

**[ MEMORANDUM ORDER No. 53-2021, June 18, 2021 ]**

**DESIGNATION OF THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIARY'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WORKING GROUPS FOR THE COUNCIL OF ASEAN CHIEF JUSTICES (CACJ) AFFAIRS AND JUDICIARY NETWORKS**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution articulates the policy of "cooperation and amity with all nations;"

WHEREAS, on 23 August 2013 in Singapore, the 1st ASEAN Chief Justices' Meeting (ACJM) was held with the objectives of: (a) promoting close relations and mutual understanding amongst the ASEAN judiciaries; (b) providing a regular forum for the ASEAN Chief Justices to discuss and exchange views on common issues facing the ASEAN judiciaries; and (c) facilitating judicial cooperation and collaboration among ASEAN judiciaries with a view to accelerate the economic growth and development of the ASEAN region.

WHEREAS, in the 1st ACJM, the ASEAN Chief Justices discussed high policy matters affecting legal systems, best practices and assessment of legal trends on the following areas:

- (i) Enhance the Rule of Law to promote greater economic co-operation in ASEAN by developing an internet portal to improve the flow of information on ASEAN Judiciaries;
- (ii) Promote judicial education and training by collaborating to develop ideas to enhance training opportunities for the judges and judicial officers within ASEAN, which the Philippines and Indonesia will take the lead;
- (iii) Harness judicial cooperation in ASEAN by collaborating and sharing best practices in:
  - (a) The use of court technology;
  - (b) Case management techniques; and
  - (c) Facilitating the service of civil processes within ASEAN to provide economic growth and development of the ASEAN region.

WHEREAS, in The Boracay Accord of 2015, held on 2 March 2015 in Boracay, Aklan, Philippines, the Chief Justices of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, collectively known as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Chief Justices (ACJ), agreed to take initial steps towards a strengthened strategic partnership with one another by forming Working Groups (IWG), as follows:

- (1) *WG on Judicial Education and Training;*
- (2) *WG on ASEAN Judiciary Portal (AJP);*
- (3) *WG on Cross-Border Disputes Involving Children;*
- (4) *WG on Facilitating Civil Processes within ASEAN;*
- (5) *WG on Case Management and Court Technology;*
- (6) *WG on ASEAN+ Meetings;*

WHEREAS, in the 4th ASEAN Chief Justices' Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 1 April 2016, the ACJM was renamed as the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ).

WHEREAS, in the 4th Meeting of CACJ, the Working Group on *Study Group and Future Work of the CACJ* was created to study the future work and objectives of the CACJ, including the development of ASEAN vision for the ASEAN Judiciaries in the form of a judiciary model/framework;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Judiciary co-chairs the WGs on Cross-Border Disputes Involving Children and Judicial Education and Training;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Judiciary needs to appoint representatives for the various CACJ Working Groups.

**NOW THEREFORE,** the following are hereby appointed as representatives to the various CACJ Working Groups:

1. WG on Cross-Border Disputes Involving Children  
**Role of Philippines:** Co-Chairperson  
**Hon. Estela M. Perlas-Bernabe**  
*Associate Justice, Supreme Court and Chairperson, Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns*

*The Group shall discuss and consider developing a common set of values, aspirations and principles for ASEAN Judiciaries in cases of cross border child disputes within ASEAN.*

2. WG on Judicial Education and Training  
**Role of Philippines:** Co-Chairperson  
**Hon. Arturo D. Brion**  
*Chancellor, Philippine Judicial Academy ( PHILJA )*

*The Group will continue to advance and to ensure sustainability and quality of the judicial education and training through collaborative efforts among ASEAN Judiciaries.*