

## Opening Remarks

**By Hon. Porameteer Vimolsiri**

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

**At the 4<sup>th</sup> Post Summit Planning Meeting of the IMT-GT**

**20 January 2011**

**Samui Island, Surat Thani Province, Thailand**

*Honorable Dr. Raldi Hendro Koestoer, Senior Expert to Minister,  
the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia,  
for Technology, Innovation and Environment Affairs*

*Honorable Mr. Razali bin Che Mat, Director, Regional Development  
Section, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department,  
Malaysia*

*Honorable Representative of Chief Ministers and Governors from the  
IMT-GT States and Provinces*

*Honorable Chairperson of IMT-GT Business Council*

*Honorable Representative from the Asian Development Bank*

*Honorable Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, and Economic  
Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia*

*Honorable Representative from the Government of Japan, IMT-GT  
Development Partner*

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and good morning*

Let me first express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Theerayuth Eamtrakul (ธีระยุทธ เตียมตรกุล), Governor of Surat Thani province, for his warm welcome to all Honorable to Samui Island, Surat Thani Province, one of

the most beautiful provinces in the Gulf of Thailand. This is the first time Surat Thani has the opportunity to be such an important venue for IMT-GT activities. Before this event, Surat Thani had been welcomed to be member of the IMT-GT along with other five provinces in upper southern Thailand during the Third IMT-GT Summit in Singapore. At that time, Thailand recognized that the IMT-GT area in Malaysia and Indonesia had grown steadily to cover most of Malacca strait and also most of Sumatra Island. That movement need proper reflect from Thailand in order to enhance economic opportunities with enriched areas of Indonesia and Malaysia. The last sub-region of Thailand, Surat Thani, Chumporn, Ranong, Phuket, Phang Nga, and Krabi are the area enriched with good soil and plentiful of water resources, prompt for further development in term of agriculture products as well as agro-business. The public and private sectors in Surat Thani are also from high caliber as they are one of main engine of growth of the southern Thailand. One of the high success politicians, our Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Suthep Tuagsuban is also from this province. The areas are also enriched with superb tourist attraction as Honorable may have some experiences already. Therefore, I am confidence that Honorable and all guests will have a pleasant stay here and may find some opportunities for private visits again and again as the governor of Surat Thani has already rendered the invitation.

I am also delighted that many delegates from the IMT-GT provinces and states and IMT-GT Business Council have interested to exchange their opinions with us here. This is the good signal to the leaders' directives that urge the IMT-GT stakeholders from all level to attend the IMT-GT activities to voice their concerns and supports to the movement of IMT-GT activities right from the start.

***Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

During your stay, please do not hesitate to ask for any helps or information you may need from the secretariat staff of NESDB and I also

believe that all Surat Thani staff, our co-host would also like to assist Honorable and all guests.

***Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Our leaders had well recognized that IMT-GT had been brought to be closer and closer to ASEAN since we had the first IMT-GT Summit arranged back to back with the Eleventh ASEAN Summit in 2006. The Master Plan of ASEAN Connectivity has been pushed for IMT-GT to be fastened as one of the main branch of ASEAN. The people-to-people contact was also raised by the leaders in order for efficient utilization of IMT-GT infrastructure. I believe that this directive lead us not only to the end of the first IMT-GT Roadmap 2007-2011 but also to the next Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016. It is also our duty to select the other priority fields and details program of action as well as the business process to lead us through the new phase.

I would like to urge all IMT-GT stakeholders to feel free to exchange opinion among us and also with our development partners, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in order to achieve the mutual desire of new mechanism and new groups of interests with technical support from our development partners.

I would also like to thank the Center for IMT-GT Sub-regional Cooperation or CIMT and ADB for their proactive assistance and the excellent support in arranging of this meeting and also on CIMT's coordination efforts to bring in our development partners to join us in this meeting in order to assure the fruitful outcomes.

***Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

After the recent global economic turmoil and its unavoidable impacts on the regional and sub-regional economy, we now see the light

at the end of tunnel. Asian region could survive quickly and become the engine of growth in the world economic arena. I truly believe that with our strong and continual cooperation, this sub-region, with the support from IMT-GT scheme, could also survive and even grow further. I also believe that the relatively high growth of this sub-region in terms of agricultural products and processing goods, reflecting benefit from our strategic location, and well-planned of logistic connectivity will importantly enhance our opportunities to be back bone of Asia and the world in terms of food and energy security.

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am confident that our deliberations today will result in valuable inputs which will improve the IMT-GT cooperation and lead us to more positive achievements, and that Thailand looks forward to advancing mutually beneficial relationships among the three IMT-GT Countries and all our development partners.

I wish this meeting every success.

Thank you.

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