



**Message  
from  
His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**

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On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the BIMSTEC Member States on the occasion of BIMSTEC Day, 6 June 2023.

BIMSTEC has come a long way since the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1997. The Organization's Silver Jubilee last year reflected that BIMSTEC has grown to become a cornerstone of regional cooperation in South and Southeast Asia, creating enabling environment for regional development and promoting economic growth. Through our collective efforts, we have made significant progress in a number of areas, notably in promoting regional integration, increasing trade and investment, improving transport and connectivity, enhancing security cooperation, and promoting people-to-people exchanges.

Since assuming the chairmanship last year, Thailand has been committed and determined to working closely with all Member States to strengthen BIMSTEC in all dimensions. The theme for our chairmanship, Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC or "PRO BIMSTEC", proposes a set of guidelines for our cooperation towards a thriving and sustainable future of our people.

As Chair of BIMSTEC, Thailand successfully held the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting and the 19<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting as well as a series of sectoral and other level of meetings. These mechanisms are at the heart of BIMSTEC that drive the work in all seven sectors of cooperation and strengthen institutional process of the organization. Building on this momentum, Thailand is well prepared to host the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit at the end of this year to realize the fruit of our hard work and steer BIMSTEC towards an effective regional organization with a shared strategic vision.

I am confident that BIMSTEC will continue to play a critical role in shaping the regional agenda and promoting greater cooperation for a stronger, more prosperous, and more resilient Bay of Bengal.

General  (Ret.)

(Prayut Chan-o-cha)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand