



JOINT STATEMENT

OF THE 30th INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE (IMT-GT) MINISTERIAL MEETING

12 September 2024

1. We, the IMT-GT Ministers, held our 30th Meeting on 12 September 2024 in Johor, Malaysia, under the chairmanship of H.E. Rafizi Ramli, Minister of Economy of Malaysia. The meeting was attended by H.E. Dr. Edi Prio Pambudi, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Sasithorn Palattadej, Senior Advisor, National Economic and Social Development Council of the Kingdom of Thailand.
2. We reaffirmed our commitment to the IMT-GT Vision 2036 and commended the good progress on the implementation of the Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2022-2026. We appreciated the efforts made to conduct the Mid-Term Review of the IB 2022-2026 and looked forward to the achievement of all IB 2022-2026 goals and targets.
3. Recognising the prevailing global challenges of climate change and geopolitical uncertainties on subregional economic growth, we reiterated the importance of strengthening our engagement and cooperation within IMT-GT and with external partners, to enhance subregional integration, competitiveness and resilience.
4. We noted with satisfaction the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. The subregional trade has surged from USD 350.9 billion in 2020 to USD 660 billion in 2023, showcasing positive growth. Moreover, total investment within the subregion has also risen to USD 48.1 billion in 2023 from USD 26.1 billion in 2020. This progress inspired us to forge ahead, steadfastly working towards achieving a resilient economic recovery and fostering continued growth.
5. We underscored the importance of sustainable agricultural development in achieving climate resilient food systems, with a primary focus on improving agricultural efficiency and welfare of farmer. We emphasised the promotion of the blue economy, recognising IMT-GT as a vital area for economic growth and marine biodiversity within the subregion. We encouraged the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry (WGAA) to collaborate with other Working Groups to enhance agricultural infrastructure, thereby improving farmers' accessibility and increasing trade. We also committed to empowering young farmers through diversification, technology adoption, and sustainable agricultural

practices. Moreover, we attach great importance to enhance cooperation on palm oil and rubber, prioritising the strengthening of our smallholders' capacity to increase productivity in a sustainable manner.

6. In light of an increase in global demand and consumer awareness on Halal products and services, we underscored the remarkable potential of the Halal industry in spurring economic growth. We noted with appreciation the collaborative efforts under the IMT-GT Halal Route, coupled with the continuing cooperation to enhance expertise of professionals in Halal-related industries. We looked forward to Indonesia's progress on the flagship project on Halal Industrial Hub and welcomed Malaysia's initiative to raise awareness and develop the Halal industry ecosystems through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. We also welcomed Thailand's proactive steps in establishing the National Halal Industry Committee (NHIC), which was expected to bolster the economy and open new markets for Halal products and services.
7. We acknowledged the progress made by the Working Group on Tourism (WGT) on the implementation of projects and encouraged to continued support to the Visit IMT-GT Year 2023-2025 campaign to position IMT-GT as a single destination and drive tourism recovery through planning an integrated marketing strategy and collaborative activities, creating innovative tourism packages and promotional contents, as well as organising captivating events. We also supported the continued mainstreaming of sustainable and inclusive tourism in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We welcomed the convening of the IMT-GT Tourism and Transport Dialogue in Samosir Island, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia, which promoted collaboration with relevant IMT-GT stakeholders to enhance subregional connectivity and ensure safe and seamless cross-border travel.
8. We commended the significant advancements in the development of Physical Connectivity Projects and encouraged further enhancement of subregional connectivity, especially along the six Economic Corridors, to boost economic development in the subregion. We encouraged the Working Group on Transport Connectivity (WGTC) to explore the establishment of Ro-Ro connectivity and expedite the progress of the Melaka-Dumai Ro-Ro to give greater impetus for multimodal transport in the subregion. We also encouraged WGTC to collaborate with subnational governments through the Chief Ministers' and Governors' Forum (CMGF) and the Joint Business Council (JBC) to ensure that subregional transport connectivity projects address logistics and transport challenges, open new business opportunities, and contribute to the improvement of broader regional connectivity.
9. We welcomed the achievements of the Working Group on Trade and Investment Facilitation (WGTF) in finalising the Framework of Cooperation in Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine, aiming to facilitate seamless mobility of people and goods across borders. We encouraged the WGTF to prioritise harmonisation of procedures to facilitate trade and attract global investment. Furthermore, we urged

WGTI to initiate collaboration among all three Member Countries, particularly in creating robust rubber supply chains under the Memorandum of Understanding on Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation, to strengthen integration of the subregion's major industries in global value chains.

