

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 Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation;

WHEREAS, the Member States desire to expedite the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA);

WHEREAS, the Protocol provides that Article 2, section A, paragraph 1 of the Agreement shall be amended by deleting the expression "15 years" and substituting it with the expression "10 years (beginning 1 January 1993)";

WHEREAS, the Protocol also provides that the following paragraph shall be inserted after Article 12 as a new Article 12A to the Agreement:

"Accession of New Members

New Members of ASEAN shall accede to the Agreement on terms and conditions consistent with it and which have been agreed between them and the existing Members of ASEAN.";

WHEREAS, the Protocol shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification or acceptance by all signatory governments with the Secretary-General of ASEAN which shall be done not later than 01 January 1996;

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;

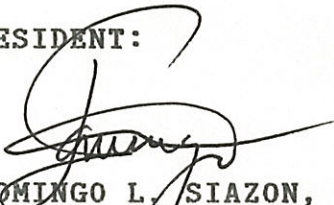
NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, after having seen and considered the aforementioned Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation, do hereby ratify and confirm the same and each and every Article and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