

**[ OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15, May 16, 2001 ]**

**AUTHORIZING THE MANILA ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE, INC. ("MECO") TO PERFORM CERTAIN FUNCTIONS RELATING TO TRADE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, INVESTMENT, AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Philippines-China Joint Communiqué dated June 9, 1975, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole government of China;

WHEREAS, friendly and unofficial relations with Taiwan, on a people-to-people basis, have been promoted by the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, Inc. ("MECO"), formerly named the Asian Exchange Center, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that people-to-people relations between the Philippines and Taiwan should continue and shall be facilitated by the private offices of MECO and its counterpart, the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, MECO, in addition to its corporate objectives, has been previously authorized to perform consular and other functions to promote and protect the rights and interests of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Taiwan, to promote the Philippines as a tourist and investment destination for Taiwanese, and to facilitate the travel of Filipinos and Taiwanese from Taiwan to the Philippines, and vice versa;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned authority of MECO in the fields of trade, economic cooperation, investment, cultural, scientific and educational exchanges, and protection of OFWs is an important and sensitive duty, owing to the commitment of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to a One-China policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PRESIDENT 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. Consistent with its corporate purposes and subject to the conditions stated in Section 3 hereof, MECO is hereby authorized to assist in the performance of the following functions:

1. Formulation and implementation of a program to attract and promote investments from Taiwan to Philippine industries and businesses, especially in manufacturing, tourism, construction and other preferred areas of investments;
2. Promotion of the export of Philippine products and Filipino manpower services, including Philippine management services, to Taiwan;