

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of New Zealand (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" or individually as a "Party", unless the context otherwise requires):

Desiring to strengthen their growing economic and political relationship;

Sharing a common aspiration to promote sound environmental policies and practices between the Parties, .to promote closer and greater cooperation, and to improve the capacities and capabilities of the Parties, including their respective concerned or relevant stakeholders in addressing environmental issues/matters;

Committed to the pursuit of sustainable development, taking into account the social, environmental, cultural and economic circumstances of the Parties, and noting that it is essential for economic prosperity;

Desiring to strengthen their cooperation .to contribute to the development of appropriate global approaches to sustainable development issues;

Reaffirming the international commitments made at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002 as well as those agreed to by the Parties in multilateral environmental agreements;.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Parties to develop the content of their common agenda and to share the knowledge and experience gained in the fields related to economic development and environmental protection;

Convinced that cooperation between the Parties in the above-mentioned matters will serve their mutual interests and contribute to strengthening the relations of friendship between the Parties;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**ARTICLE 1.
OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) shall be to:

- (a) encourage and promote sound environment policies and practices and improve the capacities and capabilities of the Parties, including their respective concerned or relevant stakeholders in addressing environmental issues /matters;
- (b) promote through environmental cooperation, the commitments made by the Parties; and
- (c) facilitate cooperation and dialogue in order to strengthen the broader relationships of the Parties.

ARTICLE 2

BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. The Parties respect their sovereign rights to set their own policies and national priorities and to set, administer and enforce their own environmental laws and regulations.
2. The Parties recognise that it is inappropriate to set or use their environmental laws, regulations, policies and practices for trade protectionist purposes.
3. The Parties recognise that it is inappropriate to encourage trade or investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental laws, regulations, policies and practices.
4. The Parties recognise the desirability of clear and well understood sustainable development policies and practices and the value of broad consultation in formulating these policies.

ARTICLE 3

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

1. Taking account of their national priorities and available resources, the Parties shall cooperate on mutually agreed environmental issues including concerns such as sustainable management of the environment, air quality management, water quality management, toxic chemicals and hazardous and solid wastes management, restoration of degraded watersheds, river basins and wetlands, and conduct of research dealing with major river basins and concerns affecting or dealing with climate change. Such cooperation shall be pursued through the interaction of government, industry, educational and research institutions between the Parties.
2. Each Party may, as appropriate, invite the participation of its non-government sectors and other organisations in identifying potential areas for cooperation.
3. The Parties may invite the participation of non-government sectors and other organisations in undertaking cooperative activities as mutually agreed between the Parties.
4. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities:
 - (a) exchange of technical information and publications, including expanding networks for electronic information exchange;
 - (b) exchange of environmental experts and management personnel;
 - (c) conduct of seminars, workshops or fora of mutual interest or concern;
 - (d) collaborative research on subjects and in areas of mutual interest or concern; and
 - (e) any other modes of cooperation agreed upon by the Parties;

Such cooperation activities shall take into consideration each Party's environmental priorities and needs as well as the resources available. The funding of cooperative activities shall be agreed by the Parties on a case-by-case basis.