



**Congratulatory Message**  
**from H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow**  
**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**of the Kingdom of Thailand**  
**on the Occasion of the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of BIMSTEC**

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As we celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I am pleased to join our Member States in honouring a partnership that has become a recognised relationship among seven of the Member States. Since its inception in Bangkok, our organisation has consistently proven that the Bay of Bengal is a vital bridge uniting the trajectories between South and Southeast Asia.

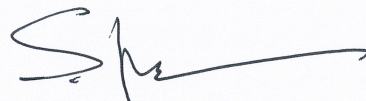
The strategic convergence of South and Southeast Asia through the BIMSTEC framework represents a unique collaboration of economic potential and cultural interconnectedness. In celebrating the harmonisation of the strengths of the two regions, we are building a corridor of mutual prosperity that serves as an unified force in an increasingly complex world.

At the heart of this mutual bond lies Thailand's commitment as the Lead Country for the Connectivity Sector, where we view transport infrastructure as the very foundation of BIMSTEC's shared future. The recent entry into force of the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation stands as a landmark achievement. Through our steadfast determination towards its early implementation, this pivotal instrument empowers us to fully harness the potential of the regional maritime routes and unlock new opportunities. Driven by this success, Thailand is pressing forward to extend this momentum across all transport modalities and economic corridors.

/I wish...

I wish to commend every Member State for the spirit of solidarity that has guided BIMSTEC's success over the past twenty-nine years. The milestones we celebrate today are proof of what we can achieve together. As we look to the future, our journey towards closer regional integration will continue to be propelled by our lasting partnership and open dialogue.

I wish all Member States and the BIMSTEC Secretariat a successful BIMSTEC Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

(Sihasak Phuangketkeow)  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Thailand