



Secretariat
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral
Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Secretary General

06 June 2018

MESSAGE


On the occasion of the Twenty-First anniversary of the founding of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I extend my heartiest greetings and felicitations to the peoples and the governments of the Member States of BIMSTEC - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

BIMSTEC started its journey as a sub-regional cooperation platform of four countries through the Bangkok Declaration on 06 June 1997. Over the years, the organization has evolved into a regional organization comprising seven Member States aimed at promoting peace, progress and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal region. BIMSTEC has also achieved considerable success in creating an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in a wide range of areas including trade, investment, transport, energy, technology, tourism and people-to-people contact.

The BIMSTEC Leaders at their Retreat held in Goa, India on 16 October 2016, pledged to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC stronger, more effective, and result oriented. The Secretariat is committed to the speedy implementation of the directives of the BIMSTEC leaders. I am hopeful that the Member States will be able to conclude the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA) negotiations soon to advance economic integration of the region, and will also make substantive progress in the areas of connectivity and institution building by moving faster with the agreements in progress.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Bangladesh for providing support for effective functioning of the Secretariat. I also express my deep appreciation to Nepal as the current Chair of BIMSTEC and all other Member States for their continued support and contribution towards achieving the goals of BIMSTEC.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge the Member States to work collectively and give extra efforts to further strengthen the organization in delivering tangibles to the peoples of the region.


(M Shahidul Islam)