



Message
from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
on the Occasion of BIMSTEC Day 2020 (6 June 2020)

On the auspicious occasion of BIMSTEC Day 6 June 2020, I wish to express my congratulations and best wishes to the Governments and peoples of BIMSTEC Member States.

BIMSTEC was founded 23 years ago in Bangkok with the vision of fostering cooperation among countries of the Bay of Bengal, that is, to be a “bridge of friendship” linking Southeast and South Asia. Since then, our small community of nations has worked closely together towards mutual prosperity through promoting trade and economic cooperation, facilitating business, enhancing people-to-people contacts, and furthering connectivity and security, among others.

Today, BIMSTEC has matured into a vital subregional mechanism for cooperation, with a Charter, seven pillars of cooperation, and a Master Plan on Transport Connectivity. It is hoped that a future BIMSTEC Free Trade Area can be realised to further reduce logistics and transaction costs, and encourage more business and people-to-people contacts.

At the same time, we look to further enhance cooperation on current and future challenges, notably those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to ensure our common goal of sustainable growth through food security, sustainable agriculture, MSMEs promotion, and enhanced research and development on health and medicine. BIMSTEC is committed to an open outlook, reaching out to our international partners while reaffirming our support to multilateralism, open trade and investment, and people-centred development.

Thailand is fully committed to realising BIMSTEC’s founding vision, and looks forward to our Chairmanship in 2021-2022, when we hope that our community will take forward efforts in achieving sustainable development, while complementing our collaboration with other sub-regional and regional frameworks, such as ACMECS and APEC.

On this happy occasion, I extend my best wishes for the continued success and prosperity of BIMSTEC, for it to continue to serve as a foundation for peace, friendship, and sustainable development for our peoples.

Don Pramudwinai
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Thailand
Bangkok, 6 June 2020