

# IMT-GT NEWSLETTER

*Connecting Borders, Empowering Future*



## 31st IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting

4 September 2025 | Trang, Thailand

The 31st IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting marked a significant milestone in advancing subregional cooperation and strategic alignment under IMT-GT Vision 2036.

Held in Trang, Thailand, the Meeting brought together Ministers, Chief Ministers, Governors, Senior Officials, and development partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to review progress under the Implementation Blueprint 2022–2026 and chart the way forward amid evolving global and regional challenges.

A key outcome was the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement, reaffirming commitments to deepen trade and investment facilitation, strengthen connectivity, advance sustainable and climate-resilient development, and enhance people-to-people ties, while initiating preparations for the next Implementation Blueprint 2027–2031 to sustain momentum and long-term impact across the subregion.



## IMT-GT Policy Coordination Meetings

The 22nd IMT-GT Chief Ministers' and Governors' Forum (CMGF) and the 32nd IMT-GT Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) were convened back-to-back in Trang, Thailand, strengthening coordination across national and subnational levels of IMT-GT cooperation. Provincial and state leaders at the CMGF reviewed outcomes of the 16th IMT-GT Summit and shared progress under the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) and the Green Cities Mayor Council (GCMC), showcasing flagship initiatives that advance connectivity, green growth, and inclusive development.

This was complemented by the SOM, where Senior Officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, together with representatives from the Asian Development Bank and ASEAN, reviewed progress under the Implementation Blueprint 2022–2026. Discussions aligned Working Group priorities with regional agendas and ensured strategic coherence in preparation for the subsequent Ministerial Meeting, reinforcing IMT-GT's collective commitment to integrated and people-centred subregional development.

## Stakeholders Engagements, One Dynamic Subregion

In the second half of 2025, CIMT sustained its active outreach through the #CIMTConnects initiatives, recording more than 20 engagements across IMT-GT member countries and with a wide range of strategic partners. These engagements took the form of meetings, courtesy visits, and community-level interactions, underscoring CIMT's continued efforts to strengthen relationships and expand collaboration opportunities.

Strategic engagements included dialogues with the Mayor of Nakhon Si Thammarat, interactions with the Governments of Riau and Pekanbaru, and efforts to strengthen tourism cooperation with Perlis, reflecting CIMT's commitment to working closely with local and subnational leaders. CIMT also engaged with business and development partners through meetings with Advantage Austria, the CPOPC Secretariat, and the Mekong Institute, alongside participation in regional and international platforms such as the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum 2025, discussions on the development of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan 2026–2035, the ASEAN Youth Fellowship, the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum 2025, and the Canada–ASEAN Business Forum 2025.



## Economic Corridor Familiarisation Workshop

31 July 2025 (Hat Yai, Thailand) | 5 August 2025 (Jakarta, Indonesia) | 24 November 2025 (Putrajaya, Malaysia)

The Economic Corridor Familiarisation Workshops in Hat Yai, Jakarta and Putrajaya brought together state governments, regional authorities, industry players and universities to identify initiatives that leverage IMT-GT's six economic corridors. Organised in collaboration with national agencies, the workshops strengthened understanding of corridor-based development and identified priority projects to unlock new economic opportunities across the subregion.





## 5th Working Group on Environment (WGE) Meeting

24–25 June 2025 | Hat Yai, Thailand

Environmental priorities were advanced during the meeting, where discussions focused on waste management, oil spill response, and green, blue, and circular economy initiatives. The meeting concluded with field visits in Hat Yai and Ko Yo, highlighting practical, community-based environmental solutions.



## 7th PIT Meeting on Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation

2 July 2025 | Virtual

Officials and technical experts from the three member countries reviewed progress on key milestones in rubber industry cooperation. Discussions focused on strengthening EU compliance, enhancing research and development linkages, and deepening partnerships to support a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable rubber sector across the subregion.

## 15th Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD) Meeting

2 July 2025 | Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand

Human capital development took centre stage where delegates discussed workforce priorities in AI, digital technology, renewable energy, semiconductors, and smart farming, alongside labour mobility information system and micro-credential recognition. The proposed Labour Market Information Dashboard was agreed to further strengthen workforce data-driven planning.



## 15th IMT-GT Trade, Investment & Tourism Database (ITITD) Sub-Working Group Meeting

2 July 2025 | Virtual

Statistical agencies from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand exchanged views on improving data comparability and regional reporting standards. Emphasis was placed on strengthening statistical systems and advancing the preparation of the IMT-GT Statistical Booklet as a key reference to support informed and coordinated policymaking.

