in strengthening the cooperation in the IMT-GT sub-region.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF THE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS' FORUM

3. The Forum agreed on electing the Governor of Songkhla Province, The Right Honourable Dr. Sondhi Tejanant as the new Chairperson for the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 3: REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS' FORUM

4. The Governor of Songkhla Province, the Right Honourable Dr. Sondhi Tejanant, welcomed all distinguished delegates from the government and private sectors who have come to participate in the 4th Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum. He also extended his sincere appreciation to the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat for their support during the event. He emphasized that the 4th Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum is a very important mechanism for the new IMT-GT Roadmap since Provincial and State governments play a crucial role in the success of cooperation within IMT-GT. The greatest challenge is how to maintain peace and stability as a prerequisite to attain development objectives of IMT-GT. Cooperation between the Provincial and State governments are important.

5. Thus, local officials involved in IMT-GT cooperation projects are expected to act with full understanding of the objectives and strategic thrusts of the Roadmap. There is a call for the Forum to be more proactive and to formulate a clear agenda and work programme that include activities and timelines that are parallel to the six IMT-GT Working Groups, National Secretariats and Joint Business Council (JBC). Development efforts must be directed towards capacity building of knowledge skills such as in Information Communication and Technology (ICT).

The full opening remarks appear as Annex II.

AGENDA 4: OPENING REMARKS OF THE GOVERNOR OF BANGKA-BELITUNG

6. The newly elected Governor of Bangka-Belitung expressed his appreciation to the Governor of Songkhla and guests of the Forum and stated that he believes that this gathering is a good opportunity to bring cooperation among the local governments where the implementation of the programs is actually taking place. Everyone should enhance utilization and existence of IMT-GT regional cooperation. It is important to work towards transforming challenges into opportunities in order to fully operationalize tangible projects in the subregion. He cited the improvements in air and sea transport linkages and facilitation of cross-border goods and investment. He emphasized the need for the increased commitment of the local government to

support business activities. He expects the Forum to support the empowerment of the business community to enhance economic growth in the region.

7. By working together, the local business players and respective governments will be able to deliver and implement more projects in the IMT-GT Roadmap. He stressed the importance of cooperation in various sectors such as human resources development, infrastructure and transport and tourism to make the region more attractive to investments. A better investment environment should be fostered and this requires stronger and deeper coordination within IMT-GT institutions including the local governments.

The full Opening Remarks appear as Annex III.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

8. The Forum considered and adopted the Agenda of the 4th IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum which appears as Annex IV.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ELECTION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE

9. The Forum appointed two (2) representatives from each country as members of the drafting committee as follows:

a. Indonesia - Mr. Jondi Indra Bustian

- Mr. Mugi Syahrialdi

b. Malaysia - Ms. Sharifah Intan Eriyatty Syed Mansor

- Mrs. Siti Noorliza bt. Md. Salleh

c. Thailand - Mr. Kittipol Chotipimai

- Mrs. Kanchana Siriwat Minson

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT AND UPDATE OF THE 3rd IMT-GT GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS' FORUM

10. The Honourable Dato' Tang See Hang, Selangor State Executive Councillor presented the report and update of the 3rd IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum on 15th February 2007 at Trang Province, Thailand.

11. The IMT-GT JBC proposed that each country should organize at least 5 events/activities for the Visit IMT-GT Year 2008. The Forum agreed to the proposals made by the IMT-GT JBC.

The detailed report appears as Annex V.

12. A proposal was made by the IMT-GT JBC for contribution to Visit IMT-GT Year 2008 at least 5 events per country. The proposed events as informed by Indonesia are:

- 18th Krakatau Festival, 25-30 August 2008 at Lampung province
- Festival Dragon Boat, 15-17 November 2008 at Tanjung Pinang, Riau Island Province
- Traditional Food & Customs Festival 2008 at Batam, Riau Island Province
- Sumatera International Travel Fair, 30 May-2 June 2008, West Sumatera Province
- Festival Musi, 2008, Palembang / South Sumatera Province

The full report appears as Annex VI.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING BY CHAIRPERSON OF THE 14th SOM

13. The Honorable Arkhom Term pittayapaisith, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) of Thailand, as chairperson of the 14th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), presented the report on the outcome of the 14th SOM held on 4-5 September 2007 in Songkhla Province. He was pleased to report on the fruitful discussion and agreement, particularly the

strengthened implementation of the IMT-GT Roadmap aimed at achieving the development vision of the IMT-GT subregion.

