



JOINT STATEMENT
32ND INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND
GROWTH TRIANGLE (IMT-GT) MINISTERIAL MEETING
10 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. We, the IMT-GT Ministers, convened our 32nd Meeting on 10 September 2026 in Medan, North Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Airlangga Hartanto, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia. The Meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Akmal Nasrullah Bin Mohd Nasir, Minister of Economy, Malaysia and H.E. Dr. Thanadit Raktabutr, Vice Minister for Office of the Primer Minister, Kingdom of Thailand.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to the IMT-GT Vision 2036 of an integrated, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable subregion. Amid geopolitical uncertainties and growing trade fragmentation, we recognise the need to strengthen resilience and capacity to respond to external disruptions. We also recognise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation as strategic enablers of productivity, innovation, and competitiveness. In this regard, we remain committed to deepening cooperation across the three Focus Areas of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Tourism, and Halal Products and Services, supported by the five Enabler Focus Areas, to strengthen resilience and promote shared prosperity. In addition, we encourage IMT-GT Senior Officials to give greater attention to emerging demographic challenges, particularly population ageing and its implications and opportunities for the subregion's future workforce and productivity.
3. We commend the achievement under the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint (IB) 2022–2026, particularly in GDP per capita, foreign direct investment, and international visitor arrivals, which surpassed the 2026 targets. In this regard, the GDP per capita increased from 21,646 current PPP\$ in 2024 to 23,290 in 2025, while total trade in goods rose from USD 708 billion to USD 810.8 billion. FDI inflows increased from USD 27.52 billion to USD 28.44 billion, while the unemployment rate declined from 3.8% to 3.7%, reflecting the subregion's economic resilience. To address remaining gaps, we emphasise that the IB 2027–2031 be anchored on three strategic goals—Economic Resilience, Integrated Networks, and Shared Prosperity—supported by stronger institutional coordination, stakeholder engagement, and robust monitoring and evaluation towards the achievement of Vision 2036.

4. We commend WGAA's progress under the IB 2022–2026, including activities such as agro-industrial hubs, farmer groups, the Superfruit Initiative, and Smart Farm Technology Programme. We encourage WGAA to prioritise climate-adaptive technologies, productivity and value addition, resilient cross-border value chains, smallholder and youth empowerment, and resource mobilisation. We welcome the MoU on Palm Oil Cooperation as an important milestone in advancing sustainable palm oil cooperation and cross-border value chains, and encourage the development of a concrete implementation work plan. Under the IB 2027–2031, we support continued focus on food security, agro-processing, research and innovation, smallholder development, and sustainable agriculture, including through a digital repository to preserve institutional memory and ensure continuity.
5. We commend WGT's efforts to advance tourism cooperation and welcome the successful implementation of the Visit IMT-GT Year 2023–2025 campaign and integrated cross-border tourism routes and packages, with international visitor arrivals reaching 68.01 million in 2025. We recognise the 2nd IMT-GT Tourism Forum and 3rd IMT-GT Tourism and Transport Dialogue as important platforms for strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and advancing IMT-GT as a single tourism destination. We reaffirm our commitment to a unified IMT-GT tourism brand and a high-value, sustainable, and competitive tourism sector, including through collaboration on UNESCO Global Geoparks under the IB 2027–2031.
6. We commend WGHAPAS's progress in halal capacity building and development of technical experts and professionals. We encourage stronger cooperation to facilitate cross-border movement of halal products and services, support Halal SMEs through capacity building and certification, and strengthen industry linkages and cross-border halal value chains. We also encourage the optimisation of the role of Strategic Halal Industry Collaboration Task Force (SHICTF) and diversification of the halal economy into pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fashion, and tourism, including through the development of Halal Industrial Zones.
7. We recognise the critical role of transport connectivity in facilitating the movement of people and goods and strengthening economic linkages across the subregion. We commend WGTC's progress in implementing Physical Connectivity Projects (PCPs), advancing the operationalisation of AFAFIST and ASEAN CBTP, and strengthening air and maritime connectivity. We reaffirm our commitment to multimodal connectivity, cross-border facilitation, digitalisation, and low-carbon transport, with priority given to strategic PCPs and Economic Corridors to build a resilient and future-ready transport network.

