



**MESSAGE FROM
THE STATE COUNSELLOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR ON
THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIMSTEC**

Today marks the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) which was set up to accelerate economic growth and social progress in the sub-region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership.

On this auspicious day, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the Governments and peoples of all BIMSTEC Member States.

The name - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) - clearly explains the focus areas of the organization. BIMSTEC began by promoting cooperation. Today it is striving for integration and its efforts are gaining momentum. Now, a market of 1.5 billion people with a combined GDP of USD 2.5 trillion, BIMSTEC offers tremendous potential for the economic and social development of the region.

BIMSTEC is deserving of congratulations for the progress made since its inception 20 years ago. We recognize also that there is still much that remains to be done by the peoples and the governments of BIMSTEC to achieve their goals of peace, progress and prosperity. I believe that together we can overcome all these challenges we may have to face.

With its geographical position as a land bridge between South Asia and South East Asia, Myanmar shall continue to participate in the regional integration process actively to fulfill the objectives of the organization, and to meet the aspirations of the people of the BIMSTEC.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Nay Pyi Taw
6 June 2017