

Message from
H.E. Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

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As we celebrate the 28th anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC, it is my great privilege to join in commemorating this auspicious occasion. I am also honoured to extend my heartfelt congratulations all BIMSTEC Member States and the Secretariat of BIMSTEC on the occasion of BIMSTEC Day. This milestone is a testament to the enduring strength of our cooperation, which has grown and flourished over the years.

As a founding Member of BIMSTEC, Thailand has long recognised the platform's critical role in fostering regional cooperation. Over the years, it is evident that our cooperation coalesced through BIMSTEC has brought tangible benefits to our peoples by driving economic growth, fostering peace, and promoting regional integration. Thailand takes great pride and joy in steering this vital initiative towards its greater potential, especially during a time when closer collaboration is more essential than ever.

To reinvigorate BIMSTEC into a more dynamic platform, Thailand, in its role as the Lead Country on the Connectivity Sector and a natural bridge linking South and Southeast Asia, emphasises the critical need to enhance seamless connectivity across the region. Connectivity not only drives trade and investment but also deepen cultural exchanges, improves access to resources, and foster of closer people-to-people linkages. The recent signing of the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation in Bangkok this April opens up greater prospects in the maritime domain. We indeed have further room for improvement in the aspects of land and air connectivity. We must, therefore, leverage our region's advantageous geography to unlock new opportunities for collaboration.

Congratulations once again to all Member States for their invaluable contributions to the success of BIMSTEC, and my best wishes for many more years of shared achievements. It is clear that the road to further regional integration lies in continued close collaboration and dialogue. Our collective commitment to regional integration and mutual support remains strong, and it will continue to guide us on the path ahead.

Maris Sangiampongsa
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand