

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 213, May 28, 2003**]

**CREATION OF A PHILIPPINE COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO
STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Philippines is determined to improve the state of its economy and eliminate poverty;

WHEREAS, trade expansion and market access are necessary means to spur growth in the Philippines economy and provide increased employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, the Philippines believes that it must deepen regional economic integration to build the foundations for sustainable growth;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan share the vision of an Asian economic integration and are committed to studying the possibility of forging a bilateral economic partnership agreement;

WHEREAS, an economic partnership agreement could promote stronger bilateral economic cooperation not only in trade in goods but also in such fields as tourism, services, investments, human resource development, science and technology, and other areas of interest to both parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. A Philippine Coordinating Committee (PCC) to study the feasibility of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) is hereby created.

The PCC shall be composed of representatives from the following government agencies:

1. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
2. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
3. Department of Agriculture (DA);
4. Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
5. Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS);
6. Department of Energy (DOE);
7. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
8. Department of Finance (DOF);
9. Department of Health (DOH);
10. Department of Justice (DOJ);
11. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
12. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
13. Department of Science and Technology (DOST);