

**GREEN CITIES CONFERENCE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 24TH IMT-GT MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY
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**DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL, MALACCA
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His Excellency Darmin Nasution,
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of the Republic of
Indonesia;

His Excellency Arkhom Term pittayapaisith,
Minister of Transport of The Kingdom of Thailand;

His Excellency Adly bin Zahari,
Chief Minister of Malacca;

His Excellency Erzaldy Rosman Johan,
Governor of Bangka Belitung Island;

His Excellency Charat Boonnasa,
Adviser on Security, Ministry of Interior, Thailand;

His Excellency Ramesh Subramaniam,
Director General, Southeast Asia Regional Department,
Asian Development Bank (ADB);

His Excellency Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo,
Deputy Secretary-General for the ASEAN Economic
Community;

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to begin by thanking each of you for making a commitment to this Green Cities Conference, and for your joint desire to seek a green growth approach to economic growth in the region that is also socially inclusive and protects our essential natural resources and environment.

2. I would like to also take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Mr. Ramesh Subramanian, Director-General of ADB, for instigating the idea of using existing Regional Cooperation Mechanisms of IMT-GT, such as like Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) to advocate a Green Growth Agenda for the region.

3. These mechanisms have proven over the years to be highly effective for policy development, harmonisation and implementation across the region, particularly with technical support from the ASEAN Secretariat and ADB.

4. They have also served a catalytic role in the wider adoption of innovations and replication of best practices. Therefore, I believe strongly that the Regional Cooperation Mechanisms represent a highly effective framework through which to move forward rapidly our new Green Growth Agenda to reach throughout our ASEAN region.

5. Regional collaboration recognises that we are all in this together, with a sense of joint responsibility for one another. And, development for everyone recognises the inclusiveness that must be achieved in our development goals.

6. This conference explores how 4P partnering between Public, Private, People and Professional stakeholders represents a crucial way of working in order to deliver a new green growth agenda that achieves the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Paris Agreement targets under COP21 and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) goals.

7. A new green growth trajectory is promoted in this conference as a viable solution to foster economic growth and development that includes everyone in society and ensure that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.

8. The best way of implementing green growth strategies in ASEAN is by utilising the well-established Regional Cooperation Mechanisms. Moreover, the utilisation of an ASEAN Regional Platform will attract international interest and collaboration from technology solution providers, academia and financial institutions with innovative green financing models.

9. We need to attract cutting edge green solutions and also promote a knowledge based approach to our work. This is where organisations like the IMT-GT University Network can show leadership in developing new technologies and methodologies for us to employ.

10. The ASEAN region stands today at an important crossroads of growth. Intense urbanisation, increasing population, dwindling reserves of resources, looming threats of climate change have been some of the major issues of concern.

11. The region can no longer keep up with its growth by following conventional growth strategies.

12. The UN Sustainable Development Goals constitute a global response to mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change by 2030.

13. However, these goals cannot be achieved by 2030 unless there is strong and effective collaboration at all levels globally and this requires countries to collaborate with one another, particularly within their respective regions, like ASEAN.

14. This collaboration starts with this Green Cities Conference and I believe that a key area of effectiveness is to tackle these challenges in a bottom up manner. Regional initiatives cut across national boundaries, allowing access at the state and provincial level.

15. Cities constitute the site of some of the greatest challenges and opportunities for sustainable urban development.

16. This Green Cities Conference will serve a catalytic role in the formation of a new Green Growth Cities Network and as a result will bring city leaders together to collaborate on establishing appropriate green growth strategies and measures to respond to the development challenges that they face.

17. The Conference will elevate the capability of individual cities to respond with winning measures. 4P partnering between Public, Private, People and Professional represents the key to implementing these measures and securing a new green growth agenda.

18. A longer term view will be taken of the environmental and sustainability issues facing cities and the potential solutions and interventions that can be applied. The ambition of the conference is to look ahead to 2030 timeframe established in the SDGs.

19. I would like to share with you on a new initiative that IMT-GT has recently developed, namely, the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) which will enable the development of a green city network, enabling actions which are coherent and in line with local, provincial, national, regional and international priorities.

20. The prime objective of the action plans is to steer the cities through a progressive journey with the ultimate aim of transforming into green cities, ensuring that sustainability principles are adopted in all development actions.

21. The Plans also address immediate priorities and needs of the cities/provinces, while suggesting transformational technologies that would help them leap-frog towards sustainable development. Interventions included in the plans are clubbed by sector, addressing specific sector-based national targets and policies.

22. This represents a concrete initiative to bring about sustainable urban development in any city in ASEAN. I would therefore like to encourage this conference, in the spirit of regional collaboration that we are celebrating, to consider how this Sustainable Urban Development Framework can be launched in the BIMP-EAGA and GMS so that it might become an ASEAN wide initiative implemented through the entire ASEAN Regional Cooperation Mechanism.

23. I wish you all much success and look forward to seeing the many MOU's and agreement signed between GLCs, Private Sectors, City Government, NGO's and UN Agencies arising from this conference, as well as the various regional initiatives implemented, when we reconvene for next year's Green Cities Conference.

Thank you.