



JOINT LEADERS' STATEMENT
SIXTEENTH INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE SUMMIT
16TH IMT-GT SUMMIT
27 MAY 2025, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

1. We, the Leaders of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Kingdom of Thailand, meet today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 16th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit, chaired by H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.
2. We reassert our commitment to the IMT-GT Vision 2036 and commend the continuous progress made in implementing the Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2022–2026. As the first half of the IB 2022–2026 has concluded, we emphasise the importance of transitioning into the second half with renewed determination to achieve all its goals and targets. In this regard, we urge all stakeholders, including partners and development partners, to intensify collaboration and ensure the successful realisation of the IB 2022–2026 objectives within the remaining timeframe.
3. We recognise global challenges affecting the subregion, including climate change, geopolitical uncertainties, and trade tensions. Hence, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering engagement and cooperation within the IMT-GT framework and with external partners. We emphasise the necessity of deeper integration, competitiveness, and resilience to navigate uncertainties and seize emerging trade opportunities.
4. We welcome the significant growth in subregional trade, which increased from USD 367.9 billion in 2019 to USD 659.7 billion in 2023, demonstrating robust and dynamic economic activity within the subregion. Similarly, total investment saw a substantial rise, growing from USD 25.1 billion to USD 48.1 billion over the same period, surpassing pre-pandemic figures. This progress reflects the resilience of the subregional economy, validating our strong commitment in advancing economic recovery through cooperation.
5. We recognise the urgency of building a climate-resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food system in the subregion, especially in light of current global disruption such as trade tensions and volatile commodity prices. In this regard, we call on the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (WGAA) to promote sustainable and inclusive subregional agricultural practices. This includes adopting green, blue, and circular economy principles by strengthening the agro-ecological approaches and the active empowerment of youth and smallholder farmers to ensure equitable growth. We also emphasise

the importance of developing resilience through knowledge-intensive agriculture by adopting the appropriate technologies, smart farming systems, and climate resilience practices. In this context, we urge the WGAA to strengthen cross-border agricultural value chains, which are critical to enhance food security, reducing supply vulnerabilities, and improving regional competitiveness.

6. Additionally, we look forward to the signing of the IMT-GT Memorandum of Understanding on Palm Oil Cooperation to strengthen cross-border agricultural value chains in the subregion, upholding the implementation of sustainable practices and increasing the competitiveness of palm oil in the global market.
7. We recognise the vast potential of the halal market and appreciate continuous efforts to accelerate halal certification and enhance expertise in halal-related industries. We encourage collaboration to develop a robust halal ecosystem that fosters trade and investment both within the subregion and globally. We emphasise the importance of developing and optimising halal industrial parks as strategic hubs to support the growth of halal-related industries, enhance export capacity, and attract global investment. We fully support the implementation of halal industry empowerment programmes, which include facilitation of halal certification, development of halal industrial zones, as well as guidance and assistance to halal industry players. We also urge the Working Group on Halal Products and Services to engage key stakeholders in supporting small and medium enterprises to expand their role in halal exports. Additionally, we emphasise the importance of developing and optimising halal industrial parks to enhance exports and jointly promoting subregional halal products and services in global markets. Together, these efforts will position the IMT-GT subregion as a global player in the halal market.
8. We acknowledge the commitment and collaborative efforts in implementing the Visit IMT-GT Year 2023-2025 campaign to support the recovery of the subregional tourism sector and anticipated its successful outcomes. We welcome the campaign's positive impact, which has resulted in 59.1 million international tourist arrivals to IMT-GT in 2024, surpassing the pre-pandemic levels of 50.1 million in 2019. We encourage the Working Group on Tourism (WGT) to continuously promote sustainable tourism while developing innovative tourism packages. Additionally, we encourage cross-sectoral collaboration with local governments, the private sector, UNINET, transportation stakeholders, and immigration authorities to create a more attractive, well-connected, and seamless cross-border tourism experience, thereby reinforcing the subregion's positioning as a leading sustainable and responsible tourism destination.
9. We recognise geographical proximity as a fundamental strength of subregional cooperation in achieving a more integrated economy and applaud the progress made in developing multimodal Physical Connectivity Projects (PCPs) with a total value of over USD 56 billion. We urge relevant stakeholders to expedite

the development of the PCPs to effectively connect the six Economic Corridors. We encourage the Working Group on Transport Connectivity (WGTC) to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST) and the ratification of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Cross-Border Transport of Passengers (ASEAN CBTP) to enhance transport facilitation as a means of creating seamless cross-border movement within the subregion while ensuring alignment of subregional initiatives with ASEAN's broader connectivity goals. Additionally, we encourage relevant stakeholders to explore new air and sea connectivity opportunities to further strengthen subregional linkages.

10. We reaffirm the commitment to advancing integrated subregional trade and production networks by streamlining trade facilitation and promoting investment. We welcome the signing of the Framework of Cooperation in Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine Procedures (FoC in CIQ) and look forward to its implementation to facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people in the subregion. We encourage the Working Group on Trade and Investment Facilitation (WGTF) to strengthen collaboration with the private sector, local governments and academia, particularly to expedite the implementation of initiatives under the IMT-GT Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation, aiming to build robust and sustainable rubber supply chains.
11. We recognise digital innovation as a key driver of economic growth, and we reaffirm our commitment in leveraging technology for inclusive development and enhanced subregional competitiveness. We encourage the Working Group on Digital Transformation (WGDT) to continue facilitating and promoting digital adoption among businesses, particularly MSMEs, to boost their competitiveness and expand cross-border commerce. Additionally, we urge WGDT to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity, ensuring a secure and resilient digital ecosystem in the subregion.
12. We reaffirm our commitment to positioning IMT-GT as a global model for sustainable urban development, natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation. We appreciate the progress made by the Working Group on Environment (WGE) in advancing environmental initiatives, including waste management, and ecological restoration. We encourage relevant stakeholders to explore opportunities in the blue economy to drive sustainable economic growth while protecting the subregion's marine ecosystems. We further acknowledge the importance of advancing the Green City Action Plan (GCAP) initiatives and strengthening ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) practices across IMT-GT cities to enhance sustainability standards and resilience. We emphasise the importance of collaborative actions among subnational governments, the private sector, UNINET, and development partners to effectively implement green projects under the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF). These collective actions

