

**Message from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom Thailand in Celebration
of the Nineteenth Anniversary of the Establishment of BIMSTEC on
06 June 2016 (BIMSTEC DAY)**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I have the honour to extend my warmest congratulations to the BIMSTEC Member States on the auspicious occasion of the 19th Anniversary of the Establishment of BIMSTEC on 6th June 2016.

Since 1997, BIMSTEC has been a mechanism for Member States to promote opportunities for increased cooperation, especially in trade and investment, connectivity, agriculture, public health, counterterrorism and people to people contacts, which links Southeast Asia in all dimensions.

I strongly believe that, owing to our partnership efforts, economic progress and closer ties among the peoples in the Bay of Bengal will be further promoted and will serve as a good model for our future generations to strengthen our cooperation in the future.

General (Ret.) Prayut Chan-o-cha

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand