



Prime Minister of Nepal

29 May 2019

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC) is completing twenty two years of its existence on 6 June 2019. On this occasion, on behalf of the Government and people of Nepal and on my own, I would like to extend my best wishes for its continued success in achieving its aims and purposes for the common benefit of the peoples of the region.

BIMSTEC region is full of potentials. Human resources of one billion and half with a large number of young and dynamic work force, abundance of natural resources, rich history, culture and civilization, and friendly and cooperative relations among the member countries and peoples all make it a resourceful and dynamic region. The mesmerizing white snow-capped Himalayas and beautiful mountains are connected with fertile plain lands and deep blue oceans. Moreover, great ancient philosophies and rich civilizations thrived in this part of the world, spreading knowledge to the external world. It is a region that links both South Asia and East Asia, opening avenues for furthering cooperation with countries of these regions. There is an increasing trend of intra-regional movement of peoples, goods and services for trade, tourism, investment and people-to-people contact.

In view of the above, BIMSTEC has good prospects for achieving economic growth, social progress, sustainable development and prosperity in the region. What it requires is the deepening of cooperation and result-oriented activities on a broader scale with the full utilization of the existing potentials. The regional cooperation is also essential for addressing various challenges of regional and international dimensions, such as poverty, socio-economic inequalities, climate change, natural disasters, trans-national crimes, and so on.

I believe that our dedicated efforts towards exploring the potentials and expanding cooperation in mutually beneficial areas, especially trade, transit, energy development, investment, connectivity, technology, and tourism, will make the regional bond more productive in the days ahead. The Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Nepal last year concluded with important decisions that need to be sincerely implemented to make our cooperation more fruitful to our peoples.

At the national level, while the Government of Nepal has been working towards realizing the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal* at the regional level Nepal is always ready to work hand-in-hand with other Member States. On this occasion of BIMSTEC Day, I wish to express Nepal's full support to the regional cooperation process for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.

(K. P. Sharma Oli)