

SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE INFORMAL SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

**Koh Samui, Surat Thani Province, Thailand
20 – 21 January 2011**

(i) Conduct of IMT-GT Summit

- As currently ASEAN practices two summits in a year – the first summit being among only the ASEAN member countries and the second among ASEAN member countries and dialogue partners, the IMT-GT Senior Officials decided to hold the IMT-GT Summit back to back with the first ASEAN Summit. This is inline with the status of IMT-GT as an ASEAN Subregional Grouping.
- In this regard, as a measure of transition it was agreed to hold the next IMT-GT Summit (6th IMT-GT Summit) in November 2011 (ASEAN + Dialogue Partners) followed by the 7th IMT-GT Summit in May 2013 (ASEAN Internal).

(ii) Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2006 – 2012

- The IMT-GT Senior Officials directed that preparations for the IB 2012 – 2016 be immediately started. The Working Groups (WGs) and the Joint Business Council (JBC) were instructed to identify their projects and activities within the existing 12 Flagship Programmes (from the Roadmap 2007 – 2011), and those projects that they would not be able to complete by the end of 2011 to be carried over to the IB 2012 – 2016. The IB preparation would closely be coordinated by National Secretariats, CIMT and ADB.
- The IB 2012 – 2016 would outline the Terms of Reference on rotation of country chairmanship of each WG.

(iii) Legalisation of CIMT

- Thailand informed that prior to approval by their Parliament on CIMT's establishment, Thailand would need to go through their public hearing process. Thailand requested CIMT to furnish NESDB its Business Plan and Annual Financial Plan. Thailand also pledged that their public hearing process would take three months, and ensured that their Parliament's

approval could be obtained by June 2011. The conclusion of CIMT legalisation is expected by October 2011.

(iv) High-Value Agriculture Conference and Expo

- As directed by the Leaders during the 5th IMT-GT Summit, Malaysia presented the outline of the Conference and Expo. This is a first joint effort between IMT-GT and BIMP-EAGA. Malaysia also informed the meeting that the Government of Japan had confirmed its Technical and Financial Support through a letter dated 19 January 2011.
- Malaysia was also in the process of identifying the form of specific assistance from other partners namely ADB, German International Cooperation (GIZ), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and China.
- The conference and expo is tentatively scheduled to take place in November 2011 in Melaka.

(v) Integration with ASEAN

- Following the Leaders directive for ADB to assist IMT-GT in fostering greater engagement with ASEAN, ADB had informed that a Technical Assistance Programme: *Promoting Links and Improving Coordination Among the GMS, BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Subregional Programmes and with ASEAN* amounting to USD400,000.00 had been approved.
- The first meeting towards this initiative would be jointly conducted with BIMP-EAGA on 22 February 2011 in Jakarta (tentatively at ASEAN Secretariat).

(vi) Framework of Cooperation (FoC) with Japan

- CIMT will prepare the draft FoC between IMT-GT and Japan by mid-Feb 2011, and circulate the draft to the IMT-GT National Secretariats for the Senior Officials' consideration. Meanwhile, for short-term and immediate collaborations with Japan, the WGs and JBC were requested to come up with specific project proposals.

(vii) Collaboration with ERIA

- As a follow up to the Biodiesel Symposium sponsored by ERIA in Hat Yai, Thailand on 1-2 September 2010, ERIA will initiated

a study to map out the strategies towards commercialization of the biodiesel industry in the IMT-GT subregion.

- Senior Officials also agreed that there is no necessity for a Memorandum of Understanding on the areas of cooperations between IMT-GT and ERIA. ERIA's service will be engaged as and when they are needed by IMT-GT.

(ix) Working Groups Meetings Format and Meetings

- Being the final year of the Flagship 2007 – 2011, the SOs decided that for 2011 the WG Meeting format would continue as conventionally practiced previously, meaning each WG Meeting would be hosted and held separately on different dates and venues.
- In the coming WG meetings, the WGs are expected to finalise planning their projects and activities for 2011, and whatever remaining in the existing 12 Flagship Programmes to be carried over to the IB 2012 – 2016. The WG Meetings are expected to take place in March to April 2011.