

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

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MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to the Peoples of the BIMSTEC Member States on this happy occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Since the inception of BIMSTEC in 1997, Bangladesh as a founding Member, has been committed to the BIMSTEC Mechanism and cooperating closely with the Member States on issues like liberalization and facilitation of trade, enhancing economic development, strengthening Energy cooperation, increasing connectivity and people-to-people contact, combating terrorism and extremism to achieve collective security, dealing with the adverse effect of climate change, among others. Establishment of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka in 2014, has been a testament to the firm commitment of our present Government to the BIMSTEC.

This region has enormous resources to transform it into an economic power house. Over the last twenty years, BIMSTEC has achieved some progress in making the foundation ready for future ventures meeting new challenges. In the recently held BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat (October, 2016), BIMSTEC leaders have reiterated their commitment to intensify efforts to realise the objectives and purposes of BIMSTEC as outlined in the 1997 Bangkok Declaration, and pledged to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC stronger, more effective, and a result oriented organisation.

On this auspicious occasion, I take this opportunity to congratulate Peoples of all BIMSTEC Member States, the BIMSTEC Secretariat and other supporting mechanisms of BIMSTEC. Let us renew our resolve to turn this regional process into more dynamic and result oriented. I also take this opportunity to reiterate the steadfast assurance of the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen the BIMSTEC process.

Long live BIMSTEC spirit.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

(Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP)