

20 March 2009

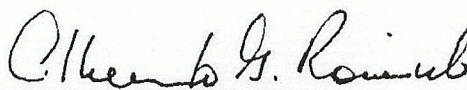
Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that the Philippine Government has appointed His Excellency **Orlando S. Mercado** as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and has invested him with full and all manner of power and authority, for and in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, to meet and confer with Your Excellency and other appropriate officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and with any person or persons invested with like power and authority by the respective governments of the states represented in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta.

His Excellency Orlando S. Mercado is authorized to represent the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in all organs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta. He is also authorized to designate a substitute to act temporarily on his behalf after due notice to the Secretary General.

I therefore request Your Excellency to receive His Excellency Orlando S. Mercado favorably and to accord to him all proper countenance and assistance.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

  
**ALBERTO G. ROMULO**

His Excellency  
**DR. SURIN PITSUWAN**  
Secretary General  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
Jakarta, Indonesia