



**JOINT LEADERS' STATEMENT
FIFTEENTH INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE SUMMIT
15TH IMT-GT SUMMIT
11 MAY 2023, LABUAN BAJO – INDONESIA**

“LEARNING FROM THE PAST AND SHAPING THE FUTURE”

1. We, the Leaders of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, meet today in Labuan Bajo, the Republic of Indonesia for the 15th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit chaired by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. We recall the establishment of IMT-GT by its three founding member countries in 1993 with an aim of accelerating economic growth and transformation of the subregion by exploiting complementarities, comparative advantages and enhancing competitiveness towards an **integrated, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable** subregion by 2036.
3. We recognise the significant achievements of IMT-GT over the past 30 years in advancing economic growth, narrowing the development gap within and among its members, empowering all stakeholders to play a role in the subregional cooperation to ensure the people as the centre piece of the subregional economic development. The subregional cooperation has been expanded to interconnect 35 states and provinces through six economic corridors. We, therefore, encourage all stakeholders to uphold the development progress and adhere to the priorities of IMT-GT cooperation to shape stronger subregional cooperation.
4. We are pleased to witness the increase of the subregional GDP from US\$127.9 billion in 1993 to US\$405.7 billion in 2021, while the subregional trade also expands from US\$97.9 billion to US\$618 billion. We noted that our subregional labour force has also quadrupled for the past thirty years. In this regard, we would encourage all stakeholders to utilise our competitive labour force to further accelerate the economic growth and development of the subregion.
5. We are aware of the current tough challenges faced by the subregion due to the global economic downturn and the continuity of post-pandemic recovery that may delay our effort to rebound the subregional economic growth. In this acknowledgement, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen cooperation and accelerate the progress of the social and economic development in the subregion and address the emerging challenges collectively. We also recognise and encourage all stakeholders to anticipate climate change and food security issues and incorporate the necessary efforts at the subregional development level and during economic recovery.

6. We reaffirm our unwavering effort in post-pandemic tourism recovery. We are delighted to inaugurate the **Visit IMT-GT Year 2023-2025** as the subregional collaboration to jointly revive our tourism industry. We call all states and provincial governments, relevant agencies, and other IMT-GT stakeholders to align their tourism initiatives with the visit year campaign and organise joint tourism activities to promote the subregion as a single tourism destination.
7. We underscore the importance of food security and sustainability of the supply chain in the subregion. We appreciate the initiatives that empower the young generation in the agricultural sector and the adoption of technology to improve the productivity of our subregional agricultural products. We also remain committed to strengthening the subregion as the global base for food production and other agro-based commodities. We urge relevant working groups to accelerate the adoption of cross-cutting agro-based industry technology to further develop high-value added and competitive subregional agriculture products whilst assuring the benefit of smallholder farmers.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to leverage the potential of our subregional as a global halal hub. We acknowledge the strong commitment of our halal stakeholders to continuously formulate concrete initiatives to further strengthen the subregional halal ecosystem, improving the halal expertise, and accelerating halal certifications. We call for collective actions to promote subregional halal products and services to new markets in collaboration with potential IMT-GT partners. We also urge to strengthen trade on halal products and services, to accelerate the implementation of halal blockchain, and to promote the development of halal industrial parks.
9. We emphasise the pivotal role of Physical Connectivity Projects (PCPs) as the backbone in realising a more socially and economically integrated subregion. We acknowledge the progress made in developing 36 projects across the subregion worth US\$ 57 billion. We urge relevant stakeholders to ensure the PCPs are timely developed in order to further promote multimodal connectivity amongst the subregional economic corridors. We call for relevant stakeholders to accelerate the multimodal connectivity amongst the economic corridors, such as the implementation of RoRo Dumai-Melaka multimodal transport and the second bridge to link Sungai Golok-Rantau Panjang. Furthermore, we encourage relevant stakeholders to explore the possibility to rectify two agreements of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport and the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Interstate Transport to explore the potential transport facilitation as an avenue to align subregional initiatives with the ASEAN's.
10. We remain steadfast in continuously pursuing integrated subregional trade and production networks by streamlining trade facilitation and promoting investment to explore low-hanging initiatives to amongst the economic corridors by involving the local governments and private sectors. We note the progress of cooperation in the rubber industry after the signing of the MoU on IMT-GT Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation. We also note the development of the Project Implementation Team on Palm Oil Cooperation to increase socio-economic development and to elevate the value of subregional strategic agriculture commodities in the global supply chain. We urge member countries to expedite the signing of Framework of Cooperation in Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine Procedures to facilitate cross border movement of goods and people in the growth triangle.

