Jakarta, September 27, 2016 – The Chairman of Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) attended a Ministerial Plenary Meeting of IMT-GT Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation in Phang-Nga, Thailand, to support the economic cooperation in the region. The IMT-GT has 3 (three) member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. To date, Indonesian territory that became part of the IMT-GT has a geographic scope of 10 provinces in Sumatera.

According to Thomas Lembong (Tom), this strategic regional cooperation was crucial in strengthening the economic development of each country. "Some of the covered issues are related to determination and implementation of the blueprint’s Vision for 2017-2021," as he said in remarks to the official media statement.

As explained by Tom, in addition to such issues, the highlighted one of which encouraged by the members to reinforce regional cooperation was by identifying the significant role of private sectors. “The main growth driver of this sub regional economic cooperation is the private sector, nevertheless there has been no special incentives for them,” he added.

Furthermore, Tom also mentioned that there was an endeavor to conducting Joint Business Council (JBC), in order to improve the ease of doing business for the private sector, especially the Small Medium Enterprise to gain a full access of funding. "The proposed program is currently being discussed regarding the mechanisms that will be proposed," he said.

The IMT-GT cooperation has evolved over the years with an increasingly broader scope. Strong commitment and consistency from the Government plays a big role to guarantee even greater progress in the years to come. These activities of the IMT-GT are currently getting connected with activities in the ASEAN region and has been a test-bed or a strategic building blocks in the achievement of the ASEAN Economic Community (MEA). Quoting his words, "For Indonesia, the IMT-GT plays an important role in supporting national policy in order to achieve an equitable and inclusive development and benefit greatly from its participation in this partnership," he further expressed.

A series of 22nd Ministerial Meetings was held on 20-23 September 2016 in Phang-Nga, Thailand. Series of events began with a meeting of Joint Business Council which was
continued by the National Secretariat, Senior Officials, Chief Minister & Governor Forum and Ministerial Retreat as well as the Ministerial Meeting. Earlier, the Chairman of BKPM had attended the ministerial forum dinner on Tuesday night (22/9).

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For further information and details, please contact:

Ariesta Riendrias Puspasari
Head of Legislation, Public Relations, Secretary to the Chairman Bureau
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto No. 44 Jakarta 12190
Phone: 021-5269874
E-mail: humas@bkpm.go.id