



**Message  
from  
His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**

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On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the BIMSTEC Member States on the special occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of BIMSTEC.

Since the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1997, BIMSTEC has become a prominent framework for cooperation and friendship among the seven countries in South and Southeast Asia.

The BIMSTEC Charter, adopted during the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, laid a foundation for the institutional architecture of BIMSTEC. Member States have identified seven priority sectors to drive our cooperation towards fruition. These milestones clearly reflect our strong commitment to elevate BIMSTEC into a prominent regional institution that can positively contribute to global growth, development, and cooperation.

As the Chair of BIMSTEC during 2022 - 2023, Thailand has introduced the Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC or “PRO BIMSTEC” as the theme in our work to revitalise economies, reconnect people-to-people ties, and revive our communities after the COVID-19 pandemic. As we collectively tackle unprecedented challenges of the post-pandemic world, I hope this theme would serve as impetus for us to build a more resilient and sustainable future in the years ahead.

BIMSTEC has enduringly stood as a resilient and progressive mechanism for inter-regional cooperation for 25 years. With strong commitment and dedication from all Member States, I am confident that BIMSTEC will continue to grow and bring South and Southeast Asia even closer than before.

General  (Ret.)

(Prayut Chan-o-cha)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand