



The 4th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle Summit

JOINT STATEMENT

Hua Hin, Thailand, 28 February 2009

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THE 4th SUMMIT OF
INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH-TRIANGLE (IMT-GT)
HUA HIN, THAILAND
28 FEBRUARY 2009

1. We, the leaders of the respective Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, met today on the occasion of the 4th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit to review progress in cooperation and the development prospects in the IMT-GT subregion. We looked at the potential and strengths of the subregion to assist member countries overcome the global economic crises as well as addressing issues on food security, volatility in energy prices and climate change. We realised the importance of regional cooperation to bring about greater synergy between IMT-GT and the evolving ASEAN economic community.

2. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to IMT-GT subregional cooperation and to its vision of a seamless, prosperous and peaceful subregion. We congratulated our Ministers and Senior Officials as well as the private sector and other stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of projects and programmes planned for 2008.

3. We reiterated the importance of developing the IMT-GT Connectivity Corridors towards achieving this vision and underlined the need for greater and more accelerated efforts by all involved entities to successfully address the complexity and immensity of the challenges entailed. We resolved to individually and collectively strengthen implementation of programmes related to the Connectivity Corridors and tasked our planning agencies to identify links with respective national development plans. We urged Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help identify, prioritise and finance appropriate projects to develop the IMT-GT Connectivity Corridors. We encouraged and affirmed our support to increase private sector participation in infrastructure development and transportation linkages.

4. We recognised the need to strengthen maritime transport links and trade across the Straits of Melaka and took note of the 13 ports included in the JBC's IMT-GT Coastal Trade Network. We tasked the relevant agencies in our respective governments to work with the private sector in formulating policies that would encourage coastal trading

activities, develop standard rules and regulations, and provide supporting services such as finance and insurance. We also identified the need for improved logistics and CIQ cooperation to better facilitate trade development in this subregion.

5. We reiterated our directive for a more objective assessment of the socio-economic progress resulting from IMT-GT cooperation. We tasked the CIMT to expedite, with ADB's assistance, the completion of a comprehensive quantitative framework and database to capture the outcomes of our cooperation in IMT-GT. We asked the relevant government agencies and ministries to provide full cooperation in this critical monitoring tool.

6. We remained committed to long-term goals of food and energy security, sustainable development and mitigating climate change. We urged all the Working Groups to address energy and environment in their work programmes as part of the collective effort to safeguard the environment and promote sustainable development. To enhance food and energy security we called for exploring a balanced food-for-energy policy.

7. We agreed to review, in 2009, the IMT-GT Roadmap (2007-2011) to better focus our collective course in the medium term. This Mid-Term Review is consistent with our belief that the Roadmap and its action plan are to be living documents, to be updated and improved as appropriate. We are convinced that in today's fast changing world, actions and institutions need to be justified by relevance and outcomes, not merely precedence and conformity. The Review should also objectively assess implementation of IMT-GT cooperation, based on value for money and address any identified challenges. Most important, we recognised that the Review process and outcome should be inclusive and owned by all IMT-GT stakeholders.

8. We reaffirmed the leading role of the private sector in IMT-GT cooperation. We commended the efforts of the Joint Business Council to bring greater awareness about the potential in IMT-GT. The IMT-GT Business Opportunity Directory that is going to be published in April 2009 and the successful launch of 2008 as Visit IMT-GT Year are examples of the vibrancy that has been created by the JBC. Inspired by this success, we support the initiative to declare the year 2009 as the IMT-GT Celebration Year to further promote tourism in the subregion.

9. We appreciated the Governors and Chief Ministers' Forum for their efforts in strengthening cooperation and in promoting trade, investment, tourism and cultural ties. We urged the Governors and Chief Ministers to accelerate facilitation of businesses through improved mechanisms to ensure continued growth of private sector participation.

10. We acknowledged our growing and deepening relationship with the ADB, our Development Partner for IMT-GT subregional cooperation. We urged ADB to facilitate and provide assistance to undertake the Mid-Term Review of the Roadmap. We have also tasked our Senior Officials to further explore partnerships with other entities, including countries and development institutions and requested ADB to facilitate these efforts through dialogues, road shows and other appropriate measures.

11. We reaffirmed our shared vision of an ASEAN Community of enduring peace, stability and shared prosperity in the subregion. As members of ASEAN, our IMT-GT endeavours will always seek to converge with those of ASEAN's goals, consistent with the ASEAN Charter to which our Governments shall ascribe. We will continue to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure that our activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

12. We expressed our gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

End of Joint Statement.