

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,
GREETINGS:

KNOW YE, that the *ASEAN Tourism Agreement*, was signed in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 4 November 2002;

WHEREAS, the *Agreement*, consisting of twelve (12) articles, recognizes the strategic importance of the tourism industry for the sustainable growth of the ASEAN Member States and seeks to enhance cooperation in the tourism industry among Member States in order to maximize the complementary nature of the region's tourist attractions and promote ASEAN as a single tourism destination;

WHEREAS, the *Agreement* provides that Member States shall facilitate travel within and into ASEAN through visa exemption arrangements, phasing out of travel levies and travel taxes, encouraging the use of smart cards for business and frequent travelers, and improving communications through the use of universal symbols and multilingual signs and forms;

WHEREAS, the *Agreement* also provides that Member States shall ensure the safety of travelers by stepping up cooperation among law-enforcement agencies in charge of tourist safety and security; intensifying the sharing of information on immigration matters among law-enforcement agencies; and taking all necessary measures to ensure communications and assistance systems to deal with visitor's concerns;



WHEREAS, the *Agreement* further provides that Member States shall facilitate cooperation in the transport services by promoting accessibility by air, improving airport management, encouraging cruising, travel by ferry and leisure boats, and developing measures in support of efficient and safe travel;

WHEREAS, Article 12, Paragraph 1 provides that this *Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all Member States with the Secretary-General of ASEAN.*

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned *ASEAN Tourism Agreement*, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and each 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**, this 5TH day of MAY in the year of Our Lord two thousand and three.

BY THE PRESIDENT:



BLAS F. OPLE
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

