



No. 817.99

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the ASEAN Secretariat and has the honor to forward the enclosed letter to H.E. Mr. Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr., Secretary General of ASEAN from Mr. Ernesto V. Llamas, Director General, ASEAN-Philippines submitting for deposit the Instruments of Ratification signed recently by H.E. President Joseph Ejercito Estrada to the following ASEAN Agreements:

1. ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs);
2. Protocol to Implement the Second Package of Commitments Under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services; and
3. Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA)

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ASEAN Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Jakarta, 11 March 1999

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT	
RECEIVED	FAX / MAIL
DATE 11/3/99	TIME 3 pm





REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



ASEAN-PHILIPPINES NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

03 March 1999

Excellency,

We are honored to submit, for deposit with the ASEAN Secretariat, the enclosed originals of the Instruments of Ratification signed by H.E. President Joseph E. Estrada for the following ASEAN agreements:

1. ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs); *462*
2. Protocol to Implement the Second Package of Commitments Under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services; and *463*
3. Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) *470*

We would appreciate your acknowledgement of the deposit of these documents.

With my best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO V. LLAMAS
Director General

Enclosures: As stated.

Honorable Rodolfo C. Severino, Jr.
Secretary General of ASEAN
Jakarta, Indonesia





MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

KNOW YE, that whereas, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) was signed in Hanoi, Vietnam on 16 December 1998;

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement aims to deepen and broaden the cooperation on standards and conformance in ASEAN, and to provide a basis for developing and implementing MRAs in specific sectors, to facilitate the realization of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA);

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement is an important means of eliminating technical barriers to trade and enhancing market access particularly to small and medium-sized businesses in ASEAN;

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement specifies conditions by which each Signatory to the Sectoral MRA will accept or recognize results of conformity assessment procedures, produced by the Conformity Assessment Bodies of the other Signatories;

WHEREAS, Article 18 of the Framework Agreement states that it shall enter into force upon deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all signatory Governments with the Secretary-General of ASEAN;

WHEREAS, this Framework Agreement 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;



PJEE Hologram # 3265





NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, **JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned ASEAN Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, 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 11th day of FEBRUARY in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine.



BY THE PRESIDENT:

DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs



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