

MALACAÑANG PALACE
MANILA

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

KNOW YE , that whereas, the Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN") specifically: Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam, signed at Bangkok, on 15 December 1995 the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation;

WHEREAS, the Agreement, consisting of eight (8) Articles, aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of intellectual property among the Member States' government agencies, private sectors and professional groups, and to explore the possibility of setting up of an ASEAN patent and trademark system;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that the Member States shall abide by the following principles: mutual benefits; conformity with the Agreement on TRIPS; protection of creators, producers and users of intellectual property; and respect and recognition of intellectual property rights and measures related thereto in each Member State;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that the fields of cooperation shall include: copyright, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, undisclosed information and lay-out designs of integrated circuits;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that cooperative activities shall include: activities to enhance intellectual property enforcement and protection; activities to strengthen ASEAN intellectual property administration; activities to strengthen intellectual property legislation; activities to promote human resources development; activities to promote public awareness of intellectual property rights; activities to promote private sector cooperation in intellectual property; information exchange on intellectual property issues; other cooperative activities as determined by Member States;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that an ASEAN mechanism shall be established, comprising representatives from Member States to review the cooperative activities;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that any difference/s between the Member States regarding the interpretation or application thereof shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably. If such differences cannot be settled amicably, they shall be dealt with by the Senior Economic Officers Meeting (SEOM) and finally by the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM);

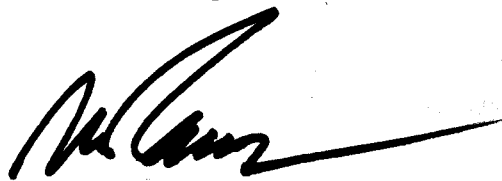
WHEREAS, the Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all signatory governments with the Secretary-General of ASEAN;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is not one of those treaties and other international agreements contemplated in Section 21, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution that require the concurrence of the Senate. This is an executive agreement that shall become valid and effective with the ratification of the President.

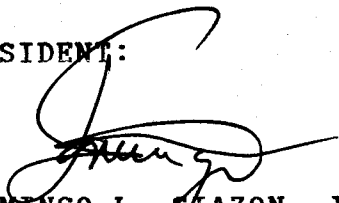
NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and each and every Article and Clause thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Manila, this 18th day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six and of the Independence of the Philippines the ninety-eight.



BY THE PRESIDENT:



DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs