

Welcoming Statement

**By Deputy Governor of Surat Thani Province
for the Fourth Post Summit Meeting of the IMT-GT
Thursday, 20th January 2011
Imperial Boat House Beach Resort, Samui Island,
Surat Thani Province, Thailand**

Honorable Dr. Porametee Vimolsiri, (ดร. ปรมธี วิมลศิริ)

**Deputy Secretary General of the National Economic and
Social Development Board, Thailand**

Honorable Dr. Raldi Hendro Koestoer, (ดร. รัลดี เฮนโดร คูสตุร์)

**Senior Expert to Minister, the Coordinating Ministry for
Economic Affairs for Technology, Innovation and
Environment Affairs, Republic of Indonesia**

Honorable Mr. Razali Bin Che Mat, (มร. ราซาลี บิน เจะ หมัด)

**Director, Regional Development Section,
Economic Planning Unit, Malaysia**

Honorable Mr. Eric Sidgwick (มร. อีริค ซิดวิก)

**Principal Economist, Southeast Asian Department
Asian Development Bank**

Honorable Dr. Hassan Ibrahim (ดร. ฮัสซัน อิบราฮิม)

Director, Centre for IMT-GT Sub-regional Cooperation

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning,

It is my great honor to welcome Honorable and all guests to Koh Samui District, Surat Thani Province this morning. I am very pleased that the Asian Development Bank and NESDB selected this beautiful island of Samui to be the venue of the Fourth Summit Planning Meeting of the IMT-GT. This is indeed the first time this province had an opportunity to be part of the IMT-GT event since the province took part as member of the IMT-GT as proposed during the Third Summit of IMT-GT in Singapore.

I sincerely wish Honorable and all delegates for a pleasant stay in this charming island of the Gulf of Thailand and also hope all of you to come back for private leisure with your families and friends again in the future.

Honorable, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce some interesting information of Surat Thani Province, the sixth largest province of Thailand. Surat Thani is situated in the middle of Southern Thailand facing the Gulf of Thailand in the east. With rich soil, superb water resources and many beautiful tourist attractions both on main land and in plenty of islands, Surat Thani is the centre of agro-production as well as tourist activities. From May to January of every year, Surat Thani will be in the rainy season which bring blossom to the province plantations while from January to April is the peak season for tourists from around the world.

In terms of agro-business, Surat Thani formed well with Nakhon Si Thammarat as the potential area to be developed as comprehensive development area in the Southern Sea Board area. The area covering two provinces and some part of Chumporn will be preserved for agri-business in order for future sustainable development and to mitigate effects to the tourist sites on the mainland and also in the Gulf of Thailand.

On tourism linkages with the IMT-GT area, Surat Thani is part of Sri Vijaya Kingdom, situated more than thousand years ago along the sea sides of Southern Thailand, Kedah, Malaysia as well as many provinces in Sumatra. I believe that to promote a civilization trail along the three countries together with Samui and Surat Thani festivals, we could attract more tourists from both intra IMT-GT and international markets.

Honorable, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Surat Thani could also be perceived as the centre for food security of the sub-region from its rich soil and high potential areas for future development. The cluster of Surat Thani-Chumport-Nakhon Si Thammarat could play a role as food production of the sub-region. I would like to invite private sector to visit Surat Thani and join the future planning of the province together in order to suit your interests. I can assure you that Surat Thani's development committee will be more than happy to look into the opportunities in work together with potential IMT-GT investors.

At the same time, I believe the private sectors from Surat Thani would be more than happy too to visit potential areas for joint venture in Indonesia and Malaysia. Please feel free to invite us.

Honorable, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to take this opportunity to present the short movie showing potential areas for future development of Surat Thani province awaiting for right partners from the IMT-GT.

Thank you.
