

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

KNOW YE, that whereas, the *e-ASEAN Framework Agreement* was signed in Singapore on 24 November 2000;

WHEREAS, the *Agreement*, consisting of fifteen (15) articles, aims to develop, strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in ASEAN and seeks to promote cooperation to reduce the digital divide within individual, as well as amongst ASEAN Member States;

WHEREAS, the *Agreement* promotes cooperation between the public and private sectors in realizing e-ASEAN and promotes the liberalization of trade in ICT products, ICT services and investments to support the e-ASEAN initiative;

WHEREAS, under the *Agreement*, Member States have to adopt electronic commerce regulatory and legislative frameworks that create trust and confidence in consumers and facilitate the transformation of business towards the development of e-ASEAN;

WHEREAS, Article 15, paragraph 1 of the *Agreement* provides that it shall enter into force *upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by all signatory governments with the Secretary-General of ASEAN*;

WHEREAS, this *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 her treaty making powers;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the *e-ASEAN Framework Agreement*, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and each 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, this 10th day of December in the year of Our Lord two thousand and one.

BY THE PRESIDENT:




TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.

Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs



