

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON POLICY
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants");

RECOGNIZING the importance of consultations and exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest;

WITH A VIEW to further enhancing the friendly relations and deepening the cooperation existing between the Philippines and Timor-Leste;

Have reached the following understanding;

PARAGRAPH 1

1. The Participants will establish and hold regular consultations on matters concerning bilateral relations and co-operation, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
2. The Participants will mutually determine and agree on the dates, venue, and agenda of each round of consultations, which may be held alternately in the Philippines and Timor-Leste.
3. The Participants will bear their respective expenses for participation in the meetings, including round trip transportation and accommodations, except as provided in 1.4 hereof.
4. The host participant will bear the cost of internal expenses such as accommodation, meals and local transportation of the head of delegation and an agreed number of officials, as mutually agreed upon.
5. By mutual agreement, expert working groups may be formed to consider specific or urgent matters.

PARAGRAPH 2

The Policy Consultations will be held at the level of Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary, in the case of the Department of Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the case of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

At the policy consultation meetings, the Participants will exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues and developments of common concern.

PARAGRAPH 3

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual consent of the Participants at the request of either Participant. Such amendment will come into effect in accordance with Paragraph 4.