

August 17, 1999

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A JOINT COMMISSION FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY THE
SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties").

Desirous of expanding and enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation on a lasting and long-term basis;

Convinced of the necessity of the lasting and effective cooperation in the interests of both countries;

Confirming their interest in the strengthening of existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries based on the principle of equality, mutual benefit and full respect of sovereignty;

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE I

1. The Parties shall establish a joint Commission (hereinafter called the "Commission") to facilitate consultation and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mutual interest.

2. The Commission shall consider ways and means to promote the abovementioned consultation and cooperation and to ensure the proper coordination and implementation of its decisions and/or recommendations.

ARTICLE II

1. The Commission shall be headed by the respective Foreign Ministers, or their designated representatives. The composition of the Commission shall be determined by the Parties.

2. The terms of reference of the Commission are contained in the annex attached hereto and forms part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE III

The Commission shall determine its rules and procedures and may establish committees, sub-committees, and/or working groups with specific subjects brought before it.

ARTICLE IV

1. The Commission shall meet at the written request of either Party, with agreement of the other, alternately in the Republic of the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam.
2. The meeting of the Commission shall be preceded by a meeting at the level of Senior Officials.

ARTICLE V

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of the notification by the Parties, through diplomatic channels, indicating that the domestic requirements for its entry into force have been complied with.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of its entry into force. Thereafter, it shall automatically be renewed for another five years, unless either of the Parties give written notice to the other through diplomatic channels to:
 - a. terminate the Memorandum of Understanding; or
 - b. to renew the Memorandum of Understanding for a shorter period.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by
 - a. either of the Parties by giving six (6) months' written notice to the other; or
 - b. mutual agreement at any time.
4. In the event of the termination, the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain applicable to ongoing programmes until their completion unless the Parties agree otherwise.
5. Either Party may request in writing through diplomatic channels, a revision or amendment of all or part of this Memorandum of Understanding. Any revision or amendment which has been agreed to by the Parties shall come into effect following its approval by the Parties on a date to be mutually agreed.

ARTICLE VI

Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved amicably by consultation between the Parties.

ARTICLE VII

1. The Parties shall observe the levels of security classification of this Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with their respective national laws and procedures.
2. The Parties shall keep confidential, and not without prior written consent of the other, disclose to any third party, documents or