

September 01, 2004

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR
HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL (SERVICE)
PASSPORTS**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China, (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties");

With a view to further promoting friendly relations between their countries and facilitating exchange of visits by their citizens;

Having conducted consultations on mutual exemption from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official (service) passports on the basis of equality and reciprocity;

HAVE agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. Citizens of the Republic of the Philippines who are holders of valid diplomatic or official passports, and citizens of the People's Republic of China who are holders of valid diplomatic or service passports, shall be exempted from visa requirements for entry into, exit from, or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days.

2. Holders of the passports referred to in the preceding paragraph shall go through necessary procedures in accordance with the relevant regulations of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Parties if their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party exceeds thirty (30) days.

ARTICLE II

Citizens of either Contracting Party referred to in Article I of this Agreement shall enter into, exit from or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party through ports open to international travelers and shall observe the relevant formalities as stipulated by the law of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE III

Citizens of either Contracting Party who are in possession of valid diplomatic or official (service) passports and are assigned by the sending party to its diplomatic mission or consular office or an international organization in the territory of the other Contracting Party, and their spouse and minor children shall be required to obtain appropriate visa from the competent authorities of the receiving Contracting Party.

ARTICLE IV

Citizens of either Contracting Party shall abide by the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party during their stay in the latter's