are critical to enhancing the sustainability, resilience, and liveability of IMT-GT cities while attracting greater green investment to the subregion.

13. We appreciate the progress made in enhancing and harmonising competency skill standards across the subregional workforce, through Training of Trainers and vocational training programmes. We encourage the Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD) to further align workforce skills with evolving industry demands and emerging technologies in response to rapid economic and technological shifts. Additionally, we emphasise the importance of mutual recognition of subregional competency skills and urged WGHRD to consider how to synergise and develop the IMT labour market information system.
14. We recognise the vital role of youths in driving regional economic development while advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth play a crucial role in championing inclusive entrepreneurship, promoting green innovation, climate action, fostering digital transformation, and create economic opportunities that prioritise sustainability and social impact. Their participation in policymaking, education, and community engagement helps bridge inequalities, strengthen partnerships, and build resilient economies that align with SDG targets and IMT-GT's goals.
15. We recognise the vital role of the University Network (UNINET) in driving innovation, fostering student engagement, and supporting development in the subregion. We encourage closer collaboration between UNINET and IMT-GT stakeholders, including working groups, national and subnational governments and the private sector, to produce insightful studies and policy recommendations that strengthen the effectiveness of subregional projects and ensure their alignment with IMT-GT's goals. We acknowledge UNINET's contribution in supporting the implementation of key initiatives under the IMT-GT Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF). We emphasise the importance of capacity building, green innovation, and skills needed for a sustainable and inclusive subregional future.
16. We applaud subnational governments for their commitment to advancing sustainable urban development through the Green Council (GC) and Green Cities Mayor Council (GCMC) platforms. We recognise the efforts of 48 cities in the subregion for actively implementing urban sustainability initiatives and acknowledge the achievements and progress of the SUDF Action Plan Phase I (2019-2023). Furthermore, we urge subnational governments, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and university networks, to actively explore opportunities for implementing initiatives across the six economic corridors to foster economic activities and enhance connectivity in the subregion.
17. We commend the IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC) for its commitment in strengthening subregional cooperation and contributing to key

IMT-GT initiatives. We encourage JBC to work more closely with IMT-GT Working Groups and UNINET to foster greater collaboration. Additionally, we urge JBC to lead in implementing projects and programmes which support the implementation of the IB 2022-2026, ensuring they generate cross-border business opportunities and drive economic growth. We also encourage JBC to actively engage with Working Groups and subnational governments to explore new business prospects and ensure successful implementation of impactful projects.

18. We welcome the collaboration between IMT-GT and the Republic of India as the first Country Development Partner, particularly through the Plan of Action to implement the IMT-GT and India Development Partnership. We commend the successful implementation of the Training of Trainers on Computer Network Technology. To further enhance this collaboration, we urge relevant stakeholders to expedite the implementation of identified low-hanging projects, ensuring continued progress and maximising their impacts on the subregion's development.
19. As a building block of ASEAN, we reaffirm our commitment to aligning IMT-GT programmes and projects with ASEAN's priorities to accelerate and advance regional economic integration. We emphasise deeper sectoral engagement with ASEAN to strengthen the alignment of Working Group initiatives with regional strategies. Furthermore, we anticipate that the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 will serve as a strategic roadmap for the region's future, fostering inclusive and sustainable growth, particularly for the IMT-GT subregion. In this regard, we encourage the IMT-GT Working Groups, ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Secretariat, and CIMT to continue identifying practical and concrete projects leveraging ASEAN's resources to implement relevant subregional initiatives. We recognise the importance of complementarity and synergy between the IMT-GT and broader regional frameworks, and we underscore the need to mainstream the principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) into sub-regional cooperation.
20. We express our sincere appreciation to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its steadfast commitment as a regional development partner and its invaluable support in aligning IMT-GT initiatives with ASEAN priorities. ADB has played a pivotal role in strengthening tourism cooperation and enhancing the capacities of government officials. Its contributions to advancing green cities and exploring opportunities in the blue economy are crucial to IMT-GT's resilience and sustainable growth. Looking ahead, we seek ADB's continued support in identifying high-impact projects based on its analytical work on IMT-GT Economic Corridors and Special Economic Zones. We also look forward to its ongoing strategic support in mobilising resources, securing investments, and accelerating the implementation of the IMT-GT Blueprint.
21. We recognise the importance of collaborating with external partners to support the implementation of subregional projects. In this regard, we acknowledge the

progress of the IMT-GT Transboundary Pilot Local Facilitation project, carried out in partnership with UNESCAP and IMT-GT Green Cities members, with a focus on solid waste management and urban greening. Building on this partnership, we look forward to expanding areas of cooperation with UNESCAP and other potential partners.

22. We express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Malaysia as our host for their warm hospitality, excellence arrangements, and chairmanship for the 16th IMT-GT Summit.