8. We recognise the importance of trade and investment facilitation in deepening economic integration and competitiveness. We commend WGTI's progress, including the extension of the Project Implementation Team on Rubber Cities and Rubber Industry Cooperation (PIT RCRIC) for 2026–2030, and efforts to facilitate cross-border movement through national CIQ Coordinating Committees and Sectoral Task Forces. We welcome progress in standardising data reporting under the IMT-GT Trade, Investment and Tourism Database Sub-Working Group (ITITD SWG). Moving forward, we support greater digitalisation and interoperability of trade systems, more efficient cross-border procedures, and the development of strategic value chains and priority industries, alongside greater harmonisation of statistical and sustainability standards.
9. We commend WGE's efforts to advance environmental sustainability, including cooperation on marine oil spill and tarball management and implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development Framework through the Green Cities Mayors' Council. Under the IB 2027–2031, we reaffirm our commitment to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, while advancing sustainable urban development, climate resilience, and green, blue, and circular economy initiatives, supported by better access to climate financing.
10. We reaffirm the importance of human resource development in strengthening subregional competitiveness, resilience, and inclusive growth. We commend WGHDR's work on skilling, reskilling and upskilling, TVET, and capacity building, and encourage stronger industry-driven and project-based approaches through engagement with the private sector, academia, local governments, and development partners. We call for greater engagement of UNINET and JBC in research, innovation, capacity development, and identifying industry needs. We further support skills recognition, labour market intelligence, and future-oriented competencies in AI, digital technologies, and green industries to build a future-ready and mobile workforce, supported by measurable initiatives and robust monitoring and evaluation.
11. We reaffirm the strategic role of digital transformation in strengthening competitiveness, resilience, and inclusive growth. We commend WGDT's progress in e-commerce capacity building and digital connectivity and encourage accelerated efforts to expand connectivity, particularly in border and underserved areas, strengthen digital skills and inclusion, and promote advanced technologies, including AI. We further support cooperation on cross-border digital trade, cybersecurity, trusted data governance, data protection, and interoperable digital infrastructure and public services to build a secure and future-ready digital economy.

12. We reaffirm the pivotal role of the IMT-GT University Network (UNINET) in advancing academic collaboration and support its repositioning towards applied research and stronger industry-academia linkages to generate greater impact across IMT-GT Working Groups. We welcome the establishment of the UNINET Permanent Secretariat and look forward to the UNINET Strategic Action Plan (USAP) 2027–2031 to strengthen UNINET’s contribution to sectoral cooperation.
13. We recognise the vital role of the IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC) in advancing subregional cooperation and call for stronger engagement in identifying and facilitating commercially viable cross-border business and investment opportunities. We encourage JBC to work more closely with Working Groups, Project Implementation Teams, Task Forces, and subnational governments to translate IMT-GT priorities into bankable initiatives under the IB 2027–2031.
14. We reaffirm our commitment to aligning IMT-GT programmes and projects with ASEAN priorities to accelerate regional economic integration. We welcome the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) ASEAN, BIMP-EAGA, GMS, and IMT-GT 2026-2030, and commend the inclusion of agriculture as a priority sector alongside tourism, in line with IMT-GT’s priority Focus Areas. We encourage IMT-GT Working Groups to identify areas of synergy with ASEAN Sectoral Plans and leverage ASEAN mechanisms and resources to advance subregional initiatives. Accordingly, we request CIMT, IMT-GT Working Groups, and the ASEAN Secretariat to jointly identify and implement practical initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the IB 2027–2031 and broader ASEAN priorities.
15. We express our sincere deepest appreciation to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its continued commitment as IMT-GT’s regional development partner providing strategic financial, technical, knowledge support to advance cooperation. We commend ADB’s BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT, and GMS (B-I-G) Program initiatives and efforts to strengthen the role of IMT-GT as a building block of ASEAN integration including support for the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) 2026-2030. We recognize ADB’s important role in ASEAN as the region’s main bank and contributions to green cities, tourism, economic corridors and zones, institutional strengthening, project management, and capacity building. We welcome ADB’s continued support for the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint 2027-2031 in projects, financing, partnerships, and knowledge and in emerging themes of cooperation including blue economy, digital transformation, sustainable energy, and green maritime transport.

16. We appreciate the capacity-building support provided by the Republic of India under the Plan of Action 2022–2026 and acknowledge technical assistance from IGES and UNESCAP on solid waste management and urban greening. We look forward to strengthening cooperation with Partners and Development Partners, particularly in project development, financing mobilisation, and capacity building for Working Groups and subnational governments.
17. We agree to convene the 33rd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings in Malaysia in 2027.
18. We express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, as Chair of the 32nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting, for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to all delegations.

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