

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 206, July 13, 1995 ]**

**CREATING A NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL  
DECADE FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND  
DECLARING 1995-2005 AS NATIONAL DECADE FOR FILIPINO  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**WHEREAS**, recalling that the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1990 declared 1993 as "International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples: A New Partnership" with the view to strengthening international cooperation towards the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas as human rights, the environment, education, health, cultural identity, employment and ancestral domain;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is a signatory to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries which is currently the main international legal instrument protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, and other international agreements concerning the environment such as the 1992 UN Convention on Biodiversity and the Principles on Tropical Forests, which directly concerns the 2 million year old biocultural diversity of indigenous peoples in their forests;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines, through the initiative of DIALECT-PCCEDIU-International Theatre Institute, FACE/Earthsavers Movement and the Indigenous Organization, Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP), all non-government organizations, initiated the Philippine hosting of the 1988 International Conference and Festival for Indigenous and Traditional Cultures as a UNESCO launching activity of the UN Decade of Culture, and which initiative led to a successful Philippine involvement in the UN General Assembly Declaration of 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the special participation of the Philippines at the inaugural ceremonies of the UN Year during Human Rights Day on 11 December 1992 at the UN Headquarters;

**WHEREAS**, the National Organizing Committee for the Global Youth Earthsaving Summit (Global YES) created by Administrative Order No. 28 held in Quezon City on 10-19 April 1993 was the first UN-endorsed international event for the year on the theme "Indigenous and Youth Partnership for Sustainable Development" attended by Nobel Laureate and UN Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples Rigoberta Menchu Tum and Human Rights Awardee, Prince Alfred von Liechtenstein and 1,500 delegates from 28 countries, preceded by a National Conference on Indigenous Peoples with its central theme on Indigenous People's Traditional Cultures, Ancestral Domain and Self-Governing Communities: A Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development" initiated by Earthsavers, TRICAP and ITI-FACE;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines participated in the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna on 14-25 June 1993 which finalized and approved a Draft Universal

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that will chart the UN Human Rights Program into the next century, and the Secretary General of the Vienna Conference, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, had expressed interest in support for the Philippine proposal of an Indigenous Cultural Olympics;

**WHEREAS**, the UN General Assembly 48/163 on 3 December 1993, "noted with satisfaction the holding in Manila of a Global Indigenous Cultural Olympics, reaffirms the role of traditional cultures in the preservation of the environment underscoring the right to cultural survival; and

"Welcomes the proposal for a follow-up gathering of indigenous peoples in 1995, an "Indigenous Peoples Cultural Olympics and Summit", to be held in conjunction with the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, to reaffirm the value of traditional cultures, folk arts and rituals as effective expressions of respective national identities, and as presentation for the shared vision for peace, freedom and equality";

**WHEREAS**, the UNESCO has also designated the "Global Indigenous Cultural Olympics and Summit for Peace and Sustainable Development" (GICOS) as an official activity of the UN Decade of Culture and the observance of UNESCO's 50th Anniversary of Culture;

**WHEREAS**, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has unanimously approved and endorsed participation in the GICOS event at its 26th Congress in Caracas, Venezuela on 24-30 June, 1995, and pledged cooperation of its Theatre Education and Cultural Identity and Development Program;

**WHEREAS**, it is now incumbent on the Philippine Government to undertake such preparations for the Decade beginning with the Global Indigenous Cultural Olympics and Summit for Peace and Sustainable Development with the full participation on indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of such program, and other projects and activities that will affect their living conditions now and in the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby create a National Committee for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and declare 1995-2005 as the National Decade of Philippine Indigenous Peoples.

**SECTION 1. *Composition of the National Committee.*** - I hereby designate the following or their duly authorized representatives to compose the National Committee:

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| 1. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs                   | - Chairperson    |
| 2. Secretary, Department of Education, Culture and Sports     | - Co-Chairperson |
| 3. Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources | - Member         |
| 4. Secretary, Department of Health                            | - Member         |
| 5. Secretary, Department of                                   | - Member         |