

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON COOPERATION IN
SEARCH AND RESCUE AT SEA**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam hereinafter referred to collectively as "Contracting Parties" or individually as "Contracting Party".

BEING members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

NOTING the importance of cooperation in maritime safety of search and rescue (SAR) operations for persons, vessels and aircraft in distress at sea;

AWARE of their common interests to have effective, prompt, and enhanced coordination activities in SAR for persons, vessels and aircraft in distress at sea;

NOTING the principles related to SAR operations enshrined in pertinent multilateral instruments, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the relevant IMO Conventions;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the need to reinforce cooperation between the two countries through mutual help in providing assistance to persons, vessels and aircraft in distress at sea;

RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen the relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between the respective national responsible authority for maritime SAR of the Contracting Parties:

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE I
OBJECTIVE**

On the basis of equality and mutual benefit and to enhance the efficiency of SAR operations for persons, vessels and aircraft in distress at sea, the Contracting Parties shall undertake cooperation in SAR operations within their respective jurisdiction and in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, as well as international treaties and conventions to which the Contracting Parties are signatories.

**ARTICLE II
FIELDS OF COOPERATION IN SEARCH AND RESCUE AT SEA**

The Contracting Parties shall promote cooperation in the following fields:

1. Exchange of personnel and visits to further strengthen mutual understanding.

Holding workshops, trainings, annual meetings, exercises, and seminars on SAR matters including, but not limited to, international legal frameworks and national laws and regulations relating to SAR at sea, including domestic legal requirements and procedures in the rendering of SAR assistance and operations in seas under the national jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties;

2. Defining the boundary and specific area of operation for purposes of SAR operations and clearly identifying the Contracting Party's responsibilities in the control, surveillance, and coordination of SAR efforts;

3. Establishment of direct linkages between the SAR agencies of the Contracting Parties – Philippine Coast Guard and the Center of Marine Coordination for Search and Rescue of Vietnam – for the following purposes:

3.1 Exchange of information on past, existing, and potential SAR incidents and operations of mutual interest.

3.2 Mutual assistance in the conduct of SAR operations within the jurisdiction of either Contracting Party as agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

3.3 Defining the SAR responsibility of the relevant SAR agency – Philippine Coast Guard or the Center of Marine Coordination for Search and Rescue of Vietnam – whichever first receives information concerning persons, vessels and aircraft in distress in the jurisdiction of either Contracting Party.

3.4 Jointly developing common standard operating procedures and defining the specific responsibilities of the respective SAR agencies whenever engaged in a joint SAR operation within the jurisdiction of either Contracting Party.

3.5 Coordination in the facilitation of entry and exit of personnel and equipment for purposes of SAR in the incident area within the jurisdiction of the Contracting Party.

3.6 Harmonization of procedures and report formats to ensure the efficient flow of information between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Center of Marine Coordination for Search and Rescue of Vietnam.

3.7 Exchange of information regarding available resources and SAR capability of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Center of Marine Coordination for Search and Rescue of Vietnam

4. Cooperation and collaboration in the research and application of management systems including software and operating systems and technologies relating to surveillance, among others, to facilitate SAR operations.
5. Exchange of information on SAR operations, maritime safety, and national SAR procedures, among others.