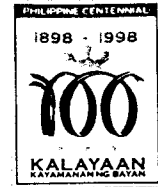




REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



24 March 1998

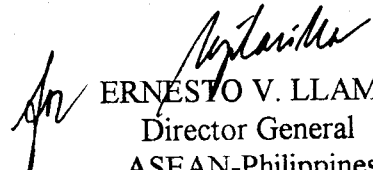
Dear Secretary-General,

I have the honor to submit the original copy of the Instrument of Ratification of the Protocol to Implement the Initial Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework on Services

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:


ERNESTO V. LLAMAS
Director General
ASEAN-Philippines

His Excellency RODOLFO C. SEVERINO, JR.
Secretary-General
Office of Southeast Asian Nations
Jakarta, Indonesia



MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS: . . .

KNOW YE, that whereas, the Protocol to Implement the Initial Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework on Services was signed on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines by Secretary Cesar B. Bautista in Kuala Lumpur on 15 December 1997;

WHEREAS, the initial package of commitments covers five (5) sectors, namely: air transport (3 countries); business/professional services (1 country); maritime transport (4 countries); telecommunications (1 country); and tourism (7 countries). The commitments govern all modes of supply covering market access and national treatment. These commitments go beyond those inscribed under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) or are at least as favorable as the Member Countries' existing services regime;

WHEREAS, the specific commitments of Member Countries will provide market opportunities for Filipino service suppliers especially in the areas of air and maritime transport, business/professional services and tourism. This is also an avenue to promote our Filipino professional who have been internationally recognized for their competitiveness. Investments particularly in tourism related projects will be generated and would inexorably open doors for more joint venture activities;

WHEREAS, the Protocol shall enter into force upon the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification or Acceptance by all signatory Governments with the Secretary General of ASEAN not later than 31 March 1998;

WHEREAS, this Protocol is not one of those treaties and international agreements contemplated in Section 21, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution which require the concurrence of the Senate, but an executive agreement which can be validly entered into by the President in the exercise of his treaty-making powers;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that **I, FIDEL V. RAMOS**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned Protocol, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and every Article and Clause thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Manila, on this 14 day of Mar in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs