

November 16, 2004

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR BILATERAL  
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF PALAU**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties").

DESIRING to promote the development of the fraternal bond existing between both countries and their people on the basis of friendship and mutual benefits;

RECOGNIZING the benefits to be derived by the two countries from closer cooperation

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT:

**ARTICLE I**

1. The Parties will establish a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) which will explore the possibilities of promoting relations, particularly in the fields of Economic, Technical and Maritime Cooperation, Trade and Investment, Tourism, Science and Technology, Culture and Labor;
2. The Parties will provide the necessary facilities for the fulfillment and promotion of said cooperation within the framework of existing regulations of each country.

**ARTICLE II**

The Joint Ministerial Commission will meet at least once every three years subject to financial considerations on both sides or as necessary, alternatively in Koror and Manila.

**ARTICLE III**

The Agenda of the meeting shall be defined in advance on the basis of mutual agreement.

**ARTICLE IV**

To facilitate the identification of specific areas in the various fields of cooperation, the Joint Ministerial Commission may appoint sub-commissions and set up working groups or expert meetings which shall meet as often as mutually considered necessary.

**ARTICLE V**

The Joint Ministerial Commission and the sub-commission may compile working regulations necessary for the performance of their duties, as per existing rules and regulations in their respective countries and in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding.