



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

KNOW YE, that whereas, the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit was signed in Hanoi, Vietnam on 16 December 1998;

WHEREAS, the Member States, in signing the Framework Agreement, recalled the decisions of the First and Second ASEAN Informal Summit held on 30 November 1996 and 15 December 1997 in Kuala Lumpur;

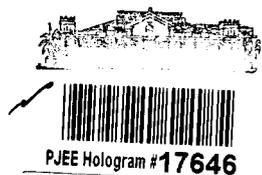
WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement aims to facilitate transportation of goods in transit and to support the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), and to further integrate the region's economies;

WHEREAS, the Framework Agreement seeks to simplify and harmonize transport, trade and customs regulations and requirements for the purpose of facilitation of goods in transit and to establish an effective, efficient, integrated, and harmonized transit transport system in ASEAN;

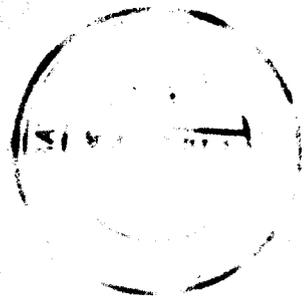
WHEREAS, complementary to this Agreement, the Member Countries agreed to negotiate expeditiously a separate ASEAN Framework Agreement on the facilitation of interstate transport;

WHEREAS, Article 33 of the Agreement provides that it shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all Contracting Parties with the Secretary General of the ASEAN. It shall enter into force initially so as to provide a mandate for the formulation of the nine protocols;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is not one of those treaties and international agreements contemplated in Section 21, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution which require the concurrence of the Senate, but an executive agreement which can be validly entered into by the President in the exercise of his treaty making powers;



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NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and every Article and Clause thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Manila, on this 20th day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs



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