

May 14, 1997

**AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PANAMA**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Panama, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties";

Acknowledging the importance of promoting and developing technical and scientific cooperation in fields of mutual interest;

Desirous of strengthening and intensifying the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries;

Convinced of the importance of establishing mechanisms that contribute to the promotion and development of cooperation and the need to execute specific programs in pursuit of economic and social progress for the welfare of their people;

Based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit to attain the development needs and objectives of both countries;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The present Agreement aims to encourage scientific and technical cooperation between the Contracting Parties in accordance with their national priorities, through the promotion and execution of programs and projects in areas of common interest and mutual benefit, and the broadening of ties between their scientists, technicians and institutions. The programs and projects may include the participation of both government and private research institutes of both countries.

ARTICLE II

The framework of this Agreement and technical cooperation shall include:

1. undertaking of joint or coordinated studies/researches, conferences, seminars, and symposia in scientific and technical fields;
2. exchange of scientists, technicians, experts and researchers in scientific and technical fields;
3. sending of experts for consultancy services;
4. grant of fellowships for graduate and post graduate studies; training or study tours in scientific and technical fields;
5. exchange of scientific and technical information;
6. sending of equipment and materials required for the execution of specific projects; and

7. other forms of scientific and technical cooperation that may be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE III

To implement the scientific and technical cooperation provided for in Article II hereof the participants in these Cooperative Activities shall negotiate and conclude specific project arrangements or protocols consonant with the priorities of both countries and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The negotiations shall be conducted through a Joint Commission.

The specific project arrangements or protocols shall contain, among others, objectives and goals of the projects/activities, detailed description of the activities to be jointly undertaken; the manner in which the activities shall be carried out; the contributions of the cooperating institutions; their rights, obligations, and responsibilities and the financial conditions in undertaking the activities.

ARTICLE IV

The Joint Commission referred to in Article III shall hereby be established and shall be composed of an equal number of representatives to be designated by the Contracting Parties. The Commission shall meet alternately in Manila and Panama.

The Joint Commission shall have the following functions:

1. coordinate and review the activities of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries and institute measures to carry out the provisions of this Agreement;
2. evaluate and determine priority areas in which to formulate project proposals and programs for scientific and technical cooperation;
3. create favorable conditions for the implementation of this Agreement;
4. examine and approve the programs/projects for cooperation, and facilitate and support the implementation of these programs/projects; and
5. to review the progress of scientific and technical cooperation and suggest measures for strengthening the Commission.

The Commission may establish working groups as deemed necessary for the implementation of the specific arrangements concluded in Article III.

ARTICLE V

The scientists, technicians, experts, researchers, fellows and other persons involved in exchanges under this Agreement shall observe the laws and regulations in force in the country to which they are sent.

Each Contracting Party shall give the scientists, technicians, experts and researchers, fellows and other persons sent by each Party under this Agreement the necessary assistance so that they may accomplish their mission.

The provisions of the present Agreement shall not limit the right of either Contracting Party to adopt or execute measures for reasons of public health, morals, and order or security.