14. The 14th SOM has agreed to accept as new members of the IMT-GT the following provinces proposed by Thailand: Chumphon, Ranong, SuratThani, Krabi, PhangNga and Phuket. The SOM was pleased with the progress in establishing the Centre for IMT-GT Sub-regional Cooperation, which will enable the strengthening of coordination mechanisms and processes among IMT-GT institutions and the facilitation, implementation and monitoring of priority projects. The SOM is pleased with JBC's report on the progress of its current projects and noted JBC's decision for its Working Groups to be chaired by the lead country in accordance with the government Working Groups, on a two year trial period. The SOM requested the agencies from the member countries to look into and act on the issues raised by JBC which fall within their areas of concern.

15. The SOM expressed appreciation for the support from the ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat. ADB has expressed its willingness to support institutional strengthening and connectivity which are key elements of the IMT-GT Roadmap. The meeting noted that Singapore has agreed to host the 3rd IMT-GT Summit on 19 November 2007 as a parallel meeting of the 13th ASEAN Summit.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT AND UPDATE OF IMT-GT JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL (JBC)

16. The Honorable Mr. Somkiat Anuras, Chairperson of the IMT-GT JBC, presented the report of the IMT-GT JBC to the 4th IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum. Arising from the previous JBC meeting held on 24-25 August 2007 in Perak, Malaysia., the JBC wishes to inform the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum that the Lead Country for each of the six JBC Working Groups will align itself with the lead Country of the Government Working Groups. JBC also wishes to inform the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum that IMT-GT further strives to encourage the participation of the business and government sectors in order to achieve goals set for projects such as the IMT-GT Plazas.

17. The JBC respectfully requested the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum to endorse, consider and facilitate a number of issues proposals, initiatives and projects.

18. With the exception of the bull-fighting and cock-fighting events, the Forum agreed to adopt the proposals of the JBC. They will do their best to provide the necessary support and facilitation for projects such as the IMT-GT Plaza and Visit IMT-GT Year 2008. The issue of the bull-fighting and cock-fighting will be discussed further. The issues raised by the JBC will be carefully examined and resolved.

Full report appears as Annex VII

AGENDA ITEM 8: CONCLUSION AND OTHER MATTERS

19. The Chairperson of the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum summarized the discussion of the meeting which acknowledged the report of the 14th SOM, and also endorsed the report of the IMT-GT JBC. The IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers realized the role to work closely with the central governments particularly with the National Secretariats and also to facilitate the JBC. The Forum will expedite the way to work and resolve the local issues particularly the cross-border facilities to foster economic and social activities. The Forum also welcomed initiatives both from national and regional level and expressed full support and commitment and look forward to co-organizing the Visit IMT-GT year 2008 Events as well as the establishment of the IMT-GT Plazas. The Forum also expressed its appreciation that in addition to business opportunities, more cultural and social events are created in the region. Likewise, Indonesia and Malaysia also expressed their full support for the new initiatives in the IMT-GT.

20. The date and venue of the 5th Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum of the IMT-GT will be held in conjunction with the 15th Ministerial and Senior Officials' Meeting either in Banda Aceh (Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam) or Palembang (South Sumatera Province) in Indonesia. JBC proposed to also organize the IMT-GT Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum back-to-back with the JBC Meetings. The Forum noted and considered their proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING SESSION

21. The Honorable Dato' Tang See Hang, the Head of Malaysian Delegation expressed their appreciation to the host country for their warm welcome and hospitality to the delegates.

22. The Honorable alternate Head of Indonesian Delegation congratulated the host for the excellent preparations for the event. He expressed his eagerness to see everyone in the meeting in Indonesia next year in the 5th Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum.

23. The Honorable Mr. Somkiat Anuras, the Chairperson of the IMT-GT JBC urged continuous support for the JBC programmes and thanked for the opportunity to present their report to the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum.

24. In his concluding remarks, the Right Honorable Dr. Sondhi Tejanant, the Head of Thai Delegation and Chairperson of the Forum noted that the 4th Governors and Chief Ministers' forum has proved to be productive and is a critical venue for enabling the enhancement of sub-regional initiatives in IMT-GT. He noted that in order for the Forum to fully achieve its goals, it could be the Forum to welcome the activities both within IMT-GT countries and at the regional level. He urged the Forum to follow up the implementation of priority issues especially those prioritized projects under the IMT-GT Roadmap, by which there is a need to work closely between the Forum and the JBC. He supported that the Forum could facilitate the JBC by expediting their prioritized projects within the IMT-GT sub-region and to endorse priority issues within the proposed timeline.