

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR ON  
THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIMSTEC**

On this auspicious occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar join me in extending warm greetings and best wishes to the people of the BIMSTEC Member States.

On this very day, nineteen years ago, this sub-regional grouping was established with the vision of fostering economic development and social progress in the Bay of Bengal regions. Since its inception, we have made significant strides in most sectors under the BIMSTEC cooperation framework. However, there are many challenges ahead and we must redouble our concerted efforts to turn those challenges into opportunities.

The Government and people of Myanmar are very proud that Myanmar was able to host successfully the Third BIMSTEC Summit in Nay Pyi Taw in March 2014 during our chairmanship of BIMSTEC. Located strategically at the heart of the BIMSTEC region, Myanmar hopes to continue to play a meaningful role by working together with other Member States to move BIMSTEC forward.

This anniversary coincides with a time when significant democratic changes are taking place in Myanmar. It is therefore an appropriate moment for us to expand our engagement and cooperation with regional and international friends and partners. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Myanmar's commitment and readiness to extend our support and cooperation to the mutual benefit of all BIMSTEC countries.

**Htin kyaw**

**Nay Pyi Taw**

**6 June 2016**