

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 145, December 27, 1993]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE 1994 PHILIPPINE SCHEDULE OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THE ACCELERATED AND NORMAL PROGRAMMES OF THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

WHEREAS, the Heads of State and Governments of ASEAN, convinced that ASEAN cooperation is vital to the well-being of their peoples, unequivocally declared at their Fourth Summit Meeting held in Singapore on 28 January 1992 that ASEAN must move towards a higher plane of political, security, and economic cooperation to ensure regional peace, progress and prosperity;

WHEREAS, having reviewed the profound international political and economic changes that have occurred since the end of the Cold War and considered their implications for ASEAN, the Heads of the ASEAN Member States declared the ASEAN shall continuously contribute to an open international economic regime;

WHEREAS, in the field of economic cooperation, recognizing the tariff and non-tariff barriers are impediments to intra-ASEAN trade and that existing commitments under the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) to remove these trade barriers need to be extensively improved upon, the ASEAN Member States agreed that there shall be established, among other new economic measures contained in the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation signed in Singapore on 28 January 1992, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) using the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme as the main mechanism within a time frame of fifteen (15) years beginning 1 January 1993 with the final effective tariffs ranging from 0 to 5%;

WHEREAS, as provided for in the Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Areas (AFTA) signed in Singapore in 28 January 1992, all manufactured products, including capital goods, processed agricultural products, and those products falling outside the definition of agricultural products as set out in the Agreement shall be in the CEPT Scheme;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Member States have identified in the Summit Declaration fifteen (15) groups of products to be included in the CEPT Scheme for accelerated tariff reduction, namely: vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastics, rubber products, leather products, pulp, textiles, ceramic and glass products, gems and jewelry, copper cathodes, electronics, and wooden and rattan furniture;