

**[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20, September 06,
2011]**

**REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL ON
ASEAN AND APEC COOPERATION INTO THE PHILIPPINE
COUNCIL FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION**

WHEREAS, the Philippines continues to adopt "diplomacy for development" as its central foreign policy thrust to further promote the national economic and political agenda through active participation in various international and regional fora;

WHEREAS, the Philippines will continually pursue the policy of strengthening and promoting friendly and mutually beneficial relations within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia Pacific region and with countries in other regions, within the context of intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Council for ASEAN and APEC Cooperation (PCAAC), which was established under Administrative Order No. 7 (s. 1986), as amended by Administrative Order No. 136 (s. 1994), needs to be reorganized to take into account developments in the international arena, including the adoption of the ASEAN Charter and the establishment of new inter-regional cooperation structures;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Charter commits ASEAN to intensify community building through enhanced regional cooperation and integration, in particular by establishing an ASEAN Community comprising of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC);

WHEREAS, there is a need to facilitate inter-agency coordination in the formulation and implementation of Philippine policy towards enhancing relations with all regional and inter-regional organizations and fora;

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs assumes primacy in the conduct of foreign relations and should, therefore, be the focal point for the formulation, coordination and integration of Philippine proposals and positions, particularly on matters relating to ASEAN, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), and similar regional initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, the President, under Article VII, Section 17 of the Constitution, has the power and control over executive departments, bureaus and offices, as well as the continuing authority under existing laws to reorganize such executive departments, bureaus and agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Reorganizing and Renaming the PCAAC. The PCAAC shall be reorganized and renamed as the Philippine Council for Regional Cooperation (PCRC) to cover concerns arising from or within the context of the ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, FEALAC, and similar regional initiatives.

SECTION 2. Composition of the Cabinet-Level PCRC. The Cabinet-level PCRC shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Vice-Chairperson: Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and
Director
General of the National Economic and
Development Authority
Members: Secretary of Trade and Industry
Secretary of Transportation and
Communications
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Tourism
Secretary of Finance
Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Science and Technology
Secretary of the Presidential Management
Staff
Secretary of Environment and Natural
Resources
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Health
Director General of the Technical Education
and Skills Development Authority
Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Chairperson of the Tariff Commission

SECTION 3. Composition of PCRC Sub-Cabinet Level Technical Boards.

The PCRC shall have four (4) sub-Cabinet level Technical Boards namely: the ASEAN Matters Technical Board (AMTB); the Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM); the Technical Board on ASEM Concerns (TBAC); and the Technical Board on FEALAC Matters (TBFM). The DFA shall serve as Chairperson of all four (4) Technical Boards, being the designated Philippine Senior Official to all four (4) regional associations/fora.

SECTION 4. AMTB Committees. The AMTB shall have as its members the departments and agencies comprising its three (3) Committees which correspond to the three ASEAN Communities, namely: the Committee for ASEAN Political Security Community (CAPSC); Committee for ASEAN Economic Community (CAEC); and the Committee for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (CASCC).

a. The CAPSC shall be composed of departments and agencies concerned with ASEAN political, defense and security cooperation, namely:

Chairperson: Department of Foreign Affairs
Members: Department of National Defense

Department of Justice
Department of the Interior and Local
Government
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace
Process Anti-Terrorism Council
Philippine Center for Transnational Crime

b. The CAEC shall be composed of departments and agencies concerned with ASEAN economic and financial cooperation, namely:

Chairperson: Department of Trade and Industry
Members: National Economic and Development
Authority
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Finance
Department of Agriculture
Department of Tourism
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
Department of Labor and Employment
Department of Transportation and
Communications
Department of Energy
Department of Science and Technology
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Board of Investments
Bureau of Customs
Presidential Management Staff
Tariff Commission

c. The CASCC shall be composed of departments and agencies concerned with ASEAN socio-cultural cooperation, namely:

Chairperson: Department of Social Welfare and
Development
Members: Department of Foreign Affairs
National Economic and Development
Authority
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Labor and Employment
Civil Service Commission
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Bureau of Immigration
Philippine Overseas Employment
Administration
National Commission for Culture and the Arts
National Commission on the Role of Filipino