

**JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE FRAMEWORK OF
BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

The Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China have made great progress in their cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, educational, scientific and technological and other fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 9 June 1975, bringing concrete benefits to the two peoples.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the two sides") believe that it is now opportune to establish a framework for future bilateral cooperation. This new framework will draw on the strength of their long, historical friendship and geographical proximity in order to advance the fundamental interests of their two peoples and thereby contribute to peace, security, stability, sustained growth, and development in Asia and the rest of the world. The two sides will establish a long-term and stable relationship on the basis of good neighborliness, cooperation, and mutual trust and benefit. They will undertake to elevate Philippines-China relations to greater heights in the 21st century and to this end, state the following:

1. The two sides reaffirm that the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the principles established in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other universally recognized principles of international law are the basic norms governing the relations between the two countries.
2. The two sides agree to maintain close and frequent high-level contacts and exchange of visits at all levels, including government officials, the private sector, non-government organizations, the academic community, press and media, and their peoples to contribute to a comprehensive, stable, and sustained development of bilateral relations.
3. The two sides agree to maintain and strengthen the mechanism of annual meetings between senior officials and their respective Foreign Ministries for consultations on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern.
4. The two sides agree to make further exchanges and cooperation in the defense and military fields, strengthen consultations between their military and defense personnel and diplomatic officials on security issues, to include exchanges between their military establishments on matters relating to humanitarian rescue and assistance, disaster relief and mitigation, and enhanced cooperation between their respective strategic and security research institutes.
5. The two sides acknowledge the similarities in their respective national development goals, and agree to optimise the use of existing frameworks for cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, science and technology, agriculture, education and culture, tourism, civil aviation, and taxation. They will undertake the following:

a) Promote better bilateral trade and investment flows, and improve industrial cooperation by:

- i. Exploring all possible measures to effect increases in trade volumes and product choices;
- ii. Agreeing to provide a conducive market environment, through identification and removal of trade and investment impediments;
- iii. Improving transparency of trade-related regulations;
- iv. Undertaking investment promotion, and joint investment in third countries; and
- v. Encouraging a pro-active role for the business sectors of both sides.

b) Intensify exchanges and cooperation in the financial field on the basis of reciprocity. They will work together for the reform of the international financial system.

c) Expand scientific and technological cooperation in accordance with the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation signed on 14 March 1978, and enter into new areas of cooperation through joint research, technology transfer and other means.

d) Implement the Agreement on the Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture signed on 13 September 1999, by promoting economic and technological cooperation in the agricultural field, increasing data exchange, conducting joint research, and encouraging their enterprises, scientific research institutes, and business groups concerned to take an active part in agricultural cooperation, so as to bring about common growth of the two economies.

e) Continue to implement the biennial executive programs in accordance with the Cultural Agreement signed on 8 July 1979. They will further enhance their exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture, arts, education, film, sports, health care, religion, social science, and book publication through, among others, the exchange of delegations and art troupes, visits by experts, and exhibitions held in each other's country.

f) Further develop bilateral tourism cooperation and expand the tourism market in an effort to achieve common development of their tourism industries.

6. Either side shall accord to the other due facilitation in accordance with international norms so that the nationals of either country who reside, work or travel in the territory of the other country may receive consular protection by the appropriate officials of their own country when they are in distress or involved in legal, labor or other disputes.

7. The two side will continue to explore new areas for cooperation among their law enforcement, judicial, security, and defense agencies in order to address the serious threats posed by organized transnational crimes.