## 15th CIQ Sub-Working Group Meeting

3 July 2025 | Virtual

Building on the recently signed Framework of Cooperation (FOC) on Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine, discussions explored practical measures to harmonise procedures and enhance the speed, safety, and efficiency of cross-border movement throughout the subregion.



## 18th Working Group on Trade and Investment Facilitation (WGTI) Meeting

9 July 2025 | Virtual

Economic integration was reinforced which focused on collaboration between the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and revitalisation of the BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT Trade and Investment Fair to advance regional trade and investment opportunities.

## 2nd PIT Palm Oil Cooperation Meeting

18 July 2025 | Virtual

Progress on the forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding on Palm Oil Cooperation was reviewed, with delegates finalising the Terms of Reference and Work Plan. The session reinforced collective efforts to develop a more coordinated, sustainable, and competitive palm oil value chain across the subregion.



## 18th Working Group on Tourism (WGT) Meeting

22 July 2025 | Langkawi, Malaysia

Held alongside Visit Kedah Year 2025, the meeting reviewed progress under the Implementation Blueprint and advanced initiatives such as ASEAN Self-Drive and Wellness Tourism circuits. The accompanying Geoparks and Eco-Tourism Trail Workshop further strengthened cross-border collaboration, with a draft framework developed to link Langkawi, Satun, and Toba Caldera for joint eco-tourism promotion.



## 4th Working Group on Digital Transformation (WGDT) Meeting

24-25 July 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

Digital transformation efforts were reinforced through the first in-person session advancing ICT-driven people-centric growth. In parallel, Seminar on 4IR and Digital Innovation provided a platform for practical exchanges among academia, industry, and innovators, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.



## The 17th IMT-GT Working Group on Transport Connectivity Meeting

5 - 7 August 2025 | Jakarta, Indonesia



## 17th Working Group on Transport Connectivity (WGTC) Meeting

7 August 2025 | Jakarta, Indonesia

Discussions focused on regional connectivity, including updates on the Golok Second Bridge and Melaka–Dumai RoRo service, alongside sustainable transport solutions. The Transport–Tourism Dialogue highlighted the importance of aligning air connectivity and tourism strategies to enhance seamless travel across the IMT-GT subregion.

## Dialogue on Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain in the IMT-GT Subregion

7 August 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

A high-level exchange among policymakers, industry players, smallholders, and international organisation addressed the sustainability and competitiveness of the palm oil supply chain. Discussions focused on harmonising sustainability standards, improved smallholder integration, and enhanced cross-border logistics, laying the groundwork for actionable policy recommendations.



## 18th Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (WGAA) Meeting

8 August 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand



Agricultural cooperation progressed with updates on the progress of projects under Implementation Blueprint 2022-2026, strengthened research and technology partnerships, and refined performance indicators to support climate-resilient agriculture.

## 5th Strategic Halal Industry Collaboration Task Force (SHICTF) Meeting

13 August 2025 | Hat Yai, Thailand

Progress on key halal initiatives was reviewed, including digital app initiative and technical cooperation programmes. The session also explored new project ideas, strengthened cross-border collaboration, and aligned preparations ahead of upcoming sectoral engagements.



## 19th Working Group on Halal Products and Services (WGHPAS) Meeting

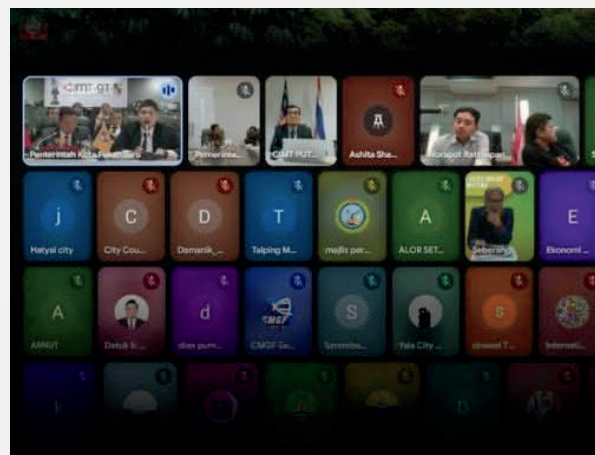
14 August 2025 | Hat Yai, Thailand

Halal sector collaboration was further strengthened where delegates reviewed flagship initiatives, including the Halal Industrial Hub in Riau and Thailand's Halal Blockchain project, and aligned priorities ahead of upcoming Ministerial Meeting.

