

JOINT STATEMENT FOR PRESS RELEASE

- a. The 55th General Border Committee (GBC) Meeting between Malaysia and Thailand was convened on Thursday, 26th May 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Committee convenes annually in Malaysia and Thailand alternatively.
- b. The meeting was co-chaired by Malaysia's Joint Chairman, the Honourable Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Senior Minister of Defence of Malaysia; and the Thailand Joint Chairman, His Excellency General Prawit Wongsuwon, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. The meeting was conducted successfully in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust, in the spirit of good neighbourliness.
- c. The objective of this meeting is to encourage cooperation for peace, security and stability within the border areas of Malaysia and the Kingdom of Thailand through the resolution of common problems as well as developing and promoting matters of mutual interest.
- d. The meeting had deliberated and noted with much satisfaction the progress of activities undertaken during the period under review by the High Level Committee (HLC), the Regional Border Committee (RBC), Joint Combined Exercise Committee (JCEC) and its agencies. These include Operational Activities, Border Management Activities and other socio-economic development initiatives conducted along the Malaysia - Thailand border.
- e. The 55th General Border Committee endorsed the progress report submitted by both countries. These reports presented the planning and conduct of various activities by the stipulated agencies and their counterparts. The reports encompass both the security and development aspects of border management along the common frontiers.
- f. Following the 55th General Border Committee, both countries agreed:-
 - i) To strengthen close information and intelligence exchange among border agencies on preventing non-traditional security threats along the border;
 - ii) To improve the effectiveness of joint operations along the border in curbing non-traditional security threats and the proliferation of COVID-19 infections;
 - iii) To facilitate legal border crossing activities for economic growth and strengthening border area communities;
 - iv) To establish communications with the appointment of Liaison Officers (LO) for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) readiness along the common border; and
 - v) To conduct the 4th JCEC THAMAL exercise with the possibility of inviting ASEAN and allied countries as observers and participants. This will afford the evaluation of the existing doctrine and SOPs of HADR.
- g. The conduct of the 4th JCEX THAMAL is expected to be held in 2024. The exercise will focus on military assistance from ASEAN member countries against the backdrop of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). Special emphasis will be placed on promoting the roles of female trainees, and the performance of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- h. The 56th General Border Committee Meeting is expected to be convened in 2023, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand.