

Governor of Phang-nga province Pakapong Thawipat stated that Phang-nga is now ready to host the 22nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting and other related meetings, to be held from 20 to 23 September 2016 at the Sentido Graceland Khao Lak Resort & Spa in Takua Pa district. IMT-GT stands for the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle.

Apart from the 22nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting, other related meetings include the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting, the 13th Chief Ministers and Governors Forum, and the IMT-GT Business Council Meeting.

IMT-GT is a subregional cooperation initiative formed in 1993 by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. It aims to accelerate private sector-led economic growth and facilitate the subregional development as a whole, as well as increasing intra- and inter-IMT-GT trade and investment.

Currently IMT-GT comprises 10 provinces on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia (Bangka-Belitung, Bengkulu, Jambi, Lampung, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, North Sumatra, Riau, Riau Islands, South Sumatra, and West Sumatra), eight states in Peninsular Malaysia (Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Perak, Perlis, and Selangor), and 14 provinces in southern Thailand (Chumphon, Krabi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Pattani, Phang-nga, Phatthalung, Phuket, Ranong, Satun, Songkhla, Surat Thani, Trang and Yala).

The IMT-GT subregion is a promising growth triangle, with a land area covering 602,293.9 square kilometers and a total population of more than 72 million constituting a huge market. It envisages a seamless, progressive, prosperous, and peaceful area with improved quality of life.

Cooperation under the IMT-GT framework consists of six areas: 1) trade and investment; 2) agriculture; agro-based industry, and environment; 3) tourism; 4) infrastructure and transportation; 5) human resources development; and 6) halal products and services.