## 8th IMT-GT Green Cities Mayor Council Meeting

21 August 2025 | Virtual

Representatives from over 50 cities reviewed progress under the Sustainable Urban Development Framework 2019–2036. Exchanges covered seven priority portfolios, including waste management, transport, biodiversity, and circular economy, reinforcing collective efforts towards greener and more resilient cities.



## Next Gen IMT-GT – Youth Voices for Subregional Inclusive Growth

25 August 2025 | Virtual

Students from across the subregion shared perspectives on youth participation in IMT-GT initiatives through an interactive dialogue. Discussions highlighted the role of young leaders in shaping inclusive growth, driving innovation, and strengthening future cross-border collaboration.



## Internship Programme

30 August 2025 | Putrajaya, Malaysia

Three students from the University of Riau concluded their internship placements after contributing to CIMT operations, including outreach activities, digital content production, and statistics analysis. Their engagement strengthened youth participation while supporting internal knowledge-sharing and enhanced organisational capacity.



## IMT-GT Joint Business Council Meeting

2 September 2025 | Trang, Thailand

Business leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand exchanged views on advancing trade, investment, and supply chain resilience. Discussions included progress on the Dumai-Melaka RoRo initiative, green city development, and new proposals aimed at fostering innovation-driven and inclusive economic growth.

## IMT-GT Grant 2025 Award

8 August 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

Through the IMT-GT Grant 2025, CIMT supported high-impact initiatives to accelerate the implementation of IB 2022-2026. From 42 proposals, the Business Matching Programme on the Dumai-Melaka RoRo from Dumai Chamber of Commerce was selected, recognising its contribution in accelerating operational readiness of the maritime corridor (IMT-GT Economic Corridor 4) by fostering business linkages, market intelligence sharing, and cross-border networking.



## IMT-GT Regional Business Excellence Award

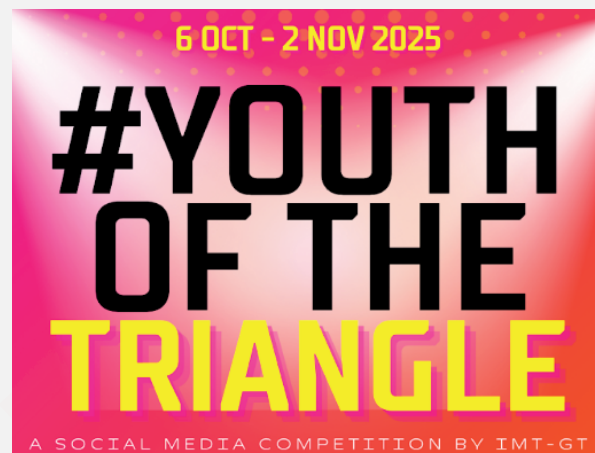
26 September 2025 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organised by the IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC) Malaysia, the initiative brought together business leaders, policymakers, and industry experts from the three countries, recognising 30 businesses and organisations across nine award categories. CIMT was honoured with a Special Award Category for its contributions to subregional cooperation and development.

## #YouthOfTheTriangle Competition

6 October - 13 December 2025 | Virtual

Young creators from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand showcased creativity and storytelling through a social-media competition. With nine winners selected across three categories, the initiative amplified youth voices and people-centred engagement. The campaign not only boosted IMT-GT's online presence but also created a growing collection of youth-made digital stories, helping to build a stronger shared identity among young people across the subregion.



## 24th IMT-GT Varsity Carnival 2025

27-31 October 2025 | Songkhla, Thailand

Hosted by Thaksin University, students from 12 universities across the IMT-GT subregion came together for sports, cultural performances, academic exchanges, and dialogue sessions under the theme "Driving Glocal Citizen". The programme fostered regional identity, strengthened friendship and enhanced youth collaboration, reflecting the spirit of unity and shared growth among the next generation.

## Business Matching Programme on RoRo Dumai-Melaka

14-16 November 2025 | Dumai, Indonesia

Business leaders, MSMEs, and industry players explored trade and investment opportunities linked to the Melaka-Dumai RoRo initiative. The event brought together 155 participants and 83 companies across various fields, including agriculture and fisheries, logistics, manufacturing and industries and manpower supply. It concluded with the signing of seven MOUs among businesses and an investment commitment of MYR 100 million in the field of green technology.



## International Workshop on Halal Products and Services

18 December 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

Held alongside the Thailand Halal Assembly 2025, the International Workshop on Halal Products and Services convened representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to advance subregional halal cooperation. Discussions highlighted priority products, policy alignment, MSME participation, and joint initiatives to strengthen competitiveness, market access, and investment under the IMT-GT framework.