

**THE IMT-GT ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT 2007 – 2011
- REVIEW AND WORKING GROUP LEAD COUNTRY ROTATION**

I) REVIEW

1.1) Background:

- 1) The projects and activities in the IMT-GT Roadmap for Development 2007 – 2011 is in the process of implementation since the Roadmap was endorsed during the 2nd IMT-GT Leaders' Summit in 12 January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines. During the 2nd IMT-GT Planning Meeting in 29 January, in Phuket, Thailand, it was estimated that the overall progress of the Roadmap was 15 percent.
- 2) Many constructive comments and views have been heard on the Roadmap. These comments were received mostly during Working Groups Meetings, and during individual discussions with Senior Officials and other stake-holders of IMT-GT. For example, a number of significant suggestions were voiced out during the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture, Agro-Industry and Environment (WGAAE) in 29 – 30 May 2008, in Phuket.
- 3) The Roadmap is a living document, where the projects and activities need to be improved and reviewed. Mid-2009 is mid-term for the Roadmap, where the projects and activities listed in the document would be timely for these exercises.

1.2) Improvement and Review Exercise:

The following initiatives will be conducted in the improvement and review process:

- 1) Undertaking of the review process commencing from the 2nd Quarter to 3rd Quarter of 2009;
- 2) Categorisation of all IMT-GT projects and activities in the Roadmap into Government-Led, Business-Oriented and Technical Cooperation (or Capacity Building), and identifying clearly the potential drivers (e.g. Federal Government, State/Provincial Government, JBC, etc.)
- 3) Identification of five “priority” projects to be implemented each year for 2010, 2011 and 2012, for each of the Working Group. More focus is to be stressed on projects that are Business-Oriented, and projects that are of “high impact”. “High impact” projects here can be loosely defined as projects that, no matter how small it is, can provide high economic value to the immediate workers and local citizens. In this exercise, rather than proposing new projects, the existing projects in the Roadmap should be further strengthened with elements than make them “high impact”;
- 4) Preparing the “Project Profiles” of the above priority projects describing some details about the project, its time-line, expected deliverables and benefits, and perhaps costing. (The main problem about the existing projects and activities listed in the Roadmap is that they are merely topics). The Working Groups being responsible for these projects, will prepare the project profiles with CIMT as facilitator;
- 5) Considering the implementation of score-card to gauge progress of the IMT-GT process.

II) WORKING GROUP LEAD COUNTRY ROTATION

2.1) Background:

- 1) In the 14th SOM on 4 – 5 September 2007, in Songkhla, Thailand, during the discussion on the Report of WG-HAPAS, Malaysia suggested that the Lead Country for the WG-HAPAS be rotated amongst IMT-GT Member Countries. Thailand welcomed the suggestion, and proposed that the proposal should be considered together with the rotation of Lead Country for other Working Groups.
- 2) The Lead Country for the existing WGs has actually dated back since the beginning of IMT-GT in 1993, when the “Working Groups” were then called Implementing Technical Groups (ITGs). When the IMT-GT Roadmap for Development (2007 – 2011) were implemented beginning from 2007, all five ITGs were transformed into Working Groups, basically consisting of the same economic sectors. The only addition was the Working Group on Halal Products and Services (WH-HAPAS). In other words, except for WG-HAPAS, the Lead Country of a particular WG/ITG has never experienced any change or rotation for the past 15 years.
- 3) Considering that the existing Roadmap for Development (2007 – 2011) is a five-year action-plan, to have any significance of the change, a new Lead Country must have about half of the five-year period left for it to lead the Working Group. This means that the rotation, if it were to be proceeded, should be made effective from the SOM of this year (October 2008) or at the latest, the SOM of the following year (2009).

2.2) Proposals of the TOR:

- 4) Starting from the existing First IMT-GT Roadmap for Development (2007 – 2011), future plans for development of the IMT-GT will similarly be cascaded into five-year action plans to be called by the same name, ***Roadmap for Development***. Hence, the next two five-year plans will be called Second IMT-GT Roadmap for Development (2012 – 2016), and Third IMT-GT Roadmap for Development (2017 – 2022). And so on.
- 5) It is more effective, perhaps, for a Lead Country to lead a particular Working Group during the whole of the five-year period of the Roadmap for Development. Hence, each new Five-Year IMT-GT Roadmap for Development will start with a new Lead Country for each WG.
- 6) If the rotation were to be effected in 2008, or 2009, which is about 2 or 3-year period before the end of the First Roadmap for Development (2007 – 2011), then the Lead Country will remain to lead the particular WG until the end of the Second IMT-GT Roadmap for Development (2012 – 2016). This means that for the first rotation, the Lead Country will lead a particular WG for a period of seven or eight years. Subsequent to this the period will only be five years.

2.3) Mechanism for Rotation:

- 7) Each new five-year IMT-GT Roadmap for Development will come along with the candidate member-country that will lead a particular WG.
- 8) The offer of which country will lead a Working Group at the beginning of a Five-Year IMT-GT Roadmap for Development may come directly from the respective member country. As a norm, a country shall not continue to lead a Working Group that it has led for the previous five-year period. But for special cases, or on special requests, if both other member countries have no objection, that request can be granted.
- 9) To strengthen the justifications for any member country to prefer or choose to lead a new WG in the next Five-Year Roadmap for Development, the member country can present its government's previous and existing achievements as well as its plan and strategies over the medium or long-term that is in harmony with the new IMT-GT Roadmap for Development.
- 10) Any discussions of which member country will lead which WG will be done in Special SOMs, with a small group of Senior Officials rather than the annual SOM where the audience is large. Any discussion on this matter will be conducted with the usual atmosphere and spirit of ASEAN hospitality and cordiality.

*Prepared by CIMT:
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