



No. 23-2020

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN presents its compliments to the ASEAN Secretariat and has the honor to refer to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) signed on 28 March 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN has further the honor to deposit with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Philippines' Instrument of Ratification of the said Agreement.

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

Jakarta, 10 March 2020



Secretary General of ASEAN





MALACAÑANG  
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

**KNOW YE**, that whereas, the *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA)* was signed by the Economic Officials of the ASEAN Member States and Hong Kong, China on 12 November 2017 at the sidelines of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Leaders' Summit, in Manila;

**WHEREAS**, the signing of the AHKFTA will make both the ASEAN region and Hong Kong a trading and investment hub that will boost employment, competitiveness and inclusive economic growth in Asia;

**WHEREAS**, under the AHKFTA, Hong Kong commits to bind and reduce all its tariff to zero, which is a significant gain for the Philippines and the other ASEAN Member States as it would result in wider market access and increased expansion opportunities for local businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, under the AHKFTA, the ASEAN and Hong Kong commit to strengthen cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, specifically by allowing the Parties to cooperate in terms of balancing regulatory and trade interests, eliminating unnecessary barriers to trade, providing critical market information, improving the quality and consistency of technical regulations, and complying with international requirements that ensure the protection of human health, safety and environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it known that I, **RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the *ASEAN – Hong Kong, China Free Trade 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 **4<sup>th</sup>** day of **January** in the year of Our Lord, **Two Thousand and Nineteen**.

  


By the President.

  
**SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**  
Executive Secretary