- 11.** We underscore the vital role of digital transformation in accelerating the subregional economic growth as well as facilitating social interaction in the subregion. We encourage more cross-sectoral collaborations to leverage ICT and digital technologies in accelerating the implementation of projects and programmes in the subregion. To achieve inclusive digital transformation, we should focus on the development of a supportive business environment by utilising soft and hard digital infrastructures for business purposes, such as techno park and cross border e-commerce to ensure the maximum potential of this opportunity, improvement on digital literacy should come concurrently.
- 12.** We applaud the commitment of 31 cities in the subregion for implementing a total of 146 green city-related projects. We support subregional initiatives that aim at reducing GHG emissions, addressing marine pollution, and promoting Blue, Green, and Circular economy that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We urge all stakeholders to implement Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework in achieving sustainability and resilience in the subregion. Moreover, we encourage relevant stakeholders to explore renewable energy-generating opportunities and to develop collective initiatives to ensure subregional energy security as well as energy transition, such as electric vehicle to tap the new energy market. We also urge relevant stakeholders to strengthen collaboration with local government and private sectors to continuously implement the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) and other green projects as well as pursue green investment opportunities.
- 13.** We intend to accelerate innovation and prudent growth in IMT-GT subregion through the reskilling and upskilling human capital and dynamic creative industries. We highly appreciate the collective effort made by our stakeholders in implementing various capacity building programmes and continuously developing technical and competency skills standards in response to the labour market. We encourage relevant stakeholders to remain committed to building a more competitive subregional labour force by continuously updating the technical and vocational training programmes. We also determine to facilitate labour mobility through mutual recognition of subregional competency skills and a more efficient labour market information system.
- 14.** We reaffirm the central role of local government, private sectors, and academia in moving the subregional cooperation forward. We encourage active participation of IMT-GT Chief Ministers and Governors, IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC), and IMT-GT University Network (UNINET) in the initiation and implementation of subregional development projects with all stakeholders. We look forward to the implementation of collective initiatives under the six subregional economic corridors to foster economic activities and connectivity in the subregion.
- 15.** We thank Asia Development Bank (ADB), our Development Partner, for its staunch commitment through the years. ADB's analytical work on economic corridors and special economic zones identify measures to increase trade, tourism, and investment, create jobs, and build resilience across the IMT-GT. We also acknowledge ADB's assistance in fostering green growth through smart and liveable cities, bankable projects, low carbon transport, energy transition mechanisms, and sustainable financing; promoting tourism recovery communications and capacity building; training IMT-GT officials in COVID-19 resilience; and deepening cooperation with ASEAN and

other subregions. We request ADB to expand support for IMT-GT cooperation especially in achieving actions set forth in the Implementation Blueprint 2022-2026.

- 16.** We reaffirm our commitment to enhance cooperation with ASEAN through possible areas of collaboration. To advance regional economic integration and accelerate the revival of the tourism sector, we will continue aligning our projects and programmes to support ASEAN's regional economic agenda, with particular focus on supporting the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism. We commend the implementation of the Plan of Action between the ASEAN Secretariat and Sub-Regional Secretariats including IMT-GT through the exchange of logos between ASEAN and IMT-GT on ASEAN Tourism Website and encourage the ASEAN Secretariat and IMT-GT Secretariat to continue identifying practical and concrete projects under the Plan of Action, particularly in the areas of mutual interest such as clean energy and sustainable urbanisation. We acknowledge the value of forming alliances with other nations to expand the subregion's potential and look forward to enhancing our collaboration with ASEAN Partners.
- 17.** We reiterate the importance of having collaboration with various development and strategic partners which will greatly assist IMT-GT in advancing the project implementation and accelerate development in the subregion. We appreciate the engagement of UN-ESCAP, IGES/CCET, IsDB, ILO, and DEEP in IMT-GT programmes. We also welcome the progress of cooperation between IMT-GT and the Republic of India. Hence, we encourage all relevant stakeholders to seize every possible cooperation between IMT-GT and development partners. We also look forward to expanding areas of cooperation with more potential partners.
- 18.** We express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia as our host for their warm hospitality, excellent arrangements, and chairmanship for the 15th IMT-GT Summit.

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