



**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 auspicious occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BIMSTEC.

Over the years, BIMSTEC has proven to be a “bridge of friendship,” connecting the peoples of South and Southeast Asia. Though divided by geography, we are joined together by cultural heritage, mutual goodwill, and the shared ambition of security and prosperity. Our small community of nations has always worked closely together towards mutual prosperity through promoting trade and economic cooperation, facilitating business, enhancing people-to-people contacts, and furthering connectivity and security. Together we have accomplished the strengthening of BIMSTEC institutions, including the prioritisation of the seven sectors of cooperation, and the Master Plan on Transport Connectivity. In the future, I firmly believe that BIMSTEC will accomplish realizing these institutions into concrete cooperation, which will further empower us to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

With this faith in the capacity and potential of BIMSTEC, Thailand pledges our utmost support to furthering BIMSTEC cooperation in both physical connectivity and enhancing an enabling environment for our peoples. We have come far in twenty four years, and I am certain that, with the spirit of friendship and solidarity, we will continue to maximize our potential in the decades to come.

Since its inception, BIMSTEC has represented the Bay of Bengal’s collective hope of growth, resilience, openness and interconnectedness. I believe that the journey that lies ahead for BIMSTEC will continue to embody the spirit of its foundation, and lead this region to a prosperous future.

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