

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 28, January 18, 1993]

CREATING A NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND DECLARING 1993 AS NATIONAL YEAR FOR FILIPINO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WHEREAS, the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1990 declared 1993 as "International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples: A New Partnership", with a view to strengthening international cooperation towards the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, health, employment and ancestral domain;

WHEREAS, this UN General Assembly Declaration invites States to ensure that preparations are made for the Year, and invites indigenous organizations and other concerned non-governmental organizations to consider their respective contributions for the success of the Year, with a view to presenting them to the World Commission on Human Rights and other international organizations concerned with other issues especially the environment, development, education, health and intellectual and labor rights of indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries which is currently the main international legal instrument protecting the rights of indigenous peoples; and other international agreements concerning the environment such as the 1992 UN Convention on Biodiversity and the Principles on Tropical Forests, which directly concern the 2 million year old biocultural diversity of indigenous peoples in their forests;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, through the initiative of DIALECT-PCCEDIU-International Theater Institute, FACE/Earth Savers Movement and the Indigenous Organization Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP), all non-governmental organizations, hosted the 1988 International Conference and Festival for Indigenous and Traditional Cultures in Manila as the UNESCO launching event for the Decade of Culture, and which initiative led to a successful Philippine involvement in the UN General Assembly Declaration of 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the special participation of the Philippines at the inaugural ceremonies of the UN Year during Human Rights Day on 11 December 1992 at the UN Headquarters;

WHEREAS, the Philippines will participate in the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna on 14-25 June 1993 which will finalize and approve a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that will chart the UN Human Rights Program into the next century;