

August 25, 2001

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE ON TOURISM COOPERATION

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Singapore, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties:

DESIRING to strengthen the friendly relations and mutual understanding existing between them;

RECOGNIZING their common interest to establish greater cooperation in the area of tourism;

CONSIDERING that both countries are active members of the ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS;

COGNIZANT of the role of tourism in their economic development and as a positive instrument towards the improvement of the quality of life for all peoples;

CONVINCED of the role of tourism as a vital force in promoting peace and better international understanding;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISION

The Contracting Parties shall, subject to their respective laws and regulations, develop and promote cooperation in the field of tourism on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

ARTICLE II PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

1. The Contracting Parties shall encourage their respective tourism-related establishments, particularly travel agencies, to establish business contacts, to evolve, plan, monitor and implement tourism-related investment promotion programs, and to exchange experiences and information. These establishments shall likewise be encouraged to develop joint promotional programs that would market the Philippines and Singapore under one tour package.

2. The Contracting Parties shall provide support for each other's tourism promotion activities, and shall undertake joint promotion in mutually agreed international tourist markets so as to promote mutually beneficial flow of tourists to the

Philippines and Singapore. Such joint promotions shall include “twinning programmes” which involve collaboration on advertising, development of tour packages and production, distribution, and exchange of brochures and other collateral materials. The Contracting Parties shall encourage tourists visiting their respective countries to extend their journeys to each other’s destinations.

3. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other of their respective tourism standards and practices to facilitate the inflow of foreign tourists into their respective territories.

4. The Contracting Parties shall inform each other of their respective legislation, exchange information materials and experiences, and whenever practicable, promote exchange visits of professional experts on tourism promotion and marketing and other related areas.

5. The Contracting Parties shall encourage the exchange of information on their respective systems and methods relative to conservation and restoration of historical edifices and tourists attractions, preservation and protection of the environment and promotion of ecotourism, including the exchange of professional experts in the same field.

6. Subject to the domestic laws of each Contracting Party, all presentation and advertising materials as well as exhibits for tourist exhibitions and travel markets imported by the executing agency of a Contracting Party into the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be exempt from duties and other taxes, provided these materials and exhibits have no commercial value.

7. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that the programs to be implemented under this Memorandum shall supplement relevant ASEAN tourism programs and activities applicable to the Contracting Parties. The programs and activities to be executed under this Memorandum shall be mutually agreed to and the expenses so incurred co-shared equally by the executing agencies of the Contracting Parties.

8. In conformity with its national laws, a Contracting Party shall facilitate and assist the other Contracting Party to establish in its territory a representative office for purposes of tourism.

9. In the area of air services, the Contracting Parties shall work towards the progressive liberalization of bilateral air services arrangements for mutual benefit.

ARTICLE III EXECUTING AGENCIES

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines designates the Department of