10. We recognised the transformative power of digital innovation in driving economic growth and committed to fostering sustainable and inclusive growth by leveraging digital technologies to bridge the economic divide and enhance competitiveness. We underscored the urgency to prioritise the development of robust digital infrastructure, implementation of advanced e-governance solutions, and strengthening of our cybersecurity frameworks. We aimed to empower our workforce with the capabilities needed to thrive in the digital economy by investing in digital skills and talent development. We looked forward to the progress of the IMT-GT e-commerce platform as a significant initiative that will enhance regional trade and create a dynamic marketplace for businesses and consumers alike.
11. We acknowledged the importance of urgent and coordinated actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and foster sustainable economic growth. We recognised the imperative of intensifying our efforts in reducing carbon emissions, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and promoting renewable energy adoption. We underscored the need for strong and active collaboration between all IMT-GT stakeholders and development partners to achieve substantial progress in environmental stewardship. Recognising the importance of accelerating our transition towards a resilient and environmentally responsible economy, such as circular, green and blue economy, we encouraged scaling up sustainable development initiatives at all levels.
12. We emphasised the need to increase collaboration and coordination with all stakeholders to enhance human resources in the subregion to meet the demands of more advanced industries amid the rapidly changing economy and technological developments. We encouraged cross-border collaboration in research and development which is crucial to align talent supply and demand, necessitating intensified strategic cooperation, technology-sharing sessions, and commercialising workshop programmes to ensure workforce preparedness for the future. We also emphasised the importance of fostering a competitive workforce, particularly through education and skills development in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as digital talent development. We reaffirmed the importance of strategies to align TVET programmes with industry demands and to enhance global competitiveness by addressing talent gaps in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, bio-circular green economy model, and blue economy.
13. We acknowledged the key role of the University Network (UNINET) in initiating new ideas and activities to further enhance economic development in the subregion. We appreciated the active engagement, particularly in involving students across the subregion through the IMT-GT Varsity Carnival and IMT-GT UNINET Student Mobility Programme. We underscored the need to

strengthen synergy between UNINET and other IMT-GT stakeholders through a clear mechanism to further accelerate the implementation of IMT-GT projects and ensure broader impact of these initiatives.

14. We expressed our appreciation for the commitment of local administrations in advancing sustainable development in the subregion through the Green Council (GC) and Green Cities Mayor Council (GCMC) mechanisms. We recognised the efforts in the formulation of the new 14 Green Cities Action Plans (GCAP) in IMT-GT. We encouraged the city governments together with relevant stakeholders to implement the actions identified under the GCAP. We looked forward to enhanced collaboration and synergy between the Working Groups and subnational governments in promoting economic cooperation and implementing subregional projects.
15. We welcomed the progress made on the implementation of the IMT-GT Transboundary Pilot Local Facilitation Project in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and members of the IMT-GT Green Cities, in the areas of solid waste management and urban greening. We also urged CIMT to explore potential collaboration with other partners to support the implementation of IMT-GT projects across the Working Groups, especially those aligned with the strategic pillars of IMT-GT.
16. We applauded the IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC) for its commitment to strengthening its role within IMT-GT cooperation. We appreciated JBC's support in implementing subregional projects such as Integrated Solid Waste Management and Eco-Schools. We looked forward to greater collaboration between JBC, IMT-GT Working Groups and UNINET. We encouraged the JBC to explore new business opportunities by working closely with the Working Groups and subnational governments to implement viable projects.
17. We acknowledge the unwavering support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as our Regional Development Partner for almost two decades. We thank ADB for its wide-ranging support in fostering low carbon development via green and smart cities, integrated transport and green financing; promoting tourism cooperation and use of digital technologies; developing oceans health and the blue economy through knowledge sharing, stakeholder engagement and mobilising resources; building capacities of IMT-GT government officials in policy, planning and project management; and deepening inter-subregional cooperation with ASEAN. ADB's strategic guidance in advancing economic corridors and SEZ development helped shape the next generation of IMT-GT projects to enhance cross-border activities especially in the border areas. We request ADB to continue and expand its support to the subregion including operationalising economic corridors under the Implementation Blueprint 2022-2026 and beyond.
18. We acknowledged the important role of the IMT-GT subregion as a building block for ASEAN integration and regional community building effort. We are dedicated to ensure that IMT-GT programmes and projects remain aligned and consistent

with the ASEAN agenda. In this regard, we expressed hope for greater engagement with ASEAN at the sectoral levels, in ensuring stronger alignment of the initiatives of IMT-GT Working Groups with ASEAN Sectoral Work Plans. We looked forward to the finalisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and in strengthening collaboration with ASEAN and fostering a more inclusive and sustainable region.

19. We agreed to convene the 31st IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings in Thailand in 2025.
20. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 30th IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.